Minister for Parks and Wildlife, Karl Hampton, said that the Plan of Management for Elsey National Park has come into operation.

“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.”

The Management Plan for Elsey National Park includes:

- Providing opportunities for visitors to enjoy swimming, camping, fishing, walking and canoeing in beautiful ‘Never Never’ country.
- Protecting 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.
- Incorporating Mangarrayi and Yangman Indigenous knowledge into management of the Park and protecting historical places such as the World War II Aboriginal Army Camp and the old 12 Mile cattle yards.
- 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.

“Elsey National Park was first declared in 1967 as a small reserve around Mataranka Thermal Pool. Additional sections have been added since then, with the Park being formally declared under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act in 2002,” Mr Hampton said.

Elsey National Park protects permanent springs, waterholes and associated plants and animals, including the Red Goshawk, Freshwater Sawfish and Livistona palm.