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Croc Trap Idiots Face Fresh Penalties

The Minister for Parks and Wildlife Karl Hampton today introduced amendments to the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act in a bid to stamp out interference with crocodile traps.

These amendments will create offence provisions for interfering with or damaging crocodile traps and will carry a penalty of a fine or prison term.

Cases will either be expiated through the penalty infringement notice scheme or prosecuted in the Magistrate’s Court dependent on the seriousness of the interference.

“Top Enders enjoy a great lifestyle but it is important to remember that we share our waterways with one of nature’s most dangerous predators, the saltwater crocodile,” Mr Hampton said.

“Unfortunately more and more people are choosing to risk their lives and the lives of others by interfering with crocodile traps in pursuit of a souvenir photo.

“This is reckless and irresponsible behaviour, and the NT Government is committed to stamping it out.

“The bill I have introduced into parliament today aims to stop this dangerous behaviour by prohibiting the public from interfering with crocodile traps, regardless of whether they are in or outside of parks and reserves.

“Importantly, the definition of interfere can mean touching, standing, entering, moving or otherwise disturbing a crocodile trap owned by the NT Government or the commission.”

“If people are stupid enough to pose on croc traps, they will face fines of over $6650 or 6 months imprisonment.

“Any body of water in the Top End may contain large and potentially dangerous crocodiles and we urge the public to keep their distance from crocodile traps which are serving an important role in protecting public safety.”

“This new law will make idiots think twice before endangering themselves and others.

“We urge members of the public to report any incidences of people interfering with crocodiles or crocodile traps to Parks and Wildlife on 8995 5008.”

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