



MEDIA RELEASE

Crocodile Removed From Swimming Pool

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) is urging people to be cautious when conducting water-based activities in Top End rivers, creeks and harbours.

PWS senior wildlife officer Tommy Nichols said while heavy rains generally meant crocodiles were less active than normal, rough seas or rising creek and river levels could make it necessary for these reptiles to become active.

“Crocodiles might sometimes be experiencing unfavourable weather conditions depending on where they might be, so they seek refuge if or when this becomes necessary,” Mr Nichols said.

“Rising creek and river levels resulting from heavy rain also make it easier for crocodiles to move from one area to another so people should avoid activities such as swimming in rivers or harbours as this can involve a great degree of risk, especially where saltwater crocodiles might be located.”

Mr Nichols’ call for people to be careful around waterways comes after today’s removal of a 1.63m male saltwater crocodile from Nightcliff Swimming Pool.

“We received a call from NT police shortly before dawn today that a saltie had been spotted at Nightcliff Swimming Pool,” Mr Nichols said.

“This is the first time a crocodile has managed to get into the pool and it is unclear at this stage if its entry involved human intervention or if it got there on its own, possibly from either the boat ramp across land or near the Rapid Creek bridge and then across land.

“What we are confident about is that rough seas are likely to have played a role in bringing the crocodile closer to land.

“People can contact us on 0419 822 859 to report crocodile sightings or if they have information in relation to this particular matter.”

Today’s report of a crocodile at a public swimming pool is not the first, with a one metre saltwater crocodile removed from Palmerston Leisure Centre’s Olympic-size pool two years ago.

Saltwater Crocodiles removed from the Darwin region are taken to the Darwin Crocodile Farm at Noonamah.

The NT Parks and Wildlife Service has removed 18 saltwater crocodiles from Darwin Harbour this year, after having removed 225 crocodiles from the harbour last year.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Tommy Nichols on 0419 822 859

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