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Masterplan for Development of George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

Dr Chris Burns MLA
Minister for Parks and Wildlife

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Parks and Wildlife Minister Dr Chris Burns has unveiled the masterplan for the development of the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.

“This plan represents the Government’s vision for the revitalisation of the Gardens over the next decade,” Dr Burns said.

“It brings an updated and imaginative approach to the management and development of visitor facilities and plant collections.”

The masterplan proposes that the construction of appropriate facilities, revamped interpretation, and creative landscape development will increase the Gardens’ attraction as a compelling and highly enjoyable tropical experience.

The plan suggests the enhancement of the cultural dimension of the Gardens through the closer involvement of Aboriginal people in its presentation, enabling visitors to explore the indigenous associations of many plants.

It foresees the Gardens becoming a must-see tourist destination as part of a cultural complex embracing the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT and a proposed Larrakia Cultural Centre.

“Each year, the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens attract about 200,000 visitors, nearly half of whom are Territory residents,” Dr Burns said.

“The Gardens are part of our great Territory lifestyle. This masterplan encompasses the development of an international standard botanic gardens, a major tourist facility, as well as providing recreational, educational and cultural opportunities for the local community.”

Dr Burns thanked officers from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment and consultants from Clouston Associates who prepared the masterplan.

He said the development of the masterplan had included a lengthy consultation process involving the local community, DIPE and Gardens staff, Friends of the Gardens, and the horticultural industry.