

**Media Release:**

**21.03.11**

## **Wallabies Killed in National Park Prompts Warning**

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service has issued a warning to all members of the public that it is illegal to kill native wildlife without a permit, after finding 13 wallabies shot and dumped within Djukbinj National Park on the weekend.

Wildlife Officer Sally Heaton said investigations are underway following the discovery of the wallaby carcasses during a patrol by park rangers on Sunday, 20 March 2011.

“The wallabies had been dumped in a pile along the main road into Djukbinj National Park, approximately 500 metres from the Arnhem Highway,” Ms Heaton said.

“It appears all were killed using firearms, and three of the wallabies had their legs removed.

“Parks and Wildlife contacted the Traditional Owners, who jointly manage the park, and confirmed that they were not aware of the wallabies being killed.

“We urge anyone who may have any information about the incident to contact Parks and Wildlife on 0401 110 205.”

Under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation By-Laws* a person must not, except in accordance with a permit issued by the Commission, damage, injure, destroy or otherwise interfere with wildlife that is an animal in a park or reserve. A maximum penalty of \$2,000 applies.

“It’s very disturbing that the person or persons responsible for this act have not only destroyed native wildlife but they have done so in a national park which is here to protect the natural environment,” Ms Heaton said.

“Permits to interfere with native wildlife are subject to strict conditions, including the reason for destroying wildlife and ensuring the proper disposal of carcasses.

“The public are often our eyes and ears when it comes to reporting these kinds of incidents and we encourage anyone who sees suspicious behaviour on a national park or towards native wildlife in general to report it to the Parks and Wildlife Service or the local Police station.”

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Sally Heaton on 8995 5053**

**Image – Wallabies found in Djunbinj National Park**

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