

Media Release:

03.10.11

Report of Crocodile in Rapid Creek

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) is advising the public to take caution around Rapid Creek and not enter the water, following a reported sighting of a crocodile in Rapid Creek this morning.

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Senior Ranger Tom Nichols said a member of the public reported a crocodile believed to be approximately two metres in length; however it is not confirmed if it was an estuarine (saltwater) crocodile.

“The crocodile was sighted approximately 200 metres upstream from Rapid Creek Bridge,” Mr Nichols said.

“The Crocodile Management Team will attend the site tonight to try to spot the crocodile to determine if it is a saltwater crocodile and remove it from the area.

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

Parks and Wildlife Rangers were also last night alerted that a crocodile trap located permanently in Rapid Creek had been cut loose from its mooring.

Mr Nichols said interfering with crocodile traps was dangerous and irresponsible, and hindered efforts of the Territory Government’s crocodile management program.

“The trap was located downstream of its permanent mooring, and appeared to have been deliberately cut loose,” Mr Nichols said.

“Crocodile traps have been put in place to reduce crocodile numbers and improve public safety, and it is reckless for anyone to interfere with crocodile traps.”

Under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* it is an offence to interfere with a crocodile trap by touching, standing on, entering, moving or otherwise disturbing a trap and persons caught doing so may face a maximum penalty of \$6,850 or six months imprisonment.

Members of the public are encouraged to report any incidences of people interfering with crocodiles or crocodile traps to Parks and Wildlife on 8995 5008.

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

Ends

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