



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Almost 100 Crocodiles Removed From Darwin Harbour This Year**

Parks and Wildlife Service officers have removed almost 100 saltwater crocodiles from Darwin Harbour this year.

The removals are part of the Parks and Wildlife Service Crocodile Management Plan aimed at reducing the risk of crocodile attack towards humans and their pets in the Darwin Harbour region.

Parks and Wildlife Service senior wildlife officer Tommy Nichols said 96 saltwater crocodiles had been removed from Darwin Harbour this year and transported to the Darwin Crocodile Farm.

Mr Nichols said this year's numbers are fairly consistent with last year although average saltwater crocodile sizes seem to have increased.

"What we are noticing is the crocodiles we are removing from Darwin Harbour are almost 3m long on average whereas last year they were a bit over 2m long," Mr Nichols said.

"I am not really sure why this is the case but I suspect even larger crocodiles have established themselves in particular areas so the crocodiles we are catching are the ones in search of new homes."

Mr Nichols said a crocodile survey of the bottom end of Darwin Harbour earlier today failed to locate any saltwater crocodiles but a survey of Shoal Bay tomorrow could be more fortunate.

He is confident the 100<sup>th</sup> saltwater crocodile for 2006 will be removed from Darwin Harbour and relocated to the Darwin Crocodile Farm by the end of the month.

Meanwhile in Katherine, Parks and Wildlife Service senior wildlife officer Pat Carmody today removed another male saltwater crocodile from Ballongilly Farm, 30km southwest of Katherine.

The 3.26m crocodile is the seventh in the past fortnight to be removed from Katherine River and relocated to Coolibah Crocodile Farm.

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Tommy Nichols on 0419 822 859 or Pat Carmody on 0407 958 405.**

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