

MEDIA RELEASE
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ONE OF THE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL GALLERIES IN THE COUNTRY

In 2012, the Federal Government prohibited the manufacture and importation of the incandescent lamps used in specialist gallery light fittings. In response, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery has undertaken comprehensive research resulting in a state-of-the-art lighting upgrade as part of the second stage of a long-term strategy to save energy and meet the new legislative requirements.



The first stage of the gallery's strategy occurred in 2011 when Lake Macquarie City Council installed 162 photovoltaic cells and a voltage reduction unit at the gallery, resulting in 20 per cent less energy used annually. This second stage will be the installation of specialist LED lighting and digital dimming system. The new lighting system will generate an estimated further 10 per cent savings in overall energy use annually.

Gallery Director, Debbie Abraham said that while most regional galleries are making a move toward more sustainable practices, our gallery is one of a few in the country to undertake such a comprehensive lighting upgrade for maximum future cost and environmental benefit.

Exhibitions and Collection Officer, Rob Cleworth said the new lighting system will also maximise colour reception. "The gallery's new lighting system utilises the latest in digital and LED lighting technology to extend the possibilities of exhibition lighting design, and enhance the audience viewing experience," he said.

Under the banner of Council, we are proud to be contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting future generations through sustainable and ethical practices.

In addition, through the gallery director's contribution to the significant industry project and ensuing report, *A Practical Guide for Sustainable Climate Control and Lighting in Museums and Galleries*, <http://www.magsq.com.au/cms/page.asp?ID=7928> the gallery is supporting sustainable practices across the sector.

In order to install the new lighting system the **exhibition space (only) will be closed to the public between 13–17 July**. The gallery will be open to the public from **3pm on 17 July** during the 1233 ABC Newcastle Portrait Prize live broadcast. The gallery shop and the sculpture park will be open as usual.

For further information please contact Debbie Abraham on (02) 4965 8260 or artgallery@lakemac.nsw.gov.au.