The Giles Government is investing in Indigenous projects that drive development in the Bush with a new $25,000 grant for tourism upgrades in the Roper Region.

“Empowering aboriginal people to improve their lives is a priority for my Government and the best way of doing this is by supporting projects that create jobs,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“The Yugal Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation has been approved for the $25,000 grant to develop facilities to make Burrunju, which is also known as the Forbidden City, more tourist-friendly.

“This is a wonderful example of Aboriginal people driving economic development and the Yugal Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation should be congratulated on this initiative.

“The Giles Government is determined that Indigenous Territorians will get to share in the economic success that the development of Northern Australia will bring.”

The Aboriginal Corporation has been working with Tourism NT for the past three years to promote the Forbidden City and nearby sites.

“The Corporation and Traditional Owners have a clear vision for business opportunities at Burrunju,” Minister for Parks and Wildlife Bess Price said.

“This initiative will create jobs which is a step towards breaking the current state of dependency that exists in communities and homelands.

“Jobs will give people a launching pad to prosperity and an ability to make decisions for themselves.”

The grant will go towards the construction of a bush ablution block to support visitors to the area and the upgrade will bring the site up to a national park standard facility.

It is proposed the facility will be constructed in Ngukurr and transported to the site, where it will be installed by a crew of five Corporation employees.
“The installation of facilities means the camp ground will not only be more comfortable for visitors, but will be supporting local employment,” Mrs Price said.

“Economic independence will give Indigenous Territorians living in remote regions the strongest base from which we can maintain a confident culture, as well as looking after our country and communities.”

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