



MEDIA RELEASE

Seven Foot Snake Found in Toilet Bowl

A seven foot carpet python was removed from a septic tank after it was found peering out of a toilet bowl in Howard Springs this morning.

Parks and Wildlife Service wildlife officer Peter Phillips said he was called to the residence in Howard Springs after a plumber fixing a blocked toilet found the python.

“The Howard Springs resident originally called a plumber because her toilet was blocked,” Mr Phillips said.

“I arrived to see a large python head peering out of the toilet bowl.

“The python was so long, the body was curled around the s-bend and we had to retrieve it from the septic tank, where we could remove it.

Mr Phillips said the largely nocturnal Carpet Python was probably temporarily living in the septic tank because it was a good place to wait for frogs or hide during the day and then emerge at night to go and look for other food.

“The tank was obviously a great home, because the snake was so fat and healthy it was difficult to retrieve,” he said.

“We retrieved the snake without incident and it will be released tonight.

Mr Phillips said the Parks and Wildlife snake call out number would be operating as usual over the festive season.

“Someone will be on duty twenty four hours a day seven days a week,” he said.

“We advise that members of the public not to try and catch or kill snakes, this is how most people end up getting bitten.

“Even though most snake species around Darwin and rural areas are not poisonous, some such as King Browns and Western Browns are among the top 10 most deadly snakes in the world.

“A Parks and Wildlife Officer or a permitted volunteer will come and remove your snake if someone can keep an eye on it until we arrive.

“We will endeavour to catch the snake when we arrive, but cannot search for snakes that have gone.”

For assistance with problem snakes and other large reptiles in Darwin, Palmerston and rural areas call: 1800 453 210.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Peter Phillips on 0401 115702. Note this spokesperson will only be available for comment from 12-1pm or after 4:30pm today. Photos of the Carpet Python will be available after 4:30pm.

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