An archaeologist is preparing a documentary using CGI and animatronics to recreate the ancient animals at the Alcoota megafauna fossil site in Central Australia.

Producer Karen Martin-Stone said the Mega Beasts Australia television project would also include a virtual-reality experience, enabling the audience to get up close and personal with eight-million-year-old animals.

A spin-off “making of” series will also be filmed. Ms Martin-Stone said $40,000 from the Northern Territory Government let her research in detail, write draft treatments and develop a pitch to broadcasters.

“This footage will be used to pitch... to national and international broadcasters, so we can reach as wide an audience as possible,” she said.

Her team recently visited Alcoota to film the excavations and interview MAGNT palaeontologist Adam Yates. Chief Minister Adam Giles said the Territory had a local screen industry with skills, talent and an intellect to develop a “fine product.”

Growing interest in the fossil site led the Government to allocate $3.97 million to improve visitor amenities and safeguard the diggings, he said.