

Media Release:

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Public Urged Not to Interfere with Crocodile Traps

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service are urging members of the public to **BE CROCWISE** and steer clear of crocodile traps set up across the Top End.

Parks and Wildlife Service senior ranger Tom Nichols said there have been two damaged crocodile traps, one stolen trap and more media reports of people behaving dangerously around traps.

“After a reported crocodile sighting in the Acacia area a trap was put in place but it looks like someone has used a vehicle to pull the trap out, damaging the trap across the rocks on the way,” Mr Nicholls said.

“A trap set up in the Elizabeth River has had its ropes cut and is floating downstream so we’re on our way out there to try and retrieve it.

“Also the Parks and Wildlife Yarrowonga shed was broken into last week and a quad bike trailer and a half-size trap were stolen.

“A full size trap is worth between \$8000 and \$9000 while a half-size trap is worth about \$4000, so these damaged and stolen traps are a costly exercise that shouldn’t be occurring.

“I urge the public to keep their distance from crocodile traps as they are a very important tool for us in terms of protecting the public and our crocodile management program.”

Mr Nichols said recent photos of more idiots fooling around with crocodiles is an unbelievable act of stupidity.

“People interfering with crocodile traps are not only putting their own safety at risk, especially when there is a crocodile present in the trap, but it can also reduce the likelihood of crocodiles entering traps as they may become trap-shy,” Mr Nichols said.

“Under Section 23 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* by-laws it is an offence to interfere with Parks and Wildlife property or offenders face fines up to \$1,000 and under Section 66 of the Act a person must not take, interfere or release protected wildlife or offenders face fines up to \$65,000.

“We would welcome any information that could be provided concerning the identity of those persons interfering with traps.”

NRETAS urges the public to **BE CROCWISE** and remember that croc danger is real so don’t risk your life. For more information visit www.nt.gov.au/becrocwise.

Members of the public are encouraged to report any information on this matter, or any estuarine (saltwater) crocodile sightings to Parks and Wildlife on 0419 822 859.

Ends

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

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