

Media Release:

18.10.2007

NT Parks and Wildlife Service Seize Pythons

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service in a joint investigation with the Northern Territory Police have seized a diamond python and carpet python as part of a raid on a Darwin home.

Parks and Wildlife Service Senior Wildlife Officer Peter Phillips said a 29 year old Palmerston woman will be summonsed and charged for the alleged possession of a prohibited entrant and possession of protected wildlife, under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

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

“People charged under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* for possessing prohibited entrants in the Northern Territory could face a maximum penalty of up to one year jail or \$11 000 fine.

“Under section 67B of the Act, a person requires a permit to import or possess a prohibited entrant (the diamond python), which are basically those vertebrates not native to the Territory.

“The other charge for possession of a protected wildlife without a permit, if found guilty, the person can face a maximum penalty of up to five years jail or \$55 000 fine under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, Section 662*.

“Basically anyone wanting to keep a snake, aside from the children’s python, need to apply for a permit, whether it be a permit to keep a prohibited entrant or a permit to keep a protected wildlife.

“But in saying that no snakes, including the children’s python, can be taken from the wild, they need to be purchased from a pet shop or registered dealer.”

Carpet pythons, a native of the NT, have a robust body and large head, unlike its close relative the diamond python, a native to coastal areas of New South Wales, which has a distinctive pattern of cream or yellow spots on a black background, their colour and pattern vary greatly.

Both snakes are being cared for at the Territory Wildlife Park.

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

Issued: 12.45pm Thursday, 18 October 2007.