Media Release

Matt Conlan
Minister for Arts and Museums

**Community invited to help develop new Arts and Cultural Policy**

19 November 2014

The Northern Territory Government is seeking expressions of interest from members of the community to help develop a new Northern Territory Arts and Cultural Policy.

“This new policy will help guide us to grow and develop our vibrant arts and cultural sector in the Northern Territory and help promote our great Territory stories to the rest of the world,” said Minister for Arts and Museums Matt Conlan.

“The last arts policy the Territory had was in 2006, almost a decade ago, and much has changed in the Territory since then.

“Our new Arts and Cultural Policy will set out a strong vision and strategy for engaging, supporting and enhancing the arts and cultural sector in the Territory. It will also look at the social and economic contribution of the sector to the Territory and how it can be maximised into the future.

“Our arts and culture is unique here in the Territory and a major tourism drawcard. The new policy will identify how we can grow the sector further and help attract more tourists here, particularly through Indigenous arts and culture opportunities.

“The Northern Territory arts and cultural sector already supports hundreds of direct and indirect jobs and incomes for artists and arts workers across the Territory and we want to continue to support these artists.

“Our new Arts and Cultural Policy is part of the Country Liberal Government’s plan to position the Territory as a major hub for arts and culture in Northern Australia.

“Unlike the former Labor Government, whose 2010 arts discussion paper Living Arts remained in draft form gathering dust in a cupboard somewhere, the Country Liberals mean business.

“We are absolutely committed to the development of a new Policy to support arts and culture across the Territory and unlike Labor we will deliver.”
Successful applicants from the Expression of Interest will form part of a Reference Group to provide advice and recommendations in relation to the development of the Northern Territory Arts and Cultural Policy, including consideration of the outcomes of a broad community consultation.

The Reference Group is expected to meet twice during the six month term, starting in early 2015, with applications due by COB Wednesday, 3 December 2014. To apply go to: www.artsandmuseums.nt.gov.au or phone 89995033 for more information.

The new Arts and Culture Policy is part of the Territory Government’s *Framing the Future* strategy that aims to build a confident culture in the Territory that showcases and develops the arts.

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