



MEDIA RELEASE

Watarrka National Park Rim Walk Undergoes an Upgrade

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service advises the public that Watarrka National Park's King Canyon rim walk is set to undergo intermittent closures next month.

Watarrka National Park chief district ranger Mike Heywood said the closures would affect the last 600m of the walk into the popular Garden of Eden.

Mr Heywood said walkers will still be able to complete the rest of the rim walk which will be unaffected by the works

"The rim walk isn't undergoing repairs as such but rather an upgrade to improve upon the high safety standards that already exist," Mr Heywood said.

"This will include building rock steps and re-paving and compacting of the track surface into the Garden of Eden.

"Safety at Watarrka National Park is our number one priority and therefore it is necessary for partial closure of the Garden of Eden during works on the walk to ensure the safety of visitors, with these works expected to start in early April and continue for about four weeks.

"Visitor access to the main Kings Canyon loop rim walk and Kings Creek walk will not be affected.

"With 250,000 people visiting Watarrka National Park annually, the park has the highest visitation number of any national park administered by the NT Parks and Wildlife Service and it is only natural the rim walk will experience a bit of wear and tear over time."

Watarrka National Park is located about 450km southwest of Alice Springs and is accessible throughout the year, with winter generally being the most pleasant time to visit.

The Kings Canyon rim walk is one of two available walks at the Park and is suitable for fit and experienced walkers.

For safety reasons, the track must be walked in a clockwise direction to minimise the impact of traffic congestion, track erosion and vegetation degradation.

Go to <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/> for more information about this or other parks or reserves administered by the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Mike Heywood on 8956 7488

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