The public have an opportunity to have their say about the future of five Top End conservation reserves.

The Adelaide River Conservation Reserves Draft Joint Management Plan has been developed through the Adelaide River Joint Management Committee with input from the tourism industry, the Friends of Fogg Dam and the NT Field and Game Association.

Minister for Parks and Wildlife Bess Price said the Adelaide River Conservation Reserves include Fogg Dam, Harrison Dam, Black Jungle, Lambell’s Lagoon Conservation Reserves and Melacca Swamp Conservation Area.

“These reserves provide some of the most accessible places in the Northern Territory to experience the spectacular wetlands of the Top End at any time of the year,” Mrs Price said.

“The key value of the Adelaide River Conservation Reserves is they support a living cultural landscape made up of diverse coastal and freshwater wetlands, with significant tourism and recreational opportunities.

“Joint management allows greater traditional owner involvement and economic participation. The unique values of the reserves and proximity to Darwin also provide opportunities for the development of niche eco-tourism ventures.”

Member for Goyder Kezia Purick has urged the public to have their say.

“Balancing the needs of all users is a key management issue,” Ms Purick said.

“This is the first Joint Management Plan to be prepared for this group of reserves and I encourage people to put forward their ideas.

“The Adelaide River Conservation Reserves will be managed to provide quality visitor experiences, while protecting the estuarine and freshwater wetlands for future generations.”

The reserves are located approximately 65km east of Darwin and cover around 11,500 hectares of the lower Adelaide River catchment.

Harrison Dam and Lambell’s Lagoon are two of the few Reserves in the Northern Territory where recreational hunting is permitted.

The draft plan is available at www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au/manage/plans

Public comment on the draft Joint Management Plan will close on 17 January 2014.

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