



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Howard Springs Nature Park Open This Long Weekend**

Territorians looking for a nice place to swim this long weekend need look no further than Howard Springs Nature Park.

Parks and Wildlife Service northern region manager David West said the park, which has been closed for swimming since 2005, would be ready in time for the May Day long weekend with tomorrow's reopening.

"The water quality has been at a safe and acceptable level for the past three weeks and we are delighted to be reopening it tomorrow," Mr West said.

"The public has been looking forward to this day for some time now and we are confident they will once again experience everything Howard Springs Nature Park has to offer."

Howard Springs Nature Park, about 35km south of Darwin, was closed to swimming last year after the water quality dropped to unsafe levels.

Mr West said a combination of methods such as reconditioning the park's bore, repairs to the weir and the clearing of weeds had worked towards reducing water bacteria so it would be safe for swimming.

He praised the efforts of Parks and Wildlife Service staff and Larrakia Nation rangers who have worked diligently towards reopening the park before the commencement of this year's dry season.

"Everyone involved in improving Howard Springs Nature Park to the condition it is now in all deserve a pat on the back," Mr West said.

"We all look forward to seeing Territorians once again being able to swim at the park and we are glad it is open in time for the dry season as we had always planned."

Mr West said work is underway in developing a longer term plan of management with a number of the ideas from the community starting to take shape.

He said a number of drawings and plans will be put together for display at next month's Freds Pass show which is part of the community consultation that began in February this year.

Ends

**Media Note - For more information contact David West on 8999 4518**

Issued: 5pm Friday, 28 April 2006

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