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Working Together to Manage Our Parks

Minister for Parks and Wildlife Karl Hampton today released for public consultation the draft Joint Management Plan for Gregory (Jutpurra) National Park and Gregory’s Tree Historic Reserve.

Mr Hampton said the release is a significant step towards joint management of the Territory’s biggest park.

“In May I had the privilege signing-off on an historic moment for Indigenous land management, as Gregory National Park and Gregory’s Tree Historical Reserve was handed back to traditional owners in a ceremony at Jasper Gorge, near Timber Creek.

“Today I am pleased to announce that the release of the draft Joint Management Plan for this magnificent park is open for public consultation.”

The draft plan proposes management in line with the Park’s international biodiversity conservation status and diverse cultural connections.

“At 1.3million Hectares Jutpurra is the Territory’s biggest park, boasting a wealth of priceless biodiversity in its escarpments, rivers, gorges and plains.

“It also is a thriving cultural landscape for traditional owners and their art, songs and stories.

Mr Hampton thanked the Northern and Central Land Councils for their invaluable assistance in the preparation of the plan.

“Joint management means sharing responsibility and sharing knowledge; of science and indigenous knowledge of land management.

“Since 2005 the Northern Territory Government has prepared 6 Joint Management Plans which pave the way for providing employment for indigenous Territorians on-country, boosting regional development and improving tourism experiences.

“The value of joint management is evident in the success of places like Nitmiluk National Park, and with joint management in place I am sure many more will join the 21,000 tourists who visit Gregory every year.

“This will allow Aboriginal people to keep their culture strong while creating on-going economic opportunities for their children through conservation or tourism enterprise.”

Home to the traditional estates of 7 different language groups, Gregory National Park has international conservation status and is integral in the Trans-Australia Eco-Link, a world-first wildlife corridor spanning the length of the continent.
“Joint management is the future of conservation and regional development – I urge all interested parties to have their say on the draft Joint Management Plan of this magnificent environmental and cultural asset.

To have your say visit [www.nt.gov.au/nreta/consult](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/consult)

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