A new walking trail identifying cultural, historical and wildlife sites on Bathurst Island will be developed under a new tourism project supported by the Giles Government.

The three kilometre track will be called the ‘Tiwi Trail’ and will link together tourist sites at Wurrumiyanga.

“My Government is committed to growing the range of tourism experiences on offer to Territory visitors and the new Tiwi Trail will be a fun, informative way to see this unique part of Northern Australia,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

Local company, Tiwi Enterprises, has been awarded $40,000 in funding to develop the walking trail and signage, as part of a $1.3 million pool of NT and Federal funding for tourism development and infrastructure. The Territory funding was announced as part of this year’s budget and operators had to submit an application to be eligible for a grant. Tiwi Enterprises will also contribute $10,000 of their money to the project.

“It is great to see local traditional owners, the Mantiyupwi Family Group, fully supporting the idea of a walking trail as a way to boost visitor numbers, build the local tourism industry and create employment,” said Mr Giles.

“The new Tiwi Trail will offer opportunities for locals to become tour guides and we hope it could be a springboard for new businesses such as bike-hire, cafés and accommodation in the longer term.

“This is the kind of approach to job creation that we’d like to see in other communities including Wadeye, Maningrida, Yirrkala, Ngukurr, Arlparra, Yuendumu, Borroloola, Elliott, Hermannsburg and Lajamanu.”

The Tiwi Trail will start at the ferry landing with signs to welcome visitors to the community. From there, it will take in the cultural precinct including Tiwi Design art centre, the historic church and areas significant to WWII history, including the radio shack where warning of the impending Japanese bombing was relayed to Darwin. The trail will move on to the school and then the Tiwi Museum before moving onto the coastline with its abundant bird and wildlife.
“The Tiwi Islands are a great place for tourists to visit and this walking trail will show them some of our history and culture,” local Member for Arafura Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu said.

“I am very happy to see new tourism jobs being created for Tiwi Islanders. I know the Government is working hard to bring business opportunities to Tiwi people and tourism will be an important industry for us in the future.”

Tiwi Enterprises chief executive officer Ray Allwright said the funding is very welcome.

“This money is much needed because it will make it a lot easier for tourists to find their way around. And that will mean more tourists coming here and that generates employment and economic benefits,” he said.

“It’s also important to note that the local traditional owners are keen to have a wider tourism presence here to show off their culture.

“There are lots of good things going on here at the moment, the NT Government is being very supportive of the community and the ferry has provided a significant boost.”

Construction on the new ‘Tiwi Trail’ network will begin soon and is expected to be ready for next year’s dry season.

(Please see attached photos of the grant recipients with the Chief Minister and local Member at Wurrumiyanga today)

Media Contact: Danielle Parry 0413 081 801

Grant Recipients Pic 1
Grant Recipients Pic 2
Grant Recipients Pic 3