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## GOVERNMENT WILL NOT TOLERATE HARM TO WILDLIFE

Chief Minister Clare Martin and AFANT President Warren de With, today urged Territorians to report any information regarding the slaughter of dugong and crocodiles in Territory waterways.

"Harming dugongs and crocodiles or any of our unique Territory wildlife is not tolerated," Ms Martin said.

"Killing, harming or interfering with protected wildlife carries hefty penalties.

"Perpetrators can 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*.

"We take this matter seriously and will investigate accurate reports but the reality is that we need the public's help.

"You can not have a Parks Ranger on every river bank in the Territory, which means anglers and tourists need to be our eyes and ears as well," said Ms Martin.

AFANT president, Warren de With, joined the Chief Minister's call for recreational fishers to immediately report any incidents of this nature.

"This is exactly the type of thing that we want all recreational fishers to do and it's why we are rolling out our *Your Eyes on the Water Program*," Mr de With explained.

"We have consulted with authorities including NT Fisheries, Police and Parks and Wildlife and they are right behind the program.

"AFANT wants all anglers to report any instances of people interfering with crocodiles and other wildlife. Get as good a description of these people as you can, including any vehicles or boats involved, because it's time we made an example of them.

"Never be afraid to make a report – this type of stupidity affects the good reputation of all law-abiding recreational fishers," said Mr de With.

To report incidents concerning protected wildlife please call the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service:

Crocs 8999 4691 or 0419 822 859 Wildlife Operations 0401 110 205 or 0401 115 702

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