

Media Release:

10.10.08

Update on Crocodile Sightings

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service are currently investigating two reported crocodile sightings in the Top End.

Parks and Wildlife ranger Tom Nichols said a 3.5m saltwater crocodile, that appeared to be trapped in a tyre, was spotted last weekend by three people on a houseboat, near the old pumping station on the Mary River, 150km east of Darwin.

“Rangers have conducted a number of spotlight searches around the area however the crocodile has not been spotted again,” Mr Nichols said.

“Local fishermen have also confirmed no further sightings of the crocodile so at this stage we can only guess if the crocodile managed to pull free from the tyre, or if another crocodile ripped it off.

“If the crocodile is sighted again we will take action as required to ensure the crocodile is not in any danger.”

Mr Nichols said a second, separate crocodile sighting was reported yesterday in Palmerston’s Marlow Lagoon.

“After spotlighting over the lagoon last night we’ve seen a pair of eyes shining back which confirms there is a crocodile in there,” Mr Nichols said.

“At this stage it’s difficult to confirm if it’s a saltwater or freshwater crocodile but it seems to be a small one, definitely less than 1m judging by the size of its eyes.

“We also can’t guarantee if it’s a freshwater crocodile from one of the nearby creek systems, or if human interference has played a role.

“A trap will be set up today and rangers will check the trap every day, in the meantime we strongly urge members of the public to stay out of the lagoon and away from the trap.”

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Tom Nichols on 0419 822 859

Issued: 3.40pm Friday, 10 October 2008