

Media Release:

17.02.11

BE CROCWISE in the Wet Weather

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) urges the public to Be Crocwise and stay away from swollen creeks, rivers, stormwater drains and low-lying areas that are subject to flooding in the wake of recent wet weather conditions caused by Cyclone Carlos.

Parks and Wildlife Service senior ranger Tom Nichols said the current flooded areas present an extreme increased likelihood of estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles entering these areas.

“The flooded and swollen creeks in the Darwin suburbs, like Rapid Creek, and other creeks and rivers in the rural area could see estuarine crocodiles present and this poses a high danger for people entering these waters,” Mr Nicholls said.

“Two estuarine crocodiles were removed from Rapid Creek last weekend, a 2.3 metre and a 1.8 metre, and we urge people to stay out of this area particularly as the creek’s water levels have risen substantially.

“During heavy monsoonal weather estuarine crocodiles are able to move into waterways they may not have previously inhabited.

“We’ve removed a number of estuarine crocodiles from drains over the last few years, which shows that no body of water is guaranteed croc-free, especially when there is fast flowing water, like we are experiencing at the moment.

“The crocodile management team works hard to get crocs out of the Darwin Harbour and surrounding areas as quickly as possible, but it’s impossible to stop them coming in or moving around.”

NRETAS urges the public to BE CROCWISE and remember that croc danger is real, so don’t risk your life.

For more information go to www.nt.gov.au/becrocwise

To report sightings of estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles in the Darwin region phone 0419 822 859) or in the Katherine region phone 0407 958 405.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Tom Nichols on 0419 822 859 however please note he will be in and out of mobile phone range throughout the day.

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