Karl Hampton
MINISTER FOR PARKS AND WILDLIFE
23 August 2011

Draft Plan of Management for Elsey National Park

Parks and Wildlife Minister Karl Hampton today invited Territorians to comment on the draft Plan of Management for Elsey National Park.

Mr Hampton said the draft plan will replace the original plan that has been in place since 1995.

“More than 175,000 people visited Elsey National Park last year which is popular for its land and water-based activities,” Mr Hampton said.

“Located along a major tourist route 103km south of Katherine near Mataranka, Elsey is home to crystal-clear thermal pools, long stretches of river, scenic walking tracks and historic sites.”

Management goals for the Park outlined in the draft Plan are to:

• Provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy swimming, camping, fishing, walking and canoeing in beautiful ‘Never Never’ country.
• Protect natural places, including the thermal pools, springs and rivers, while caring for animals and plants such as the threatened Red Goshawk and the Livistona Palm.
• Include Mangarrayi and Yangman Indigenous knowledge into management of the Park and protect historical places such as the World War II Aboriginal Army Camp and the old 12 Mile cattle yards.

The draft Plan proposes major new developments that will enhance the visitor experience and promote Elsey National Park as one of the Territory’s iconic parks, including:

• Development of a new swimming area to ease pressure on Bitter Springs and the Thermal Pool.
• Development of a walking track to link Bitter Springs to the Thermal Pool.
• A site concept plan for the Thermal Pool.
• Development of a viewing platform over the Waterhouse River at the Thermal Pool; and
• A new kiosk for Jalmurark Camground.

The Mataranka community and tourism industry had input into the preparation of the draft Plan.

The Draft Plan will be open for public comment until 17 September 2011.

Go to www.nt.gov.au/consult for more information or to comment on the draft plan.

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