Minister for Parks and Wildlife Karl Hampton today had a close encounter with a native Mala at the Alice Desert Park as he called upon Territorians to have their say about the NT Threatened Species List.

“We are lucky to share the Territory with an incredible array of plants and animals, and the Territory Government is committed to ensuring no deterioration in the health of biodiversity in the NT through our Territory 2030 plan,” said Mr Hampton.

“To achieve this, we need input and feedback from all parts of the NT community to help identify, protect and manage our threatened plant and animal species.”

The Threatened Species List is subject to a systematic and comprehensive review every four to five years, allowing new information or taxonomic changes to be incorporated into the list.

It uses the criteria of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and identifies plants and animals that are regarded as:

- Extinct in the wild;
- Critically endangered;
- Endangered;
- Vulnerable;
- Near threatened;
- Least concern; and
- Data deficient.

Some of the threatened species in the Northern Territory are well known such as the gouldian finch, northern quoll, greater bilby, and Palm Valley palm. However, there are many more lesser known threatened species such as the northern brush-tailed phascogale, the Carpentarian grasswren, Slater’s skink and Waddy wood.

“The last review was held in 2006 and public consultation resulted in four species having their status increased, five species having their listing decreased and 15 changed to data deficient.”

“It is clear that to protect and preserve our native species and reduce the risks they face we need all the eyes and ears we can get.

“In this the International Year of Biodiversity, I urge all Territorians to take part in this vitally important project, by providing comment and information on any species where there may be a case to change its conservation status.”

Public comment on the NT Threatened Species List is open from 25 August and closes 22 September 2010. To have your say visit www.nt.gov.au/nreta/consult

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