The finishing touches are being put on the Darwin passenger terminal today in preparation for the arrival of the first Ghan train.

Deputy Chief Minister Syd Stirling visited the terminal today to inspect last minute preparations.

A 7-metre mural is due to be installed later today, which will complete a series of Aboriginal artwork in and around the terminal by local Larrakia artists Joe Raymond and Ken Reid.

As well as the mural, their work features on shade sails, concrete pavers inlaid with stainless steel jelly fish and sea eagle feathers, river pebble crocodile ground sculptures, and barramundi floor patterning.

“The terminal features ground-breaking and innovative use of Aboriginal art and design in public infrastructure,” Mr Stirling said.

“The passenger terminal will be a wonderful first glimpse of Darwin for the many, many tourists the Ghan is expected to bring into town.

“The design of the terminal is also extremely user-friendly with features including a 1200-metre platform, a rail/bus transfer facility, public toilets and showers, parking and vehicle access, and air-conditioned seating areas.”

Mr Stirling said around 2500 people will be at the passenger terminal to welcome the first Ghan to Darwin when it arrives at 4.30pm tomorrow.

“The Ghan will provide a timely boost to the Territory’s tourism industry, with around 500 passengers a week travelling to Darwin and Adelaide, through the Territory, many of whom will disembark at Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine.

“Great Southern Rail has already pre-sold more than $15 million in tickets for Australia’s newest – and longest – passenger train.”

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