



**Media Release:**

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## **Public Comment on Draft Development Plan Extended**

Territorians will now have longer to provide feedback on the future direction of the Araluen Cultural Precinct with the deadline for submissions extended until Tuesday, 1 December 2009.

Araluen Cultural Precinct Director Tim Rollason said there has been considerable interest and debate since community consultation on the *Draft Araluen Cultural Precinct Development Plan* commenced on 15 August 2009.

"We're encouraging community feedback because it is important that the development plan reflects the values and aspirations of the local community, that's why we've extended the closing date for public comment," Mr Rollason said.

"The local community is very passionate about the Araluen Cultural Precinct as it plays an important role within the arts, tourism and local business realms.

"So far we've received 22 written submissions, ranging from collaborative submissions from local arts organisations to feedback and comments from individuals having their say.

"A submission provided by RedHOT Arts stated *"we support the promotion of Araluen as the home of the central Australian art movement, and look forward to working in partnership to produce schools and community education programs"*.

"A second community workshop is scheduled for Thursday, 19 November 2009 to discuss the draft plan which will be facilitated by Marg Johnson.

Mr Rollason said the *Draft Araluen Cultural Precinct Development Plan* is staged over a seven year timeframe and consists of a range of proposed initiatives regarding programs and infrastructure.

"The proposed initiatives aim to deliver key outcomes for the arts and tourism industries while continuing to fulfil the needs and aspirations of residents and visitors alike," Mr Rollason said.

"The draft plan also proposes a number of modifications to structures and amenities with a focus on modernisation and aesthetics of existing buildings, gardens and public spaces."

The Araluen Cultural Precinct incorporates Araluen Arts Centre, including the Albert Namatjira Gallery, the Museum of Central Australia, the Strehlow Research Centre, the Central Australian Aviation Museum, Arts NT and Central Craft.

The second community workshop will be held in the Witchetty's ArtSpace at the Araluen Art Centre from 7-9pm on Thursday, 19 November 2009.

To view a copy of the draft plan or for more information on how to submit written feedback by Tuesday, 1 December 2009 visit [www.nt.gov.au/consult](http://www.nt.gov.au/consult).

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Tim Rollason on 8951 1126**

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