



Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR ARTS AND MUSEUMS

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The Territory's oldest arts organisation to get a new lease of life (and temporary studios to boot!)

Territory Arts Minister Marion Scrymgour said that temporary and long term solutions for the Central Australian Art Society (CAAS)—the Territory's oldest arts organisation—had been found after a disastrous fire last month virtually destroyed its headquarters.

"I was really distressed when I heard about their situation—especially as the CAAS has been at the heart of so much of Central Australian artistic activity for so long," said Ms Scrymgour.

"So it's been really great that we have found solutions to some of their problems so quickly.

"These include:

- temporary accommodation for CAAS at one of the heritage buildings at Araluen until they can get their premises back up and running; and
- Minister for Lands Delia Lawrie has approved renewing the lease at their Crispe St premises to facilitate getting support for their rebuilding program after the fire.

"Of course nothing can make up for their losses, but this will give CAAS a new lease of life.

"I have been told that there have been offers of support from other arts and community groups, as well as local businesses for the reconstruction, which is really heartening.

"When the CAAS find out what shortfalls they may have with insurance, I am sure the Alice Springs community will pitch in.

"I'll certainly be lending my arm to any fund raising efforts undertaken by the CAAS in the coming months.

"I'd also like to thank the staff at Araluen as well as those at the Department of Planning and Infrastructure who have rallied around to get this package together for the CAAS so quickly.

"I think that is a real indication of the affection the Alice Springs community has for the CAAS."

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