



**Media Release:**

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## **Solar Air-conditioning Plans on Display**

The local community and visitors can view detailed plans for the new multi-million dollar Araluen Arts Centre Solar Air-conditioning Project on display in the Araluen Arts Centre Foyer.

The Alice Solar City iconic project will be the first project of its kind in the Northern Territory, where air-conditioning and building heating is generated by using solar energy.

Araluen Arts Centre Director Tim Rollason said the solar air-conditioning system will provide conditioned air to the Galleries, Theatre, Witchetty's ArtSpace, office spaces and all other public and function areas within the building.

"Solar power will reduce electricity use at the Araluen Arts Centre by about 50 per cent and gas usage by about 70 per cent," Mr Rollason said.

"The solar air-conditioning system will replace existing, ageing equipment, and largely consist of two major structures; a field of solar array collectors and a thermal plant room.

"The solar array field will be made up of 46 collectors, comprising of 630m<sup>2</sup> of collector area while the collectors are single axis parabolic troughs with oil as a heating medium."

Mr Rollason said the solar array field and the thermal plant room will be constructed on the land area between the Central Craft building and the Museum of Central Australia, providing a visitor experience for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"The centralised position on the Araluen Cultural Precinct means that as solar technology develops, the plant may be able to provide power for all other facilities on the Precinct in the future," Mr Rollason said.

The Araluen Arts Centre Solar Air-conditioning Project is part of the Alice Solar City project and is jointly funded by the Territory and Commonwealth Governments.

Tenders for the construction of the solar project were released on 28 January 2010 and close 3 March 2010.

For more information about the Araluen Arts Centre go to [www.araluen.nt.gov.au](http://www.araluen.nt.gov.au).

Ends

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

**Attachment – display information**

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