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Wharf Gets Makeover To Become Movie Star

Stokes Hill Wharf is undergoing a makeover in preparation for its starring role in the Baz Luhrmann film *Australia.*

Chief Minister Clare Martin was given a tour of the movie set by the production company’s location manager, Carl Wood.

“This big budget film will bring a touch of Hollywood to Darwin – we expect it to provide a big boost to tourism,” Ms Martin said.

“Millions of people around the world will see this film which is set in Darwin – it’s a real coup for the Territory.

“Work has started on turning the wharf into a film set before filming begins on July 3 – they will turn back time to recreate what the wharf looked like in the 1930’s and 40’s.

“If you think of a house renovation – times it by ten – everything is on a massive scale, just like the movie itself.”

The work includes:

- 100 metres of handrail
- 90 square metres of timber deck
- 15 metres of fake railway track
- 11 metre long staircase down to the water
- 37 square metre floating pontoon
- working crane to lift luggage from pontoon onto the Wharf
- cladding existing concrete and steel to look like timber

Products and services for the filming are being sourced from locals where possible with the production company, Bazmark, expected to spend around $4 million locally in total.

Bazmark has been overwhelmed by interest from locals to be extras in the movie – with 1200 people attending casting sessions hoping for one of the 300 extra roles available.

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