



MEDIA RELEASE

Crocodile Removed From Katherine River

Parks and Wildlife Service officers today removed another male saltwater crocodile from the Katherine River at Ballongilly Farm, 30km southwest of Katherine.

The 2.7m male saltwater crocodile is the eighth to be removed from Katherine River since 4 May 2006, with five of those removed from Ballongilly Farm.

A 4.21m male saltwater crocodile was also removed from Flora River Nature Park in May.

Each of the nine crocodiles has been relocated to the Coolibah Crocodile Farm near Timber Creek as part of the Parks and Wildlife Service Katherine region crocodile management plan.

Parks and Wildlife Service senior wildlife officer Pat Carmody said recent warm weather might have contributed to the crocodile's capture.

"There was a bit of a break in the cool dry season weather, which might have prompted this particular crocodile to move about, straight into one of our traps," Mr Carmody said.

"But the warmer weather hasn't lasted, so the water was quite cool this morning when I had to remove the crocodile from the trap.

"It will be interesting to see how the rest of the dry season progresses, as the 11 crocodiles removed from Katherine River last year was a record and we are only two months into this year's dry season.

"I believe much of this has to do with the combination of population pressures and an elongated wet season, which saw the Daly River and Katherine River combine into one, making it easier than normal for crocodiles to move about."

Mr Carmody said crocodile surveys and trapping would continue during the dry season as part of the Katherine Crocodile Management Plan aimed at reducing the risk of interactions between crocodiles and people, their livestock and their pets.

He said the reason for traps being placed and crocodile surveys being conducted along the Katherine River is to help prevent crocodiles reaching high visitation areas, such as Nitmiluk National Park, where the same crocodile monitoring also happens.

Mr Carmody urged people to remain vigilant when entering Katherine River.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Pat Carmody 0407 958 405

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