

# Media release

Wednesday, March 31

## Rare plants move to big smoke

Plants that are thought to exist only in a 45km stretch between Hayes Creek and Emerald Springs will today be relocated to the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.

The 23 vulnerable *Acacia praetermissa* saplings were identified during a risk assessment at an overtaking lane construction site.

Aware of the sensitivities in the area, construction staff called the Northern Territory Herbarium to inspect the site, about 5kms north-west of Emerald Springs.

Northern Territory Herbarium acting curator Ian Cowie said the plants were a rare find.

“At the moment four cluster areas between Hayes Creek and Emerald Springs are the only place these plants are known to exist in the world,” he said.

Department of Construction and Infrastructure project manager Phil Harris said work on the site would have been halted, if necessary, to protect the Acacias.

“The Department recommended the plants be relocated to the Botanic Gardens,” he said.

“After the necessary permits were issued a favourable outcome was reached for all involved parties.

“The Botanic Gardens will build upon its plant collection, the NT Herbarium was able to add to its knowledge of the plant’s activity and the DCI can meet its commitment to deliver four overtaking lanes between Darwin and Katherine by mid year.”

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens curator Dave Griffiths said he was eagerly anticipating the arrival of the *Acacia praetermissa* saplings.

“We already have an extensive collection of Northern Territory flora varieties, these will certainly add to that,” he said.

Staff will relocate the plants to the Botanic Gardens nursery for an initial three month period to ensure that they survive transplanting before being planted into the Botanic Gardens Tropical Woodlands.

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