Chief Minister Adam Giles says a $20 million Budget initiative to build adventure experiences in Territory National Parks will create world-class visitor attractions and increase employment for indigenous people.

Concept plans have been revealed for a 300-metre glass "skywalk" and pedestrian bridge in Nitmiluk National Park and other projects are under consideration.

“This is potentially game-changing infrastructure that will give unprecedented access to some of the most stunning scenery in the world,” Mr Giles said.

“The project aligns with our Vision 2020 for tourism and its strategies to develop new experiences that appeal to visitors and actively support Aboriginal businesses.”

It’s intended the Nitmiluk Gorge aerial experience will operate year-round, with wet season access via the existing jet boat operation, providing a truly exciting and memorable visit.

Nitmiluk National Park attracts almost 250,000 visitors per year.

It’s intended the skywalk will be built by Government and offered to a suitable private sector operator to run as a commercial business. The project, and potentially others, will be developed in consultation with traditional owners.

The skywalk proposal endeavours to showcase the spectacular views of Nitmiluk Gorge while complementing the natural beauty of the landscape by integrating the structure seamlessly into its surroundings.

This is achieved through the use of suitable organic looking materials, including perforated, rusted metal to enhance the natural hues of the gorge along with frameless glass balustrades to achieve maximum opacity and minimise obstruction of views.

The skywalk will also feature wider breakout sections for visitors to better absorb and photograph the view and surroundings.
Parks and Wildlife Minister Bess Price said the skywalk would inject more revenue into local businesses.

“This is a fantastic project and will add so much to the attraction of Nitmiluk,” she said.

“With demand increasing for adventure tourism, this skywalk will add value to the park and allow the traditional owners – the Jawoyn people - to share their country and stories more widely.

“I’m really excited about the ongoing tourism potential of Nitmiluk.

“I look forward to continuing to work with chairperson Lisa Mumbin and the rest of the Nitmiluk National Park Board to ensure the park prospers in a balanced cultural and environmental way.”

Ms Mumbin said that just as the Jawoyn people made everyone welcome, “we welcome opportunities and investment that’s a benefit to all”.

“As our elders say: ‘We should always keep thinking about what we can do for visitors. We need to dream more and be open always to possibilities’,” she said.

Skywalks are popular around the world, with tourists queuing to gain a unique perspective of spectacular natural wonders in places such as the Grand Canyon and the Canadian Rockies.

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