



**Australian Government**  
**Director of National Parks**

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**20<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

## **TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ULURU CLIMB**

At the request of Traditional Owners, the Director of National Parks will close the Uluru climb for one day on Sunday the 22<sup>st</sup> July 2007, as a mark of respect for two elders who have passed away.

The Chairman of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management, Donald Fraser, has asked for understanding by visitors on Sunday.

Acting Park Manager Chris Hannocks said Traditional Owners had requested the closure of the climb to uphold Tjukurpa, Anangu law, by restricting access to sacred places during periods of mourning.

"This mark of respect upholds Uluru-Kata Tjuta's World Heritage cultural values, based on current practice of Aboriginal customs that date back tens of thousands of years," Chris Hannocks said.

"In respect for these customs, we cannot name the persons who passed away or show their faces during this sorry period.

"All other parts of the park will be open as usual. Visitors will be able to drive on the road around Uluru and undertake the spectacular walk around the base.

"At 10.00 am visitors can join a ranger-guided tour of the Mala Walk which will start in the car park at the base of Uluru."

This is the fifth time the climb has been closed for cultural reasons since 1985 when the Park was handed back to the Traditional Owners. It is also closed for safety reasons in very hot or wet weather.

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park was first listed as a World Heritage Area in 1987 for its natural values, and then again in 1994 as a cultural landscape, representing an outstanding example of traditional human land use and for its living traditions and beliefs of outstanding universal significance. The Park is jointly managed by the Australian Government and the park's Traditional Owners.

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