



MEDIA RELEASE

Litchfield National Park Swimming Hole and Track Closures

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service advises the popular Wangi Falls swimming hole at Litchfield National Park is closed until the end of the wet season.

Litchfield National Park Chief District Ranger John McCartney said recent heavy rains at the park meant keeping the Wangi Falls swimming hole open was not in line with public safety.

“Visitor safety is our number one priority and recent heavy rain has left us with no other choice but to close the swimming hole,” Mr McCartney said.

“Not only is the water turbulence likely to make swimming dangerous and difficult, it also means saltwater crocodiles can reach the falls via the Reynolds River.

“There are two crocodile traps set permanently downstream from the main pool but there is always a chance that they will enter the pool area.

“Last wet season, six saltwater crocodiles were removed from the traps, the largest being 4.2 metres.”

Mr McCartney said that while other facilities at Wangi Falls remained opened, facilities and tracks in other parts of Litchfield National Park were also off limits until the end of the wet season.

“The Table Top walking track and Reynolds 4WD track were closed about two months ago and we have more recently decided to close the Florence Falls 4WD campgrounds, Butterfly Gorge, the Lost City, the Sandy Creek Falls 4WD track and the Surprise Creek Falls 4WD track,” Mr McCartney said.

“Track and facility closures are routine during this time of year and as previously stated, these decisions are made in the interests of public safety.

“Getting bogged on a wet track is the last thing anyone wants as there is very limited telephone coverage should anyone need to be rescued.

“Furthermore, vehicles operating on tracks that should be closed damage those tracks, further delaying the re-opening of tracks once the dry season returns and tracks become drier and stronger.”

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. The popular Florence Falls and Buley Rockhole remain open.

Closer to Darwin, the Berry Springs Nature Park swimming hole is also closed until the end of the wet season, but all other facilities remain open.

Chief District Ranger Dal Hartley said the entrance road to the bottom picnic area and forest of Holmes Jungle Nature Park was also closed, although the top picnic area was accessible by vehicle.

Mr Hartley said all the walking tracks remained available to walkers.

Go to <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/access.html#d10> for more information about track and facility closures at Top End parks and reserves administered by the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts.

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Media Note – For more information on Litchfield National Park contact John McCartney on 8976 0282 or Dal Hartley on 0418 589 830 for the Darwin region.

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