

**Media Release:**

**10.03.11**

## **Manton Dam Open for Fishing but Closed for Swimming**

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service advises that Manton Dam Recreation Area will be open for land and boat based fishing and picnics only from Saturday, 12 March 2011.

However swimming and water-based activities including water-skiing, jet-skiing and wakeboarding remain prohibited due to the likely presence of estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles.

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Director of Park Operations Digby Whyte said a recent fly-over indicates that Darwin Dam is now almost connected with Manton Dam following heavy monsoonal rains.

“This means there is an increased chance of estuarine crocodiles entering Manton Dam and making the area unsafe for people to enter the water,” Mr Whyte said.

“There have been a high number of eye shines recorded by Rangers but with the water levels so high, the water being quite murky and the surrounding vegetation hampering access, it has made it difficult to confirm whether these eye shines are estuarine or freshwater crocodiles.

“While Manton Dam is now accessible to the public for the purpose of land or boat-based fishing, and contains two crocodile traps, we urge the public to **BE CROCWISE** and keep out of the water.

“If you spot any estuarine crocodiles in the area please contact the Parks and Wildlife Service on 0419 822 859.”

Mr Whyte said it would still be a number of weeks until the water levels drop enough to enable Parks and Wildlife Rangers to conduct conclusive surveys of the area.

“Until we have conclusive surveys with no sightings of estuarine crocodiles in an area across five consecutive nights of crocodile surveying, the area will not be re-opened to the public for water-based activities of swimming, water-skiing, jet-skiing or wakeboarding,” Mr Whyte said.

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (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](http://www.nt.gov.au/becrocwise)

Manton Dam Recreation Area will fully re-open for swimming and other water-based activities once the area is deemed safe by the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service.

For up to date information regarding access to parks and reserves administered by NRETAS go to [www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks)

Ends

**Media Note – for more information / interviews contact Digby Whyte on 8999 4561.**

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