



Karl Hampton
MINISTER FOR PARKS & WILDLIFE

2 December 2009

Christmas Trees Grown At Alice Springs Desert Park

Parks and Wildlife Minister Karl Hampton today inspected several Christmas trees grown by Alice Springs High School students at the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Mr Hampton congratulated the students from the ASHS Intensive Needs Unit and everyone else who made this year's propagation of native pine seedlings a success.

"Christmas is just over three weeks away and it's great to see these high school students successfully complete this project," Mr Hampton said.

"The Intensive Needs Unit under the direction of teachers Hans Westermann, Barry Georgopoulos and the Desert Park staff, encourage an inclusive approach to learning that will ultimately pave the way for students to identify their strengths and weaknesses as they start looking for work and exploring job prospects.

"I know that this project has helped the students develop community partnerships and links with local industry.

"The students have also enhanced their social and life skills through the education and guidance offered through this project."

Mr Hampton said the students visited the Desert Park's nursery last year and sowed seeds of the native pine *Callitris glaucophylla* before returning two months later to pot-up the seedlings.

"The students have decorated the pots and have already started selling the plants at the Todd Mall markets, as well as to friends and families.

"I understand the program will continue next year with the planting of seed trays likely to begin during the winter."

Anyone wanting to buy one of the Christmas trees, which sell for \$10 can contact Barry Georgopoulos or Hans Westermann on 8950 2500.

Contact: *Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563*

