



## MEDIA RELEASE

### NRETA Wins Big at This Year's Equity and Diversity Awards

The Alice Springs Desert Park's dream run of winning awards has continued.

The Park won the Brolga Award for Major Tourist Attraction two weeks ago and on Wednesday night won the open category for the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment (OCPE's) Awards for equity and diversity 2005 in Darwin.

Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts chief executive David Ritchie congratulated Alice Springs Desert Park manager Gary Fry and all staff at the Desert Park for their commitment to the Indigenous Employment and Staff Development program.

"This is a tremendous result for the Alice Springs Desert Park which is one of the Territory's top tourist attractions," Mr Ritchie said.

"Their commitment towards improved workplace equity and diversity is truly deserving of their OCPE award and builds upon the Park's reputation as a great place to work.

"The employment and development program can clearly be seen to be sustainable and is also an integral part of the Park's culture.

"The Park previously won the 2002 OCPE equity and diversity award in the regional category for its Indigenous Apprenticeship program while also receiving a Commendation in 2003 for its Aboriginal Employment and Training Program.

"So the park has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to putting together a diverse workforce representative of all Territorians."

Mr Ritchie also congratulated the Parks and Wildlife Service Southern Region for its Commendation for its Flexible Employment Program in the Regional category.

"Parks and Wildlife Service principal planner Mac Moyses and all Parks staff involved also deserve recognition for developing and supporting a program offering casual periodic work and training to Aboriginal people in park management projects through partnerships with community organisations," Mr Ritchie said.

"The program reflects Traditional Owners' wishes to work together and for employment opportunities to be shared among families and communities.

"The program has so far involved 132 participants in 40 projects in 14 parks with FEP projects fostering land management skills and lifts participants' confidence and general employability."

Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts Minister Marion Scrymgour also congratulated staff from both the Desert Park and the Parks southern region on their great success and ongoing employment initiatives.

**Media Note \_ For more information contact Gary Fry on 8951 8713 or Mac Moyses on 8951 8228.**

Ends

Issued: 11.30am Monday, 28 November 2005