



MEDIA RELEASE

Man Interviewed About His Dead Reptiles

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service has formally interviewed a Darwin man in relation to the recent deaths of 32 reptiles.

The dead reptiles found in the 18-year-old's Nightcliff unit on February 1 included a variety of snakes and goannas.

There were also a further six snakes and two goannas found alive, but in very poor condition.

One of the goannas has since died and the remaining reptiles are still being cared for.

Parks and Wildlife Service senior wildlife officer Ray Chatto said the man had been fully co-operative in assisting PWS with its investigation.

Mr Chatto said a case file is still being prepared and therefore the man has not yet been charged.

“The man could face charges under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act,” Mr Chatto said.

“Offences under this Act can result in anything from a warning letter to large fine or even imprisonment.”

The deaths of the 32 reptiles were brought to the attention of Mr Chatto after the man's neighbours had reported a bad smell to Police who investigated and then called in Parks and Wildlife.

The dead reptiles included a species of goanna and a variety of species of snakes, such as king browns, western browns, death adders and various pythons.

Photos of the dead reptiles have been taken and may be used as evidence against the man should he be charged for breaching sections of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act.

The bodies of the dead reptiles have since been disposed of.

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