



MEDIA RELEASE

NT Man Helping with Parks and Wildlife Investigation

A 38-year-old Northern Territory man is helping the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) with its investigation into the illegal possession and export of a brown tree snake.

PWS senior wildlife officer Peter Phillips said the man, who lives in Palmerston, allegedly sent a parcel containing the snake and fish to people he knew in Victoria.

Mr Phillips said the parcel was intercepted at Melbourne Airport as part of an investigation that also involved the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE).

“While the Northern Territory man did have a permit to export the fish, he did not have a permit in relation to the snake,” Mr Phillips said.

“Under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, it is illegal to possess or export protected wildlife without a permit, and if found guilty, a person faces a maximum penalty of up to five years jail or \$55,000 fine.

“The NT Parks and Wildlife Service regard breaches of this Act as serious matters and we therefore work strongly towards protecting these animals when they cannot protect themselves.

“Not only is possessing or exporting protected wildlife without a permit illegal, it can put a native animal’s health at risk, or put at risk the health of other animals it comes into contact with.”

Mr Phillips praised AFP, DSE and NT Police for their involvement in this investigation.

“The actions of the man who is helping us with our investigation came to our attention a few weeks ago and we would not be in the position of possibly taking him to court without the help of the other agencies involved, for which we are thankful for,” Mr Phillips said.

“We are constantly working towards catching those people who are acting in breach of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and with the help of interstate counterparts this will certainly make our job easier.”

Mr Phillips said it would be hard to determine how often the Act was breached due to the NT’s diverse landscape and small population.

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Media Note – For more information contact Peter Phillips on 0401 115 702

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