

Media Release:

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Update on Crocodile Sighting at Tjuwaliyn Hot Springs

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service and the Crocodile Management Team have identified the photograph taken by a tourist at the Tjuwaliyn (Douglas) Hot Springs as a freshwater crocodile.

Parks and Wildlife Ranger Tom Nichols said there are many obvious characteristics to differentiate between a freshwater and saltwater crocodile.

“The colouring of the crocodile, the pattern of its skin, the jaw line as well as the snout all show the crocodile in the photograph provided to be a freshwater crocodile,” Mr Nichols said.

“We will undertake an additional spotlight survey tonight to confirm there are no saltwater crocodiles in the area.”

Chief District Ranger John McCartney said the spotlight survey that took place last night failed to spot any saltwater crocodiles.

“Just to be cautious we’re getting our crocodile management team down to do an additional spotlight survey of the area tonight, but if that reveals no sign of any saltwater crocodiles we will reopen the area, including the campground tomorrow morning,” Mr McCartney said.

“We do regular spotlight surveys after each wet season and no saltwater crocodiles were sighted in the area.”

Mr Nichols said estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles can inhabit waters throughout the Darwin and Katherine regions of the Northern Territory, including freshwater rivers and billabongs.

Access to Butterfly Gorge day use area will remain open and visitors will be advised once the Tjuwaliyn (Douglas) Hot Springs have been reopened.

To check park openings go to <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/access>

Media Note – for more information contact John McCartney on 0427 800 302 or Tom Nichols on 0419 822 859 or

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