



MEDIA RELEASE

Important Items Stolen From Berry Springs Nature Park

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service today asked Territorians to be on the lookout for important items such as “No Swimming” and “No Entry to Water” signs stolen from Berry Springs Nature Park during the weekend.

Among the other important stolen items were ropes and pictograms that cordoned off the no swimming area, meaning the park had to be closed until temporary measures could be implemented earlier today.

Senior District Ranger Kristen Appel said the cost of replacing the stolen items would come out of the park’s existing budget.

“Safety is our number one priority and that is why such signs are necessary during times when the park is off limits to swimming,” Ms Appel said.

“Flooding of Berry Creek closed the Park to swimming two weeks ago.

“This happened when the water level became such that to allow swimming to continue would be to place the public’s safety at risk because of the water’s turbidity and high bacterial levels.

“This not only makes it unsafe to swim, but the rangers have difficulty in spotting any saltwater crocodiles at this time.

“While the theft of such signs is fairly rare, each time it does happen is one time too many, as money spent on replacing such important signs means less money is spent on other important requirements, such as maintaining visitor facilities and land management activities.

“These activities are done in the interests of park visitors and therefore thefts such as these have a wider, negative impact that is not only felt by the Parks and Wildlife Service but on anyone visiting the park.”

Ms Appel said Berry Springs Nature Park reopened earlier today although entry into the water, including swimming, remains off limits.

She said the items would cost about \$3000 to replace and urged anyone who has information relating to the stolen signs to contact NT police on 131 444.

Berry Springs Nature Park is a popular Top End attraction about 50km south of Darwin along the Cox Peninsula Road near the Territory Wildlife Park.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Kristen Appel on 0439 887 124

Issued: 1pm Monday, 15 January 2007