



MEDIA RELEASE

Crocodile Butchered At Mickett Creek

Parks and Wildlife Service officers are asking the public not to interfere with crocodile traps placed in the Darwin Harbour region.

Today's request follows an incident where it is believed a crocodile was butchered on top of and taken from a crocodile trap in Mickett Creek, between King Creek and Buffalo Creek in Shoal Bay, on Thursday 1 June 2006.

Senior wildlife officer Tommy Nichols said the incident was only the second he had come across in the 24 years he has been working with Parks and Wildlife Service.

"The entire crocodile is gone but the blood found on the trap is fresh, suggesting it was butchered overnight," Mr Nichols said.

"I am not sure why anyone would do such a thing, maybe they are eating the meat themselves or using the flesh to put in crab pots.

"But an incident such as this not only interferes with the crocodile management program for Darwin Harbour but is also in breach of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

"A person must not take or interfere with protected wildlife such as crocodiles unless authorised to do so, so if we find out who did this they could face up to five years imprisonment or a \$55,000 if found guilty in a court of law.

"In addition to this, these people are not only tampering with Government property, they are risking their own safety by performing this act.

"One false move by people performing this ludicrous act and they could end up in a very bad state courtesy of the crocodile."

Mr Nichols said the only other incident of its type he had experienced occurred seven years ago at Middle Arm, but only the head and tail was removed from that crocodile.

He said anyone with details of yesterday's incident is urged to contact Parks and Wildlife Service on 0419 822 859.

The crocodile management program for Darwin Harbour has resulted in 105 crocodiles being removed from the region this year.

A total of 223 crocodiles were caught in the Darwin Harbour region last year.

Ends

Media note - For more information contact Tommy Nicholls on 0419 822 859

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