



MEDIA RELEASE

Saltwater Crocodile Caught at Howard River

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service officers today removed a 3.7m long male saltwater crocodile from Howard River, Howard Springs, about 40km south of Darwin.

PWS senior wildlife officer Tommy Nichols said the capture of the male saltwater crocodile comes after three female saltwater crocodiles were removed from the same area near the old iron bridge during the past six weeks.

“After we caught the first 3.2m long female crocodile in late September we were confident a male crocodile wouldn’t be too far away as it’s that time of year when crocodiles are on the move and in search of breeding opportunities,” Mr Nichols said.

“But the next two crocodiles we caught in traps at Howard River were both 2.7m long females, so catching a male saltwater crocodile was inevitable.”

Mr Nichols said the male saltwater crocodile probably weighed more than 300kg, requiring five people in total to load it up onto the back of a vehicle that transported it to the NT Crocodile Farm at Noonamah.

“The male saltie was obviously the dominant male in the area and the signs are there he had been living it up during the past few months,” Mr Nichols said.

“He’s in really good condition, nice and fat, and certainly not too happy about being removed from the river.

“But people have been known to conduct water-based activities in Howard River, despite our constant warnings, so we are working in the interests of public safety.”

Mr Nichols said 188 crocodiles had been removed from Darwin Harbour this year as part of the Darwin Harbour Crocodile Management Plan, which is on par with the same time last year when a total of 223 crocodiles were removed.

He said people can report saltwater crocodiles by calling 0419 822 859.

Ends

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

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