



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Bushfires NT Conduct Final Block Inspections in Darwin Rural Area**

Landholders are urged to check their fire breaks are installed as Bushfires NT staff will conduct final block inspections in the Darwin Rural area over the next two weeks.

Bushfires NT director Steve Sutton said land holders had been warned that they needed to ensure their fire breaks conformed to the standard under Section 47 Fire Break Enforcement Program.

He said that the installation of fire breaks was more important than ever this year due to the huge growth in the number of rural properties in the area, and long wet season.

“The extended wet season has meant a long growing season, with lots of grass and the prospect of a severe fire season,” he said.

Mr Sutton said to date, 537 warnings have been issued, with all land tenures in the region being inspected.

He said so far this year there appeared to be an improvement in landholder awareness of the need for firebreaks.

“Firebreaks are absolutely essential in our fire prone environment,” Mr Sutton said.

“It’s a serious business and we have had several prosecutions resulting in hefty fines and criminal records imposed on landowners who failed to meet the minimum standard.

“Where landholders fail to comply they may be fined and have a fire break installed by Bushfires NT at the landholder’s cost.

“But the major consideration in all of this is that running the risk of being fined means you are also running the risk of your property being damaged by fire, and surely no one wants that.

“Landholders must also clean up as much as possible around their properties to prevent their possessions going up in smoke.

“And it would be a tremendous help to Bushfires NT and other property owners if people contact us the moment they notice a wildfire, as timing is a critical factor when extinguishing such fires.”

Mr Sutton said the minimum standard for fire trails is four metres wide slashed with the slash removed, bare earth or graded, chemically treated or grazed. If

every landholder fulfils their responsibility, there should be a strip eight metres wide at property boundaries from which to suppress wildfires.

He said landholders should also have a clear or green area around their home for the assets they want to protect in case of wildfire.

For further information please contact Bushfires NT on 89760098

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Steve Sutton on 8922 0832**

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