



Marion Scrymgour

MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

February 15 2006

CANE TOAD MOTION: ALL HANDS ON DECK SCRYMGOUR TELLS PARLIAMENT

Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour today labelled cane toads an “environmental catastrophe” during a Motion in Parliament– and called on Territorians to undertake a day of action against the toxic pests.

The Motion - one of the strongest statements Parliament can make – also calls on the Federal Government to increase funding for on-ground cane toad control measures.

“Cane toads are an environmental catastrophe, representing a significant threat to the Territory’s unique environment and lifestyle,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“Territorians don’t want cane toads to spoil our environment and lifestyle – they want to do something about it and Government is equally determined to help stop this toxic pest.”

Ms Scrymgour used the Motion to announce the establishment of a scientific extension officer for cane toads. This officer will help Frogwatch and local toad management groups in their efforts to monitor the effectiveness.

Ms Scrymgour added that “Not in My Backyard” Day – on March 14 - will be a major community project to encourage Top End residents to check their yards and nearby parks and reserves for cane toads.

“For their part, Frogwatch have established the first drop off point for live cane toads at Freds Pass Reserve with, more sites to follow through. So if you don’t want to humanely despatch these creatures yourself, drop them off at these nominated sites.”

The NT Government has committed more than \$1 million in specific new programs to combat the cane toad.

The NT Government announced in June last year that it will subsidise the cost of cane toad traps by \$30 per trap – available for traps approved by Parks and Wildlife.

“The rebate is now in place and approximately 150 Territorians have taken up the offer. Frogwatch are reporting good sales of their trap and certainly I would encourage more people to buy a trap and get their \$30 back. “

Contact: Maria Billias 0401 119 746