



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Howard Springs Nature Park Draft Plan of Management**

Territorians have the chance to find out more about the Howard Springs Nature Park Draft Plan of Management by speaking in person with Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) staff during the next fortnight.

PWS senior planner Jacque Hindmarsh said the Draft Plan of Management has been available online at [www.nt.gov.au/howardspringsplan](http://www.nt.gov.au/howardspringsplan) since early December 2006 and Territorians now have the chance to speak to her and PWS rangers in person to ask questions, make comments or find out how to make a submission.

“People interested in asking questions or finding out more information about the Howard Springs Nature Park Draft Plan of Management will be able to do so, by either speaking to us this weekend outside Howard Springs Supermarket or at the Nature Park,” Ms Hindmarsh said.

“We are encouraging people to express their opinion, suggest alternatives and have their say on the Draft Plan of Management by making submissions.

“This will help us to prepare a final Plan that best represents the community’s views and ideas.”

The Howard Springs Nature Park has been an important community recreation site since World War II when Australian and American servicemen used the site for rest and recreation.

The main directions in the Draft Plan of Management include continuing use of the waterhole for swimming, further development of the park for tourism and recreation, implementing natural resource management programs and ongoing management, protection and interpretation of natural and cultural values as well as focusing maintenance of water quality in and near the waterhole and spring, which are key attractions in the Nature Park.

The waterhole was recently closed to swimming due to high bacteria levels, which is typical for this time of year.

The closure has allowed PWS staff to carry out maintenance work such as clearing the waterhole’s edges of leaves and other debris, which often end up in the water as a result of rain, which is one contributor to increased bacteria levels.

PWS staff will be outside Howard Springs Supermarket from 10am to 1pm on Saturday, 27 January and Sunday, 28 January.

PWS staff will also be at the Howard Springs Nature Park to answer questions from:

- 5pm to 7pm on Wednesday, 31 January;
- 5pm to 7pm on Friday, 2 February;
- 2pm to 4pm on Saturday, 3 February;
- 2pm to 4pm on Sunday, 4 February; and
- 5pm to 7pm on Wednesday, 7 February.

Comments for the draft plan of management close on 9 February and people can call 8999 3473 for more information or view the Draft Plan of Management at [www.nt.gov.au/howardspringsplan](http://www.nt.gov.au/howardspringsplan)

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Jacque Hindmarsh 8999 3473**

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