



**Marion Scrymgour**  
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

September 29 2005

## **TOURISM WIN FOR ALICE SPRINGS DESERT PARK**

Parks and Wildlife Minister Marion Scrymgour today congratulated The Alice Springs Desert Park on its nomination for a prestigious tourism award.

The award-winning park is one of six finalists in *The Australian* travel and tourism awards 2005 "Best Family-Focused Tourism" category.

Minister Scrymgour called on Territorians to do everything they could to help the park win the award as readers of *The Weekend Australian* can vote for their favourite tourist attraction in 12 different categories.

"This is the second time The Alice Springs Desert Park has been nominated in this category in the awards' two-year history and I congratulate them on this outstanding achievement," Minister Scrymgour said.

"And it's now up to Territorians to help the park win by cutting out and filling in entry forms in *The Weekend Australian* and posting them before the October 19 deadline."

Ms Scrymgour congratulated Park manager Gary Fry and his staff whose dedicated and professional work has led to the park's nomination.

"Those on the panel of expert judges who nominated the Park spend their whole life looking at tourism ventures around Australia so this nomination is a source of enormous pride to everyone at the Park," Ms Scrymgour said.

"The judges actually visit tourist attractions unannounced which is testimony to the park being of the highest quality each and everyday."

This nomination forms part of a great year for the Advanced Eco-tourism accredited Alice Springs Desert Park.

The park won the 2004 Brolga Award for Major Tourist Attraction and was a finalist in the 2004 Australian Tourism Awards.

The park had an 11 per cent increase in visitor numbers last financial year.

Contact: Maria Billias 0401 119 746