The construction of a $160,000 rainforest boardwalk at George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens will improve the visitor experience, Parks and Wildlife Minister Len Kiely said today.

“The Botanic Gardens has attracted almost two million visitors during the past decade and the construction of this boardwalk will make visits to the Gardens even better,” Mr Kiely said.

“Local company G&S Magoulas constructed the new boardwalk and I congratulate them on the good work they have done.

“The new rainforest boardwalk is 147m long and runs through the centre of the Gardens’ rainforest, allowing visitors to experience the rainforest up close.

“The boardwalk is one section of the Rainforest Loop that runs off the main garden path and is one of the Gardens’ premier visitor experiences.

“The rainforest is truly magnificent - featuring spectacular plants and trees.”

Mr Kiely said the original boardwalk was a timber construction, which was very high maintenance in the rainforest environment.

“The new boardwalk is built from composite fibre supports, aluminium decking and finished with an exposed concrete pathway,” Mr Kiely said.

“The new material is practical and designed to withstand the rainforest environment.”

The Rainforest Loop features an established rainforest retreat with a water feature and a pond, set amongst more than 350 species of palms.

The new rainforest boardwalk took three months to construct and is expected to open to the public at the end of March.

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