



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Crocodile Warning Issued For Manton Dam**

Parks and Wildlife Service Rangers are warning people against entering Manton Dam after spotting what they believe is a saltwater crocodile at the popular recreation area.

Senior District Ranger Kristen Appel said the crocodile, estimated to be about 2m long, was spotted during a routine survey of the dam, 76km south of Darwin, last night.

“Manton Dam is well known for having freshwater crocodiles but it appears the crocodile rangers spotted last night is more like a saltwater crocodile,” Ms Appel said.

“The sighting remains unconfirmed at this stage as the crocodile managed to swim into a shallow, weedy and rarely used part of the dam, south from the dam wall, eluding rangers.

“The dam will remain open until we can confirm a saltwater crocodile is there although I urge everyone to avoid activities such as swimming, canoeing or water skiing as this could be very dangerous.

“We have two traps already set so it is hoped that if the reptile is a saltwater crocodile it will show interest in the trap and we can remove it from the dam.

“Alternatively, our next planned spotlight checks of the dam will be tomorrow night when we hope to confirm whether the reptile is a freshwater or saltwater crocodile.

“If it is a saltwater crocodile it will be relocated to the Darwin Crocodile Farm in Noonamah.”

The last saltwater crocodile removed from Manton Dam was just under 2m long in 2004.

**Media note – For more information contact Kristen Appel on 0439 887 124**

Ends

Issued: 3.40pm Thursday, 3 November 2005