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Public Art must reflect the Territory

The Government is to put in place a Territory-wide public arts strategy.

Speaking at the launch of the Art and Design in the Environment Forum, which is part of the Year of the Built Environment, Chief Minister and Arts and Museums Minister Clare Martin said public and design must reflect who we are and where we live.

She said the development of a public art strategy would be developed in conjunction with local governments around the Territory.

“Our public art and design has to mirror the uniqueness of the Territory,” Ms Martin said.

“What we need to show through our public art and design is the people we live with and the environment we live in.

“The real test is that people who are visiting us for the first time should be able to look at the public art and design we have here and realise immediately they are in the Territory.

“But it’s not just for visitors, it should also be an affirmation for Territorians about the unique place they live in.”

Ms Martin cited the art and the interior design at the new Darwin railway passenger terminal as a prime example of what can be achieved in the Territory.

“It gives new arrivals an instant snapshot of the cultural history of the place they are visiting before they even walk out the door.”

“It is my Government’s intent that our public art strategy will underpin future government construction and redevelopment projects, including the Darwin City Wharf Precinct.

“This forum will provide valuable ideas for the formation of that strategy.”

The Government has engaged Brecknock Consulting to undertake work with the Territory arts, design and construction industries to recommend a framework for the development of the public arts strategy.