

**Media Release:**

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## **Cutta Cutta Caves Closing for Repairs over Wet Season**

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) advises that the Cutta Cutta Caves Nature Park, located 30km south of Katherine, will be closed for repairs and maintenance from tomorrow, 27 November 2008 to 1 April 2009.

Parks and Wildlife Service acting senior district ranger for the Gulf District Andrew Peckham said more than \$70,000 is being spent to improve existing lighting in the caves and on the boardwalk over this period.

“The current lighting system has tended to be unreliable so we’re switching to new technology light-emitting-diode (LED’s) which are still low voltage but more reliable than the dichromatic lights in the caves,” Mr Peckham said.

“These changes will also be more environmentally friendly to the nocturnal species who reside within the cave system including six species of cave-dwelling bats because the new LED’s don’t emit heat.”

Mr Peckham said they are making use of the annual wet season closure period to undertake the repairs and maintenance.

“The new and improved area will open in time for the ‘peak’ dry season where the Park becomes a popular destination for both locals and tourists,” Mr Peckham said.

“Cutta Cutta Caves Nature Park averages 13,000 to 16,000 visitors a year who come to see the spectacular limestone formations and complex cave networks.”

For the latest access reports or information about parks and reserves administered by the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport go to [www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks).

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Andrew Peckham on 8973 8856**

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