

Media Release:

27.07.11

Crocodile Removed from Berry Springs Nature Park

Parks and Wildlife Service rangers last night removed a 1.57m female estuarine (saltwater) crocodile from Berry Springs Nature Park, believed to have been the crocodile that reportedly bit a woman on the neck late yesterday afternoon.

Parks and Wildlife Service Senior Wildlife Ranger Tom Nichols said the estuarine crocodile was captured and removed from the main swimming pool at Berry Springs, and that the crocodile was destroyed during capture.

“It is believed this is the same crocodile that was reported to have bitten a woman while she was swimming yesterday afternoon,” Mr Nichols said.

“It is unclear at this stage how the crocodile entered the swimming area; however it has probably travelled upstream or downstream through Berry Creek given its small size.

“This is another reminder to people to be crocwise and be extremely cautious about any waterways in the Top End, because estuarine crocodiles can move around throughout the year.”

Crocodile surveys are carried out regularly in Berry Springs Nature Park and there are two traps downstream of the lower pool that are checked daily and an additional two traps are located further downstream in the Blackmore River which are checked weekly in accordance with the crocodile management plan for Berry Springs.

Surveys were conducted in Berry Springs Nature Park last week after a report was received that a crocodile had been sighted. The clear water conditions at Berry Springs assisted rangers to accurately conduct the surveys, which recorded two freshwater crocodiles in the pools; however no estuarine crocodiles were sighted during these surveys.

Rangers will survey the swimming pools tonight as a precautionary measure and Berry Springs Nature Park will remain temporarily closed until surveys indicate there is no presence of estuarine crocodiles.

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 go to www.nt.gov.au/becrocwise

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

For up to date information regarding access to parks and reserves administered by NRETAS go to www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks

Ends

Issued: 1.45pm Wednesday, 27 July 2011