



MEDIA RELEASE

Rangers clamp down on dogs at Telegraph Station

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service advises people risk prosecution if caught with pets such as dogs at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve.

Senior Ranger Rick Hope said pets such as dogs were only permitted in the Reserve if they were in, or constrained to, a vehicle in the car park.

Mr Hope said this exception was made to allow people travelling with their pets to visit the reserve and explore some of its heritage.

“There are signs around the Reserve advising people what the situation is regarding pets entering the Reserve,” Mr Hope said.

“If these conditions are not adhered to then those people breaching section 22 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation By-Laws* could be prosecuted.”

Mr Hope said the Reserve is not the place to walk your dog.

“We are concerned that people are ignoring the signs that state dogs are not allowed in the Reserve, and we will be paying extra attention to enforcing the regulations,” Mr Hope said.

“We will be patrolling the Reserve, including in the early morning and late evening, and we ask people walking their dogs to do so at a location separate to the Reserve.

“Dogs are a hazard to wildlife in any park and reserve such as the Telegraph Station where we are proud of the fact we have such species as Black-footed rock wallabies.

“There is evidence to suggest the population of these wallabies in the Reserve wanes when there is more dog activity in the Reserve and this is concerning.

“If they are having this effect on the wallabies, the same would be true for some of our smaller, less obvious, wildlife.

“Alice Springs is lucky to have such a range of wildlife so close to town and we would like to keep it that way.”

Mr Hope said dogs also posed a problem for other users of the Reserve.

He said many people use the Reserve properly for cycling and walking and are justly unhappy to be confronted with dogs.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Rick Hope on 8952 1013

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