



MEDIA RELEASE

Woody the Weed Urges Territorians to Combat Weeds During Weedbuster Week 2006

Weedbuster Week, a nation-wide event from 7th – 14th October 2006 aims to encourage people in the Northern Territory and across Australia to help combat weeds.

A travelling weed show, hosted by the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA) Weed Management Branch, will be visiting major centres around Darwin, providing information on major weeds throughout the Northern Territory as well as a guest appearance by Woody the Weed.

NRETA Weeds Extension Coordinator, Alison Derry, says that weeds cost the NT community millions of dollars each year.

“Everyone has a role to play in keeping the environment weed free and during Weedbuster Week Territorians will have a chance to learn about weed management in their local areas,” she said.

“Many of the NT’s plants, bushes and trees are in fact potential weeds that are causing considerable financial and environmental devastation.

“These range from Weeds of National Significance (WONS) to ornamental garden plants like lantana.

“They spread from people’s backyards into the bush destroying urban bushland, clogging up rivers, smothering native vegetation and destroying our native animal’s habitats and food supplies.”

Ms Derry said the theme for this year’s Weedbuster Week is ‘*Communities combating weeds*’ and will include activities such as clean-up days, competitions/quizzes and games, informative talks and presentations, and much more.

“There will be more than 20 activities planned throughout the NT, where members of the general public can get together and address weed problems as well as raise weed awareness with their children through active participation” she said.

The week will be coordinated by the NRETA Weed Management Branch and supported by the Territory Wildlife Park, Windows on the Wetlands, Bushfires NT, Parks Australia, Conservation Volunteers Australia and local Landcare groups.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Alison Derry on 0428855162 or visit www.weedbusterweek.info.au and follow the links for the Northern Territory.

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