

Media Release:

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Window on the Wetlands Refurbishment

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) advises that part of the Window on the Wetlands Visitor Centre will be closed for refurbishment from today, Monday 15 December 2008 to Thursday 18 December 2008.

Collections, Wildlife and Biological Parks Executive Director Gae Mackay said only the ground level would be affected by the refurbishment, with access to the top floor via the external staircase at the rear of the centre.

“Visitors will still be able to enjoy the magnificent views across the Adelaide River floodplains from outside on the decking area or inside in air-conditioned comfort,” Ms Mackay said.

“The floodplains create a great expanse of coastal wetlands, one of the rarest and most threatened systems in the world, and are home to a large number of native bird, aquatic and mammal species.

“Visitors can also enjoy the display of Aboriginal art and the movie theatre showing a panorama film about the Top End on the top floor.

“The toilet facilities also remain accessible and the visitor centre will remain fully staffed to assist with visitor enquiries.”

Ms Mackay said the refurbishment includes new carpet to the ground floor, a new front counter and re-working the visitor reception area to make better use of the space.

“More than \$33,000 is being spent on the refurbishment, with local contractors Carpet Choice and Pete’s Home Renovation’s undertaking the work,” Ms Mackay said.

“We tend to get a lot of visitors throughout the day which results in the front reception area becoming congested and difficult to move around, particularly when large numbers such as tour groups arrive.

“Window on the Wetlands is an iconic Top End tourist destination and it’s important we keep the centre in top condition.

“The next stage of refurbishment is scheduled for early next year and will involve upgrading the top floor.

“The refurbishment has been planned in stages so that there is minimal impact on visitors and they can still enjoy some of the many wonders the Visitor Centre offers.”

Entry to Windows on the Wetlands is free and the centre is open from 8am to 7pm daily.

Ends

Image – Window on the Wetlands Visitor Centre

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