



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Track Closure at Litchfield National Park**

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service advises Reynolds 4WD track between Sandy Creek falls and Daly River Road in Litchfield National Park will be closed until the end of the wet season.

Litchfield National Park senior district ranger Alan Withers said recent heavy rain had prompted yesterday's routine closure of this portion of the Reynolds 4WD track.

Mr Withers said the track from Litchfield Park Road to Sandy Creek falls would remain open, including Blyth Homestead, for the time being.

"We routinely close our 4WD tracks each wet season as they become affected by rain," Mr Withers said.

"Visitor safety is our number one priority and by leaving the affected portion of the track open would bring about the risk of visitors getting bogged, particularly across the black soil flood plain where winches are of no use, as there are no trees to winch off

"We are closely monitoring the portion of the track that remains open, as it too will require closing when it becomes affected by rain."

Litchfield National Park, situated 100km south-west of Darwin, is home to some of the Territory's most spectacular waterfalls, with camp grounds, walking tracks and 4WD tracks also very popular among visitors.

Mr Withers said visitors accessing closed tracks had numerous negative impacts.

"If people get bogged on a track they often cause damage to the track, such as creating water channels that should not otherwise be there," Mr Withers said.

"If these wheel ruts turn into water channels, this means we need graders to fix the problem, and of course this costs money that could be used on other areas of managing the park.

"So in the interests of everyone, we urge visitors to the park to obey all track closures."

The partial closure of the Reynolds 4WD track comes a month after the Tabletop Walking Track was closed due to high temperatures. The walking track is not expected to re-open until the 2007 dry season.

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Alan Withers on 8976 0282**

Issued: 4pm Tuesday, 14 November 2006