Howard Springs Nature Park Upgrade Underway

Upgrades to one of the Territory’s most popular attractions are well underway.

Parks and Wildlife Minister Karl Hampton said eight new shallow rock pools are now in place at Howard Springs Nature Park with the overall $1.4 million project now at the halfway mark with completion planned for early 2012.

“Ensuring Territorians have access to a wide range of facilities and activities that enhance the great Territory lifestyle is a key target within the Territory 2030 strategic plan,” Mr Hampton said.

“That’s why the Territory Government has invested $1.4 million towards upgrading the popular Howard Springs Nature Park to improve the visitor experience.

“Works being delivered by local construction company Goodline, include a waterfall cascading into eight shallow rock pools and two aquatic viewing platforms.

“A new aquatic viewing platform has been built on each side of the waterhole to allow visitors to get close to the water to see the barramundi and turtles.

“More than 71,500 people visited Howard Springs Nature Park in 2010 and this project is part of a $3 million Northern Territory Government commitment to improve the amenity of the park.”

Mr Hampton said the Howard Springs Local Management Committee, formed in late 2009, sought input from the community about the planned upgrades to the popular park.

“More than 500 people undertook the community survey which showed that the main reason for visiting the park was to view the barramundi and turtles,” Mr Hampton said.

“The new aquatic viewing platforms will boost this particular part of the visitor experience while the new waterfall and rock pools will also help visitors cool off on a hot day.”

Howard Springs Nature Park, 35km south of Darwin, is open from 8am to 8pm daily and protects 283 hectares of diverse habitats including monsoon forest and woodland.

Howard Springs became the Territory’s first reserve in 1957 under the NT Reserves Board, now the Parks and Wildlife Service, and provides visitors with the opportunity to picnic, barbecue and walk in a natural setting.

Go to www.nt.gov.au/howardsprings for more information about the park and upgrade.

Media Contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563