

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN CONSERVATION



## Preamble

The ability of the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory to undertake and succeed in nature conservation is strongly influenced by public attitudes towards and understanding of the both conservation and the Commission itself. Public attitudes directly impact on the Commission's capacity to gain resources to undertake conservation activities, and on the effectiveness with which the Commission is able to expend those resources. The Parks and Wildlife Commission recognises the need to foster both knowledge and understanding of nature conservation within the community.

This policy provides the basis upon which the Parks and Wildlife Commission will endeavour to stimulate, nurture and meet the community's desire for involvement in nature conservation.

## Policy

The Commission recognises that community involvement in nature conservation is dependent on:

- the community's understanding of and sensitivity to nature conservation issues;
- the number and range of opportunities provided for them to become more knowledgeable and involved in nature conservation; and
- the levels of responsibility and recognition provided to individuals in their conduct of conservation activities.

The community's understanding and sensitivity to nature conservation issues will be stimulated and developed through:

- maintenance of an active promotions and media program providing the public with up to date, in depth information on nature conservation and the Commission's activities;
- maintenance of a Territory-wide walks and talks program on Parks relating to the significance of parks and the need for their protection;
- encouragement of scientific staff's publication and public release of findings;
- maintenance of an ongoing program for involving school age children in educational activities pertaining to nature conservation; and through
- awareness programs for children and the community in general on issues of major concern such as fire management, weeds and feral animals.

The Commission will endeavour to provide an ongoing diversity of opportunities for members of the public to:

- contribute to the Commission in meeting its operational needs and obligations;
- provide input into development of strategic and operational directions;
- feel empowered to assume responsibility for nature conservation on their own lands; and to
- participate in the management of native species and threats to their preservation.

**STATUS:** Adopted 92<sup>nd</sup> PWCNT June 2001

**FILE:**