Media Release

Bess Price
Minister for Parks and Wildlife

New signs warn swimmers of hidden dangers

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Minister for Parks and Wildlife Bess Price has today unveiled a new sign warning of the dangers of Territory waters as a result of the drowning death of a young girl last year.

“Not only are crocodiles and box jellyfish an ever present risk to anyone entering the water around Darwin, the monsoonal conditions can also create strong rips and currents, making swimming conditions difficult,” Mrs Price said.

“Tragically, a 14-year-old local girl, Naomi McLachlan, was dragged out to sea and drowned near Dripstone Cliffs in January last year.

“This sign has come about after Naomi’s mother, Tania Wright, wrote to me a few months ago requesting that signs be put up to warn visitors of the hidden dangers.

“I encourage visitors to Casuarina Coastal Reserve to enjoy themselves and have a great time, but to do it with safety as their number one consideration.”

The signs include the Surf Life Saving NT logo in recognition of the work this organisation is doing to reduce the risk of drowning death along the Territory’s beaches.

In the wake of the tragedy in January 2014, the Darwin Surf Life Saving Club commenced regular Wet Season patrols of Casuarina Beach.

Naomi McLachlan’s mother, Tania Wright, said the signs are an important step towards preventing another tragedy.

“If people take notice and obey these signs then other families will not have to endure the agonizing pain and loss of a loved one like my girls, family and I have with the tragic drowning and loss of our beautiful Naomi,” Ms Wright said.

“I would like to thank Minister Price and Parks and Wildlife for making this happen as having these signs up on our beaches to warn that rips are prevalent in our seas during the monsoon season is a good thing.

“Please don’t ignore the signs. Be safe in our seas and water ways, especially during the wet season.”
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New swimming danger sign