MILLS ATTACKS ON CROC RANGERS UNACCEPTABLE

Minister for Parks and Wildlife Karl Hampton today called on opposition leader Terry Mills to cease his attacks on the Parks and Wildlife Service’s skilled and dedicated Crocodile Management team.

“Terry Mills’ comments to ABC Radio that the Crocodile Management Program is poorly run are an insult to the fantastic work that the Croc Management team do day in, day out, risking their lives in dangerous conditions,” said Mr Hampton.

“Mr Mills’ willingness to attack our dedicated public servants for the purposes of political point-scoring is insensitive, underhanded and uneducated.

“If Mr Mills had taken the time to read the Coroner’s report into the tragic killing of Briony Goodsell he would see nothing but praise for the Croc Management team and the Parks and Wildlife Service.

“Special mention is in fact made of the Department’s proactive response since this tragedy in rapidly educating and raising awareness through the ‘Be Crocwise’ campaign.

“Mr Mills’ attack is made even more surprising by the fact that his CLP colleague Peter Chandler has recently written to my office applauding the ‘Be Crocwise’ program and requesting a day out on the boat with the Crocodile Management crew!

“As the Minister responsible I have no problem with Mr Mills questioning my performance, but to recklessly criticise my Department is in complete denial of the incredible job they do and is outrageous and unacceptable.
“As Mr Mills is well aware, the NT Government has, in the last 6 months, devoted significant extra resources to Crocodile management including 20 new traps, a new croc catching boat for Darwin Harbour and an education program that has reached more than 10,000 Territory Kids.

“The NT Government is going further in its extra efforts to improve public safety, putting out an EOI with the intention of harnessing all the crocodile management expertise that may exist in the community, both public and private.

“This EOI will allow us to put in place the best possible Crocodile monitoring and management program.

“The submissions are currently being assessed and we hope to be able make an announcement on these extra resources in the very near future.”

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