

Media Release:

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Desert Park Achieves Advanced Ecotourism Accreditation

The Alice Springs Desert Park's commitment to achieving environmental best practice has been recognised with the Desert Park receiving Advanced Ecotourism Accreditation and Respecting Our Culture Certification through Ecotourism Australia.

Advanced Ecotourism is awarded to businesses that are committed to achieving best practice when using resources wisely, contributing to the conservation of the environment and helping local communities; which Desert Park Visitor Services Manager Olivia Chandler said is reflective of the Desert Park's key values.

"The Alice Springs Desert Park strives to give its visitors a unique experience with minimal impact on the environment," Ms Chandler said.

"Achieving Advanced Ecotourism Accreditation signifies to visitors to the Desert Park that we are dedicated to environmentally sustainable practice and utilising and preserving the Territory's natural resources."

The Alice Springs Desert Park also received Respecting Our Culture Certification, which is awarded to businesses that are committed to protecting cultural authenticity and integrity, developing sound business practices, environmental protection and businesses that acknowledge Indigenous peoples spiritual connection to the land and water.

Ms Chandler said receiving the Respecting Our Culture Certification is evidence of the Desert Park's commitment to maintaining operational standards that respect Aboriginal cultural heritage.

"The Desert Park site is of significant cultural importance to the local Arrernte people and includes parts of the Akngwelye Artnwere and Yeperenye Altyerre (Wild Dog and Caterpillar dreaming stories)," Ms Chandler said.

"The Desert Park provides a sensitive and realistic insight into Aboriginal culture by display and interpretation of the traditional use of plants and animals and with regular liaison with local Aboriginal groups."

For more information on Ecotourism Australia visit <http://www.ecotourism.org.au/>.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Olivia Chandler on 8951 8727.

Image – Olivia Chandler and Senior Park Guide (Cross Cultural) Doug Taylor with the Desert Park's electric vehicle which assists visitors around the Park.

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