George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens and Alice Springs Desert Park sign up for international agreement

The George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens and Alice Springs Desert Park have today become signatories to a world-first agreement to conserve biodiversity, Parks and Wildlife Minister Chris Burns announced today.

The International Agenda, developed by the world’s leading botanic gardens body Botanic Gardens Conservation International, will help botanic gardens worldwide play a larger role in plant conservation.

Dr Burns said the Darwin Botanic Gardens and Desert Park have been active in plant conservation in the Northern Territory for many years.

“This agreement will now offer Territory conservation specialists the opportunity to network with the world’s largest and most widespread plant conservation network,” he said.

“As signatories to the Agenda, the Botanic Gardens and Desert Park join more than 210 botanic gardens and plant conservation organisations from 69 countries.

“This will allow the Territory’s two parks to develop a best practice approach to plant conservation by sharing knowledge with professionals from across the globe.”

Dr Burns said the Territory’s vast landscape means that even basic information such as the distribution and abundance of many of our plants is unknown, and this information is critical to plant conservation.

“With the growing threat caused by introduced weeds, the commitment to plant conservation shown by the Botanic Gardens and Desert Park signing up to the Agenda could not have come at a better time,” said Dr Burns.