



MEDIA RELEASE

Manton Dam Recreation Area Re-opened

Three saltwater crocodiles will spend today settling into their new home at Darwin Crocodile Farm in Noonamah, 45km south of Darwin, thanks to the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service.

Two of the crocodiles, a 2.8m male and a 2.7m female, were removed by PWS wildlife officers from traps placed at West Arm and Howard River respectively during the past 24 hours as part of the Darwin Harbour Crocodile Management Program.

The third saltwater crocodile, a 2.5m male, was removed by PWS wildlife officers from a rarely used portion of the popular Manton Dam Recreation Area, 76km south of Darwin, last night after a confirmed saltwater crocodile sighting the previous night.

The Area had been closed to the public since yesterday morning but re-opened this morning after last night's successful removal.

Parks and Wildlife Service senior wildlife officer Tommy Nichols was involved in the removal and relocation of all three crocodiles and expects his workload to increase as the build-up continues.

"With humidity and temperatures gradually increasing as we approach the wet season, crocodiles will be on the move in search of food, breeding opportunities and a nice bit of water to spend their time in," Mr Nichols said.

"We were quite pleased to have removed the three saltwater crocodiles during the past 24 hours, especially the one at Manton Dam as we understand how popular it is.

"But equally pleasing is removing the female saltie from Howard River, about 500m from the old iron bridge, as people have been known to swim in the area although we continue to strongly advise against it.

"Today's removal of the female saltie comes less than two weeks after a 3.2m long female was removed from an area nearby, and usually where females are the males are not too far away, especially as we're heading into breeding season.

"So we strongly urge people to refrain from conducting any water-based activities at Howard River.

"We will continue baiting and monitoring traps on a regular basis to reduce the risk saltwater crocodiles pose to humans, pets and other animals as much as we possibly can."

Mr Nichols said 169 saltwater crocodiles have been removed from Darwin Harbour this year and relocated to Darwin Crocodile Farm.

Last night's saltwater crocodile removal at Manton Dam Recreation Area was the first one since a 2.3m long saltwater crocodile was spotted there in 2004.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Tommy Nichols on 0419 8222 859

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