

# Gum biggest on record

A GHOST gum in Central Australia has been named the biggest in the country on the National Register of Big Trees.

Consultant arborist, botanist and ecologist Dean Nicolle nominated the tree, which resides in Trepghina Gorge National Park about 80km east from Alice Springs.

With a circumference of 4.43m, height of 27m and crown of 32m, it is no wonder the about-300-year-old tree is known as the largest in the East MacDonnell Ranges.

"I don't know if it's the biggest, there could be bigger ones out there," Mr Nicolle said. "This one is in a nature reserve so it's easily accessible."

"But this is the biggest ghost gum on the register at the moment and it's certainly the biggest I've seen."

Mr Nicolle measured and photographed the ghost gum about two weeks ago when he visited Central Australia on holiday.

He was told about the tree's existence several years ago by a TAFE student in Adelaide who had visited the site before.

"That's actually why I went to Trepghina Gorge," Mr Nicolle said.

"There are not a lot of trees in the Northern Territory or Central Australia on the list."

The ghost gum is one of 18 NT trees on the national register and the only one in Alice Springs.



The ghost gum in Trepghina Gorge National Park, about 80km east of Alice Springs, thought to be Australia's biggest specimen

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