



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Saltwater Crocodile Removed From Nitmiluk National Park

Parks and Wildlife Service rangers this morning removed a 3.65m male saltwater crocodile from the first gorge at Nitmiluk National Park.

Nitmiluk National Park chief district ranger Sarah Kerin said it is highly unlikely this crocodile was the same one spotted by a canoeist in October last year.

Ms Kerin said the Katherine River in Nitmiluk National Park would not be opened to swimmers and canoeists until Parks and Wildlife Service was confident its gorges were free of estuarine crocodiles.

"Today's trapping and removal of the 3.65m saltwater crocodile is part of our annual pre-season surveys that are standard procedures under the Katherine River Crocodile Management Plan," Ms Kerin said.

"This is the first crocodile removed from any of the gorges at Nitmiluk National Park since 1999 and crocodile surveys and trapping is expected to continue for at least the next three weeks as per standard procedures."

Ms Kerin said the crocodile, which is expected to be relocated to Coolibah Crocodile Farm west of Katherine near Timber Creek, seemed to be unfamiliar with traps and she was very confident it was not the same crocodile believed to have been in the park last year.

She said intensive aerial, land and water surveys and trapping techniques had failed to confirm last year's sighting.

"We believe the crocodile that was removed today had made its way into the gorge on the back of recent rains and elevated water levels in the Katherine River and the park's gorges," Ms Kerin said.

"The crocodile probably thought it had found a nice spot to stay in as elevated waters continued to drop but lucky for us it found its way into the trap.

"If there was a crocodile in the park last year, we are pretty sure this is not the same one."

Ms Kerin said the pre-season crocodile trapping began last week and surveys were commenced two nights ago and will continue until the end of May.

She said the public would be informed as to when swimming and canoeing would once again be allowed.

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Sarah Kerin on 8999 4555**

Issued: 2.30pm Thursday, 4 May 2006