



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Monster Croc Captured**

The Parks and Wildlife Service removed a 4.1 metre male saltwater crocodile from the Katherine River, 30km south west of Katherine yesterday.

The crocodile, weighing more than 300kg, is the eighth crocodile this year to be captured as part of the Katherine River Crocodile Management Strategy.

The crocodile was captured in a Parks and Wildlife Service trap, downstream of an area known as 'Pandanus Alley, near the King River and Katherine River junction.

Senior Wildlife Officer, Pat Carmody, said a trap had been moved to the area, which is on the property of Manbulloo, after reports a large crocodile was in the area.

"We had recently received reports from Gecko Canoeing (a tourist operator) that large slide marks and footprints were on the bank of the river, near 'Pandanus Alley'," Mr Carmody said.

"A trap was placed in the vicinity and when we checked the trap yesterday, we had the crocodile."

Mr Carmody said the animal was in very healthy condition and was estimated to be at least 50 years old.

The crocodile was taken to the Coolibah Crocodile Farm yesterday.

Meanwhile, Parks and Wildlife Rangers last night re-commenced their search for a crocodile reported to be within the first gorge at Nitmiluk National Park, near Katherine.

They failed to locate the animal, which is believed to be around 2.7 metres in length.

A canoeist reported the alleged sighting to Park Rangers on October 12 2005.

Initial spot light searches and aerial surveys failed to locate the crocodile, before Rangers had to suspended their search earlier this week due to the full moon making spotlighting difficult.

A permanent crocodile trap is located within the first gorge; however Rangers have placed a second trap in the area also.

Swimming and canoeing within the first gorge remains suspended.

**Media note:** Attached is a picture of the crocodile captured yesterday, with Senior Wildlife Officer, Pat Carmody. Please credit the photo to Parks and Wildlife Service when used.

For more information contact Pat Carmody on 0407 958 405

Ends

Issued: 10.45am