Around $1.26 million will be spent on Stage two of the air conditioning upgrade project at Alice Springs High School Chief Minister, Clare Martin, announced today.

Ms Martin said the upgrade project had been included in the 2002-03 Capital Works Program.

"The Government committed to this project after listening to the concerns of teachers and parents who felt that the poor standard of air conditioning at the school was having an adverse impact on students’ ability to learn," Ms Martin said.

"The intention is to replace the existing evaporative air conditioning system with a refrigerated reverse cycle system, which will bring Alice Springs High into line with standards at other NT Government schools.

"Around $450,000 has been already been spent upgrading the air conditioning in Block E classrooms.

"Stage Two will involve upgrading the air conditioning for the remaining classroom blocks, the Library, and Administration Building.

"The project has been designed and is ready to go to tender. I’m sure the local business community will welcome news of this work.

"This is a major project, so the bulk of the work will be done over the Christmas holiday period to minimise disruption to classes.

"The high school air conditioning is expected to be complete by March 2003."