



MEDIA RELEASE

Crocodile Removed from Flora River Nature Park

Parks and Wildlife Service today removed a 4.21m male saltwater crocodile from Flora River Nature Park, about 122km southwest of Katherine.

Parks and Wildlife Service senior wildlife officer Pat Carmody said the large reptile weighed about 280kg, and would be relocated to Coolibah Crocodile Farm near Timber Creek.

"He's certainly a fit and healthy looking thing," Mr Carmody said.

"Even though he'd be around 50 to 60 years old, he'd be in his sexual prime.

"So the fact he's going to the Coolibah Crocodile Farm where he'll be added to their breeding program is a big win for everyone."

Mr Carmody said the crocodile, removed downstream from Djarrung camp ground, was one of the largest on record to be removed from Flora River Nature Park, which attracts about 1000 visitors annually.

Senior park ranger Chris Kinnaird said PWS rangers John Burke, David van den Hoek and Tracy Blackney helped Mr Carmody remove the saltwater crocodile, together with traditional owners Donald Hayes, Luke Lebang and Leon Norman.

Mr Kinnaird said Donald, Luke and Leon have been working closely with PWS as part of joint management of Flora River Nature Park.

"This would be the first time Leon, Luke and Donald have helped remove a saltwater crocodile in this capacity so it was certainly exciting for them," Mr Kinnaird said.

"Apart from helping out today they have been critical in working with PWS in getting the park ready to be opened to the public, which coincidentally is taking place tomorrow.

"But I stress the waterways within the park remain off limits to everyone as today's removal of the big saltie proves the safety of these waters cannot be guaranteed."

Mr Kinnaird said six saltwater crocodiles were removed from Flora River Nature Park last year, a feat that could be surpassed this year following on from a strong wet season.

Today's crocodile is the eighth to be transported to Coolibah Crocodile Farm near Timber Creek during the past three weeks, with seven being removed from Katherine River between May 4 and May 18.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Pat Carmody on 0407 958 405 or Chris Kinnaird on 8973 8856

Issued: 3.30pm Tuesday, 23 May 2006

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts

Edwin Edlund 8999 6303 or 0437 915 366

www.nt.gov.au/nreta