Bess Price
Minister for Parks and Wildlife

Minister praises school group’s rescuers

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Parks and Wildlife Minister Bess Price has praised the efforts of her department, Careflight and Nitmiluk Tours after the rescue of a school group at Nitmiluk Gorge last night.

Nine teenage students from St John’s College Darwin, accompanied by teachers, were on a two-night camping and walking expedition along the Southern Walks in Nitmiluk National Park.

PWCNT rangers were called in to help co-ordinate the rescue after the group leader fell ill and was medivaced out on a Careflight helicopter in the afternoon.

“I am extremely proud of those who were involved in helping the students and teachers make it safely out of the park last night,” Minister Price said.

“This is a great example of PWCNT, emergency services, Jawoyn people and Nitmiluk Tours working together to ensure the safe outcome of all involved.”

A PWCNT spokesperson said the group and remaining teachers were distressed by the group leader’s situation and subsequently became disoriented.

Realising the group’s difficulties, PWCNT rangers then set about organising the rescue of the remaining walkers. Due to the group’s location, the only option out was via the river and gorge system.

Nitmiluk Tours agreed to provide a boat for the rescue and, after locating the walkers at Lily Ponds around 8pm, all were returned safely to the Gorge tourist precinct.

“This is a great example of our staff thinking on their feet, staying calm in an emergency and working together with Careflight, Nitmiluk Tours and emergency services to ensure everyone’s safety,” Minister Price said.

“The support and collaboration of Nitmiluk Tours reflects the strength of the partnership between the Jawoyn people and the Northern Territory Government.”

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