



MEDIA RELEASE

Saltwater Crocodile Capture Successful

Parks and Wildlife Service officers have successfully captured and treated a saltwater crocodile found with an arrow stuck in its back in Corroboree Billabong.

Parks and Wildlife Service senior wildlife officer Tommy Nichols said they captured the crocodile about 9pm last night to extract the arrow and treat the animal.

“Fortunately the arrow had not ruptured any vital organs, so we applied some anaesthetic to the small wound inflicted by the cross bow arrow and released it back onto the bank,” he said.

Mr Nichols said the condition of the crocodile was reported to Parks and Wildlife Service on Friday afternoon, but initial attempts to get near the crocodile to remove the arrow failed.

“The first attempt to capture the injured crocodile was made on Saturday morning, less than a day after the wounded crocodile was reported to wildlife officers,” he said.

“We sighted the croc, but he was extremely scared of boats and humans after the trauma of being shot by the arrow, so he kept diving underwater out of sight.

“The croc appeared to be swimming and diving reasonably well, so we knew it would survive until we could return.”

Mr Nichols and other wildlife officers returned to Corroboree Billabong last night after a trip to Oenpelli on Monday night, where they caught two three metre saltwater crocodiles near where the women of the community regularly gather turtles.

Mr Nichols said last night’s arrow extraction follows a similar incident in the area at the same time last year and was disappointed in people performing such senseless acts.

“Trophy hunting is illegal, as is the harming or killing of protected wildlife such as crocodiles without a permit,” Mr Nichols said.

“Anyone caught and successfully prosecuted in regards to such matters face a jail term of up to five years or a fine of up to \$55,000 under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.”

If anyone has information about this or any other incidents concerning crocodiles they are urged to call the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service on 0419 822 859.

If the matter relates to wildlife other than crocodiles they are urged to call 0401 115 702 or 0401 110 205.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Tommy Nichols on 0419 822 859

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