



MEDIA RELEASE

Visitors to Litchfield National Park Urged to Exercise Caution

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service is urging visitors to Litchfield National Park to exercise caution following recent heavy rain at the popular tourist attraction.

Chief District Ranger John McCartney said access to all vehicles is possible via Batchelor although all the Park's popular swimming spots remain closed.

Mr McCartney said that while the upper Finniss River between Litchfield National Park and Batchelor was below the level of the bridge, it has been rising and falling daily so visitors need to take care not to get caught inside the Park by rising water levels.

"I don't remember the Park ever being this saturated in such a short time in my 14 years working here," Mr McCartney said.

"While Florence Falls and Buley Rock Hole have sometimes been closed for up to a day, they have now been closed for a week and there is no telling at this stage when they will be reopened.

"While some fit people would be able to manage the strong flow and turbulence of the water, I have to take everyone visiting the Park into consideration before I decide to allow swimming because safety is our paramount priority.

"Wangi Falls remains off limits to swimming as it normally is for this time of year, although visitors will be able to enjoy a great view of the waterfall in full flow."

Mr McCartney said other popular attractions such as Surprise Creek Falls, Sandy Creek Falls, Walker Creek, Bamboo Creek and the Lost City are also closed until further notice.

People can go to <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/access.html> for the latest access report to Top End parks and reserves administered by the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact John McCartney on 8976 0282

Issued: 3pm Friday, 9 March 2007