NEW CROC BOAT FOR DARWIN HARBOUR

A new 6 metre custom-designed crocodile catching boat will soon be cruising Darwin Harbour in an effort to reduce crocodile numbers.

Minister for Parks and Wildlife, Len Kiely, today unveiled the $89,000 vessel, which has been specially fitted with harpoon racks.

“The Danggalapa, which is Larrakia for ‘crocodile’, is a great addition to the Crocodile Management Team’s resources,” said Mr Kiely.

“Design features include higher sides and a thicker hull for extra protection from crocs and to make anchoring in the Harbour easier.

“The boat is painted black to assist the team during night work and to avoid reflection from spotlights – it also makes it harder for the crocodiles to see them.

“The Danggalapa is faster, can travel further and only needs servicing every 300 hours of operating time, providing a significant saving on service costs.

“It can also seat more crew than the older vessels, increasing the number of night patrols in the harbour.

“Crocodiles are more active at night and are easier to catch – their red eyes can be seen up to 100 metres away,” Mr Kiely said.

A near record 237 saltwater crocodiles were removed from Darwin Harbour last year.

Saltwater crocodiles removed from Darwin Harbour are taken to the Darwin Crocodile Farm.

People who come across crocodiles that need to be removed should call the Parks and Wildlife Service on 0419 822 859.

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