



MEDIA RELEASE

Cabomba Eradication Recommences

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts' eradication program of the Cabomba weed will recommence in the lower section of Darwin River on Monday, 22 May 2006.

As part of the eradication program the quarantine restriction on a section of the Darwin River will continue to be enforced.

NRETA's Weeds Management Branch, Regional Weeds Officer Steve Wingrave, said the eradication program would continue throughout the dry season.

"We'll re-commence spraying of the aquatic weed by way of an underwater boom spray as we have in previous Cabomba eradication programs," Mr Wingrave said.

"The spraying will again involve the use of the herbicide Agricrop Rubbervine Spray in the section of Darwin River between Reedbeds Road and Kentish Road.

"Teams of Weeds Officers will commence the underwater spraying on Monday and continue to treat affected areas on a regular basis."

Mr Wingrave said the quarantine restriction on a section of the Darwin River remains in place and fines of up to \$50,000 can apply to those found in breach of the quarantine.

"The quarantine order for Darwin River remains in place from the Cox Peninsula Road crossing to the Leonino Road Crossing – it will remain in place until 9 November 2006," Mr Wingrave said.

"The order extends five metres from the water's edge onto the river's bank – so this means there is no fishing, swimming, crabbing or anything of the like in this area.

"Quarantine signs are in place along the restricted area and they must be adhered to, otherwise fines of up to \$50,000 can be imposed."

Access to the area is available only by way of permit from the Weed Management Branch of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts.

Mr Wingrave said monitoring of the Darwin River has already commenced as part of the eradication program.

"As in previous Cabomba eradication programs, we are monitoring the water quality and the biodiversity of the area also," he said.

"We have been in contact with landholders along the river and informed them of our program and discussed alternate water use options with them also."

Cabomba was first discovered in Darwin River in 2004 and a short herbicide eradication program was undertaken prior to the wet season commencing.

Surveys of Darwin River last year found Cabomba had regenerated. Tests later found Cabomba was producing viable seed and re-generating, the first time this has occurred anywhere in Australia.

Local landholders can find out current information available on the website at www.cabomba.nt.gov.au or by phoning the Cabomba Hotline on 8999 8954.

All possible Cabomba sightings should be reported to the hotline.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Steve Wingrave on 0428 888 204

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