



MEDIA RELEASE

Howard Springs Nature Park Public Meeting

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service has described last night's public meeting about the management and conservation of Howard Springs Nature Park as "promising".

Parks and Wildlife Service northern region manager David West said 16 people attended the meeting at Girraween Primary School including representatives from the Friends of Howard Springs.

Mr West gave a presentation as to how the park is currently being managed including an overview of what has been done to clean the waterhole that is currently closed to swimming.

"An overriding consensus that came from the meeting is the willingness of Parks and Wildlife to work together with the community in shaping the park's future direction," Mr West said.

"We all agree a draft Plan of Management is necessary and we will be proactively consulting with the public before putting out the draft for public comment.

"The general feeling from the meeting was to continue to retain the integrity of the park as it currently is and again allow swimming in this very unique, natural setting.

"Many of the issues raised were about ongoing management such as walking track access, feral pigs, motorbikes and wildfire around the surrounding areas of the park.

"In the meantime we will continue the good work that is being done so that sometime during the coming dry season the waterhole will once again be open to swimmers."

Recent work at the park has included the use of a mulching machine that extracted a large amount of weeds and debris from the bottom of the waterhole.

Ends

Media Note _ For more information contact David West on 8999 4518

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