

Media Release:

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Swimming Holes Re-open in West MacDonnell National Park

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) advises that Ormiston Gorge waterhole and Ellery Creek, part of the West MacDonnell National Park have been re-opened for swimming.

Parks and Wildlife Service chief district ranger Chris Day said they have been monitoring these waterholes daily.

“While the water is still a little murky, the bacterial water testing results have come back all clear,” Mr Day said.

The waterholes were closed last Wednesday, 26 November 2008 as strong winds and heavy rain had caused a lot of soil and other flood debris to be washed into the water.

Visitors are reminded to take care and not to dive into any waterholes throughout the Central Australian region as the floods are likely to have changed the depth and access to these natural water holes, and with the water being more turbid, bottoms could have changed and unknown debris or submerged branches and rocks may be present.

Ormiston Gorge is located 135 km west of Alice Springs, access is via Larapinta and Namatjira Drives.

For the latest access reports or information about parks and reserves administered by the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport go to www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Chris Day on 0427601237

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