



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Solar Panels Stolen From Trepkina Gorge Nature Park**

Solar panel thefts at Trepkina Gorge Nature Park are costing taxpayers thousands of dollars, the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service said today.

Trepkina Gorge Nature Park district ranger James Gorman urged the public to contact police if they know anything about the solar panel thefts.

“There has been four instances of solar panels being stolen at Trepkina Gorge Nature Park since October last year, with the most recent incident being a week ago,” Mr Gorman said.

“The first three occasions involved panels being removed but this time the whole frame was removed, so I would estimate about \$20,000 worth of equipment has been stolen.

“Money used to replace the stolen solar panels must come from other parts of the park’s management program such as our efforts to combat weeds.”

Mr Gorman said the solar panels are essential as they power the water bores that supply water to the Trepkina Gorge Nature Park, which is 85km east of Alice Springs in the magnificent East MacDonnell Ranges.

He said other alleged illegal activity in the area includes attempted gold digging at Arltunga Historical Reserve, 110km east of Alice Springs.

“There is evidence of digging in a 200m by 50m square area and no such activity is legal without a permit,” Mr Gorman said.

“This digging can cause degradation of an important historical site that played a great role in the establishment of Alice Springs.

“If anyone out there knows anything about this, or the stolen solar panels, I ask they contact NT police on 131 444.”

Ends

For more information contact James Gorman on 8956 9765

Issued: 10am Thursday, 17 August 2006