George Brown Darwin Botanic Garden’s $9.8 million facelift is a step closer with concepts for a new multi-purpose visitor and event centre currently being assessed by the Development Consent Authority.

The works are part of the Territory Labor Government's record $103 million Turbocharging Tourism stimulus package to attract visitors, create local jobs and put more money into the pockets of Territorians.

Acting Minister for Tourism and Culture, Natasha Fyles said the centre would be available for small conferences, weddings and community events, with interpretive exhibits leading visitors out into the beautiful gardens. It will offer indoor, air-conditioned, all-season conference and event facilities in-line with facilities offered at botanic gardens around Australia.

The concept design for the visitor centre includes an interpretive display that will tell the story of the Holtze family, George Brown and the inception of the Gardens from its move from Fannie Bay to the Gardens. It will incorporate the Larrakia Aboriginal seasons calendar, with an interactive touch screen to explore traditional stories and indigenous botanical knowledge.

There will also be a retail and information hub where staff can greet visitors, provide direction and where visitors can purchase Territory-made souvenirs.

The layout of the building has been designed to integrate with its surroundings, including the existing topography of Frangipani Hill, and retain existing vegetation to the greatest extent possible.

The concepts will be available for the community to view at an open day in the Gardens in September, where the community will be able to speak with the architect and the Garden’s horticulturalists.

In September, following the planning and development process, the project will go out to tender with the new centre expected to be open in September next year.

Quotes from the Acting Minister for Tourism and Culture, Natasha Fyles

“The Territory Labor Government through the record $103 Turbocharging Tourism stimulus package is investing $9.8 million to enhance facilities and improve the visitor experience at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
“Investment in this unique destination will create jobs and opportunities for catering and event organisers outside of peak season which is fantastic news for local businesses.

“The concept design looks fantastic and it is really exciting to see this project progressing on-track and on-time.

“The air-conditioned multi-purpose visitor and event centre will be a huge asset for both locals and visitors, offering a space for small conferences, weddings and community events, with interpretive materials leading visitors out into the beautiful gardens.

“The events centre will cater for around 200 patrons in a space that will capture the essence of its tropical location at the base of Frangipani Hill.”

**Attachment:** Conceptual Drawings – GBDBG Visitor Centre Development Plan.

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[Conceptual Drawings – GBDBG Visitor Centre Development Plan](#) (pdf 4 mb)