

Media Release:

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New Direction in 2010 for Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport Chief Executive, Jim Grant, announced today a new direction for the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service with three new Territory wide units and directors to commence in early 2010.

The response follows a key recommendation from the Parks and Wildlife organisational review to move from a regional structure to a functions based structure.

"Parks and Wildlife will have Territory wide based units including; Parks Operations, Planning and Partnerships, and Tourism and Visitor Services, and I'm pleased to announce recruitment for Directors of the units has now been finalised," Mr Grant said.

Digby Whyte will be the Director of Park Operations. Digby is currently Group Manager of Manukau Parks in New Zealand, has strong experience in park management and holds a Masters of Science in Park and Recreation Administration, a Doctorate of Recreation and a Masters of Public Policy.

Lisha Mulqueeny will be the Director of Tourism and Visitor Services. Lisha is currently the Director of Tourism and Recreation at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and has experience working for Tourism NT, Tourism Queensland and the Tourism and Transport Forum Australia.

Mac Moyses, who is currently the Principal Planner for Parks and Wildlife, will act in the position of Director Planning and Partnerships for 12 months from late January. Mac has many years of experience with Parks and Wildlife, having worked in planning roles for the past 10 years and leading Parks and Wildlife Joint Management planning.

Mr Grant also announced the current Director of Parks and Wildlife for the Southern Region, Andrew Bridges, will take up the *Territory Eco-Link* project manager role.

"*Territory Eco-Link* is a conservation corridor of national and global significance that spans the Territory, and will benefit from Andrew's expertise and knowledge," Mr Grant said.

"I'd also like to thank the Acting Director of Parks and Wildlife Northern Region Barry Scott, and the Acting Director of Parks and Wildlife Katherine Region Eddie Webber for their work in the regional director roles."

Mr Grant said the creation of the three Territory wide units and director positions in Parks and Wildlife Service will see a greater increase in working with the community and business sector to deliver the following outcomes:

- Improved tourist facilities for locals and visitors.
- The development of greater tourism business around National Parks and Reserves with an emphasis on locally owned and operated businesses.
- The development of volunteering in parks and the establishment of conservation partnerships with private and non profit sectors for on and off park conservation in the Northern Territory.
- The continued development of Joint Management.
- Stronger conservation outcomes for fire, ferals and weeds; and
- The development of *Territory Eco-Link*.

Ends

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