Chief Minister, Clare Martin, today said that the Government wants to hear proposals from private investors, interested in the development of a new world class tropical resort in the Top End.

"A new resort, most probably in the greater Darwin area, is something that this Government is interested in seeing developed in the near future," she said.

"It’s clear from meeting with cruise operators, tourism companies and airline carriers during this Asian business trip that there is considerable interest and demand for resort-style accommodation in Darwin.

"With the completion of the Alice to Darwin rail early next year and the expected growth for gas related projects further tourism and business demand will be generated.

"We’re interested in talking to developers about their proposals and infrastructure needs but ideally we would like a waterfront development with sporting and other entertainment facilities."

Ms Martin said the resort was a crucial development in Darwin's future economic planning and that Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment officials are currently working on possible sites.

"The next stage will be to call for expressions of interest for a major tropical tourist resort to complement those outside Darwin. I think we need one, I think we have a great tropical environment and we have to make the most of it with an appropriate tropical resort," she said.

"In addition to boosting international tourism, a new quality Darwin resort would also provide an extra dimension for passengers travelling to the Territory by rail on the Ghan."

The Government expects the development to be a purely private sector project but has not ruled out facilitating the process by providing land or other assistance.

"Tourism is a key part of our economy, adding more than $2billion dollars annually," she said.

"While the last two years have been very tough for tourism both in Australia and globally, we believe that the Territory’s tourist potential is really only in its early stages and can be boosted by well targeted projects such as a resort."