

**Media Release:**

**18.3.08**

## **Firearm Warning in National Parks**

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service have issued a warning to all Territorians and visitors that the use of weapons in National Parks is illegal.

Parks and Wildlife Chief District Ranger Chris Day said the warnings follow two separate incidents at Simpson's Gap in the West MacDonnell National Park over the last two weekends.

"On the weekend of Saturday 1 - Sunday 2 March 2008 we discovered a Euro (hill Kangaroo) located adjacent to Simpson's Gap which had been shot and left to die," Mr Day said.

"The following weekend, Saturday 8 March – Sunday 9 March we found several signs in the Simpson's Gap car park had been damaged by gun fire.

"Not only do these incidents represent a safety concern for visitors, it is also illegal to take and discharge a firearm in all Territory Parks and Reserves.

"Under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* anyone found in possession of a firearm, spear gun, or other weapon in a park or reserve can face a maximum penalty of \$1,000 fine.

"The Act also stipulates that a person must not, except in accordance with a permit, damage, injure, destroy or otherwise interfere with wildlife that is an animal in a park or reserve, and this carries a maximum penalty of \$2000.

"Additionally if a person is found to move, damage, deface or otherwise interfere with property they could be fined up to \$1000 under the Act."

Parks and Wildlife Services have increased patrols of the area in an effort to reduce this type of behaviour and warn anyone contravening the legislation will be charged.

"The public are our eyes and ears for these kinds of incidents and any suspicious behaviour can be reported to the local ranger or police station," Mr Day said.

"Endangering the public, harming wildlife and damaging property is not acceptable behaviour within our National Parks."

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Chris Day on 8955 1119**

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