



Media Release:

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Information Session on Araluen Arts Centre Solar Project

The local community is invited to attend an information session on the Araluen Arts Centre Solar Air-conditioning Project, one of five large iconic solar energy projects being developed as part of the Alice Solar City.

Araluen Arts Centre Director Tim Rollason said it is the first project of its kind in the Northern Territory, and the first cultural institution in the world, where air-conditioning and building heating is generated by using solar energy.

"The Solar Air-Conditioning Project is important to the local Alice Springs community, as the Araluen Arts Centre houses collections of art and cultural material that together tell a unique history of arts development in Central Australia, with many works housed and exhibited in the Centre being owned by local arts and community based associations," Mr Rollason said.

"The project will also create local jobs through the construction and delivery of the new structures, with local people being trained to ensure ongoing maintenance can be kept at a local level wherever possible.

"It will also significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the Araluen Arts Centre and help combat climate change, and it's replacing the existing, ageing equipment to ensure the community's most valuable art collections are stored under optimum conditions.

The community is invited to the information session, which will feature guest speakers from a number of organisations and agencies, to discuss:

- Alice Solar City as a whole, with a focus on the Araluen Arts Centre solar project
- Energy savings and climate change outcomes
- Technology and how it works
- Placement and design of the solar plant
- Tender and construction timeframes

Mr Rollason said the Solar Air-conditioning Project is a feature of the *draft Araluen Cultural Precinct Development Plan* which was put out for public comment in 2009, and outlines the direction of programs and infrastructure at the Precinct over the next seven years.

"The local community has played an important role in the Araluen Cultural Precinct since its inception and we continue to connect with the community and keep them informed," Mr Rollason said.

The information session will be held in Witchetty's ArtSpace at the Araluen Arts Centre at 6pm on Wednesday, 17 March 2010.

The Araluen Solar Air-Conditioning Project is part of the Alice Solar City initiative and is jointly funded by the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government.

For more information phone 8951 1120 or view the display in the foyer of the Araluen Arts Centre.

Ends

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

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