Gary Higgins
Minister for Arts and Museums

**Desert Mob – a major milestone celebration**

17 March 2015

One of Australia’s most significant Aboriginal arts events celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. *Desert Mob* is a leading national arts event featuring an annual exhibition of recent artworks from Aboriginal art centres in Central Australia, a market place of artworks and a symposium led by artists from the region.

“To celebrate the event’s Silver Anniversary, the Araluen Arts Centre is mounting a *Desert Mob* survey exhibition drawn from its permanent collection of Aboriginal artworks that have been acquired from the annual *Desert Mob* exhibition,” Arts and Museums Minister Gary Higgins said.

“An initiative of the Araluen Arts Centre in 1991, *Desert Mob* began its life as an opportunity to support art centres and promote Aboriginal art from Central Australia to a wide audience.

“It has thrived and continues to provide a unique opportunity to see current trends in Aboriginal art from Central Australia in the one venue.

“The annual exhibition now comprises some 300 artworks from 30 to 35 Desart member art centres presented across three galleries at the Araluen Arts Centre.”

*Desert Mob: Capturing the history of a movement* opens this Friday 20 March and runs until Sunday 18 October. It will consist of works from Araluen’s permanent collection of Aboriginal artworks, acquired from the Desert Mob exhibitions between 1992 and 2014.

“Not only will it be a timely look at the evolution of *Desert Mob* and participating art centres but also the Aboriginal art movement in Central Australia over the past 25 years,” Mr Higgins said.

The exhibition will focus heavily on paintings, the predominant medium for art centres, but will also include works on paper, photography, ceramics and sculpture.

Attached images:

- Carol Golding, *Walu* 2011, acrylic on canvas 152 x 76 cm. Acquired from Desert Mob 2011
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Walu 2011, acrylic on canvas
Wati Kutjarra 2004, acrylic on linen