Parks and Wildlife Minister Dr Chris Burns today declared Mr Paul Baker from Katherine the winner of the Territory Government’s Great Cane Toad Trap Competition.

“The judges’ decision was unanimous,” Dr Burns said.

“During the field tests of the six short-listed finalists, Mr Baker’s trap caught 112 cane toads, well ahead of the next-best tally of 73.”

Mr Baker wins the first prize of $10,000 from the NT Government, in addition to the $1,000 he was awarded for being one of the competition’s six finalists.

He will also receive $5,000 from the Pest Animal Control Cooperative Research Centre in Canberra to assist with commercialisation of his design, a box-type trap which uses insects attracted by a light source to lure toads up ramps to the roof whereupon they fall through trapdoors into the box.

The Territory Government launched the competition in December last year, seeking designs of traps to assist with controlling cane toad populations.

Dr Burns thanked all those who entered the competition, and said he was delighted with the level of interest shown.

“We received 114 entries - from every mainland state and territory in Australia - while one entry came from Germany,” he said.

“The competition has helped to push the issue of cane toads back on to the national agenda.

“The Queensland Government last month allocated $1 million in funding to seek a biotechnology solution to control the cane toad, while the West Australian Government announced it will fund projects aimed at stopping the western spread of cane toads within the Northern Territory.

“The NT Government has already committed $1.1 million to tackle the toad, including $422,000 for Frogwatch North’s community-based toad minimisation campaign, $300,000 for the Island Ark project to relocate endangered native species, and $300,000 for research into a long-term biological solution.”

The competition judges were Associate Professor Ross Alford from James Cook University, Jarrad Holmes from WWF-Australia, and Keith Saalfeld from the NT Parks and Wildlife Service.