WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Territorians are encouraged to have their say on a proposed Joint Management Plan for the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve, 100km south of Tennant Creek.

Minister for Parks and Wildlife, Len Kiely, said the Territory Government and Traditional Owners of the area would work in partnership to manage the reserve.

“Responsibility and decision-making will be shared to ensure the natural and cultural heritage of the reserve is protected and the visitor experience is enhanced.

“Improved land management practices, using indigenous traditional knowledge, together with scientific approaches are important for the long term conservation of the Devils Marbles Reserve.

“Joint management of our iconic parks and reserves also encourages economic development and recognises Indigenous people’s aspirations and desire to express traditional connections to country.

“The Devils Marbles are a symbol of the Territory’s outback and the Reserve attracts about 100,000 visitors a year.

“In 2006-07 more than three million people visited our parks and reserves across the Territory – arguably the most popular attraction for tourists here.

“The Territory Government has allocated more than $26 million dollars to upgrade infrastructure at our 88 parks and reserves.

“Our parks and reserves are also the recreational playground for Territorians and we will ensure that they are protected into the future,” Mr Kiely said.

Submissions on the draft management plan close Friday 4 April 2008.

The draft plan is available at http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/consult, the Tennant Creek Town Library, the Alice Springs Town Library and at the Parks and Wildlife Service offices located on Scott Street, Tennant Creek and in the Tom Hare building, Alice Springs.

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