



MEDIA RELEASE

Wildlife Officers Rescue Territory Bird

Parks and Wildlife officers have rescued a Territory bird after it became entangled in fishing line.

Senior Wildlife Officer Ray Chatto said the Darter, a long-necked fish-eating bird like a cormorant, was found caught in a multi-hook fishing line in a wetland at Palmerston's Fairway Waters yesterday.

The type of hook and line set up was like that normally used to catch small fish for bait.

Mr Chatto said another aquatic bird, a Little Grebe, had been caught up earlier in the same fishing line before dying.

As the Darter got caught in the line it had started towing the Little Grebe.

The incident was brought to the attention of Wildlife Officers by a concerned member of the public.

"The grebe smelled a bit so it had been dead for some time when we arrived on the scene," Mr Chatto said.

"The Darter was still quite healthy but it was reasonably easy to catch because it was trying to tow the grebe around in the wetland.

"The Darter probably would have died a slow and painful death had it not been rescued.

"The incident highlights the need for Territorians to responsibly remove fishing equipment and other rubbish whenever possible to prevent harm to birds and other wildlife.

"It is not unusual for us to respond to aquatic birds getting caught up in fishing gear but this is the first time from memory that I've seen one bird towing around another bird."

Mr Chatto said the public could contact Wildlife Operations on 0409090840 to rescue injured wildlife.

He said the public could call 1800 453 210 if they required snake removals.

Media Note _ For more information contact Ray Chatto on 89994451

Ends

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