

Confirmation 2.7m rogue crocodile no longer a risk

■ Glenn Cordingley

A 2.7m crocodile has been shot dead by a Department of Parks and Wildlife officer after it showed signs of aggression around Broome.

The same animal previously caused the closure of Town Beach before heading to nearby Dampier Creek, where it was photographed sunning itself on a muddy bank.

The reptile was shot on September 20, but the DPaW was only certain it had been killed when its body was exposed by the tide five days later last Wednesday.

DPaW acting district manager David Woods said the department had every intention of telling the public the crocodile had been killed once it was sure the animal was dead.

"We could not confirm anything until yesterday (Wednesday)," he said.

"There is absolutely no point in us saying we possibly shot a crocodile until we actually get the crocodile floating up to the surface.

"We then retrieve the carcass, which is a pretty standard procedure."

Mr Woods said shooting a crocodile was a last resort, but public safety was paramount.

"After nearly three weeks of



A croc sunning itself on the muddy banks of Dampier Creek in Broome on Tuesday. Picture: DPaW



The 2.7m crocodile shot dead by the DPaW. Picture: Jeff Prunster, West Kimberley Fishing Tours.

sightings and beach closures, and with the behaviour of it just sitting off Town Beach basically hanging around there, it was certainly starting to dis-

play quite different behaviour to a crocodile that was just minding its own business," he said.

"It was displaying what we classify as problematic behaviour, which is pretty much causing a threat to the general public."

He said the crocodile was just 30-40m off Town Beach and it sat there most of the day.

"When a crocodile ends up displaying that sort of behaviour then there obviously is a

concern to the general public, we have to take considerable action in regard to that," Mr Woods said.

Mr Woods said a trap had been set in Dampier Creek, close to where the animal had been observed on the bank, but it failed to go inside, exhausting all options of trapping and rehoming the reptile.

Mr Woods said a crocodile that size could easily inflict fatal wounds on a child or a pet dog.

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