



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Larapinta Trail Fuel Stoves Only Policy

A fuel stoves only policy has been established for this year's Larapinta Trail walking season that began on April 1, 2006.

Parks and Wildlife Service chief district ranger Chris Day said the policy formed part of the NT Government endorsed Larapinta Trail Management Strategy.

Mr Day said the policy would reduce the risk of fires escaping, thus minimising the threat fires pose towards flora and fauna found along the popular 223km trail that begins at the old Alice Springs Telegraph Station.

"Walkers have been allowed to have open camp fires up until now but this is not considered best practice and that is why a change has been made," Mr Day said.

"The most obvious example of why campfires are no longer allowed was a 2002 bushfire that was started by a campfire that had not been properly extinguished.

"The 2002 bushfire affected large portions of country and the nature of central Australia is the environment can take a long time to recover from such adverse events.

"The Larapinta Trail passes through a variety of rare flora and fauna and this policy is aimed at better protecting this flora and fauna.

"And to make things easier on the environment we are supplying gas barbecues at camp sites for those people who do not have fuel stoves when they would otherwise need them."

Mr Day said there was also a renewed push towards people filling in logbooks that have always been positioned along the trail.

He said this would help rangers locate walkers in case of emergency.

"It is the most efficient use of resources as it allows rangers to better plan their search," Mr Day said.

Mr Day said all walkers should also register with the Overnight Walker Registration Scheme with details found at [http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/walks/pdf/overnight\\_walker\\_web.pdf](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/walks/pdf/overnight_walker_web.pdf) to ensure people have a safe and enjoyable walk.

He also urged walking groups of more than eight people to contact the Parks and Wildlife Service so it could post their details on the [www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/walks/larapinta.html](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/walks/larapinta.html) website so other walkers could better plan their walks to avoid congestion.

Mr Day said walkers could email the Parks and Wildlife Service at [larapintatrail.nreta@nt.gov.au](mailto:larapintatrail.nreta@nt.gov.au) to ask rangers various questions in advance of their trip.

**Media Note \_ For more information contact Chris Day on 8955 1119**

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