Visitors to Kakadu National Park will now be able to gain a fuller appreciation of local Aboriginal dreaming stories, culture and music with the launch of a new CD by the Minister for Tourism at Parliament House today.

The CD has been produced by Darwin based Skinny Fish Music, an indigenous music production house in conjunction with Brown’s Mart as part of their Indigenous Performing Arts program. The CD includes a mixture of traditional songs and story telling by local Aboriginal elders with a voice-over interpretation as well as music by modern indigenous bands.

At the launch of the CD today, Tourism Minister Chris Burns said the "On the Road to Kakadu" CD is primarily aimed at the lucrative international tourism market.

"The stories and music will not only provide a wonderful souvenir of visits to world heritage listed Kakadu National Park but also enhance visitor understanding and appreciation of the indigenous cultural traditions," Dr Burns said.

"The narrator on the CD is Rico Adjrun and cultural advisor Big Frank Djirrimbilpiwuy who tells ancient stories of the land, trees, birds and animals of the area. There are also 15 songs on the CD including well-known Top End performers such as Saltwater Band, George Rrurrambu, Letterstick Band, Shellie Morris and Narbalek.

"The On the Road to Kakadu CD is a pilot project with the long term aim to produce further CDs for other parts of the NT such as the Stuart Highway and the Road to the Rock," the Minister explained.

"The CD has been given a trial run with local tour operators and with the NTTC’s international offices, who are strongly supportive of the concept.

"Recent NTTC research has revealed that Indigenous culture is one of the major motivating factors that bring international visitors to the Top End and to Kakadu National Park which has World Heritage listing for both its natural and well as cultural values.

"Projects such as this will all contribute to building our international tourism reach – and that’s good news for all Territorians," Dr Burns said.

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