



MEDIA RELEASE

Quarantine Order for Cabomba is Extended

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA) advises the quarantine restriction of Darwin River from the Cox Peninsula Road crossing to the Leonino Road crossing will be extended for a further two years until November 2008.

NRETA Weeds Management Branch regional weeds officer Steve Wingrave said the restriction was part of the Cabomba eradication program, with spraying of the aquatic weed set to take place in the Darwin River downstream of the Leonino Road crossing in coming weeks.

"The quarantine order extends five metres from the water's edge onto the river's bank, so this means water activities such as fishing, swimming or boating are off limits," Mr Wingrave said.

"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."

Mr Wingrave said access to the area is available only by way of permit from NRETA's Weed Management Branch. He said the fight against Cabomba had produced positive results.

"We have used shading techniques upstream that has stopped the weed flowering or producing seed, which is what we set out to do," Mr Wingrave said.

"Chemical control at Loklandji Billabong has also reduced Cabomba there by 95 per cent.

"We are monitoring the water quality and the biodiversity of the Darwin River area as we have done in previous Cabomba control operations.

"Spraying of the aquatic weed by way of an underwater boom spray, as we have in previous Cabomba control operations, will soon re-commence.

"The spraying will again involve the use of the herbicide Agricrop Rubbervine Spray and will be applied to specific sites within the quarantine zone."

Cabomba was first discovered in Darwin River in 2004, prompting the first two-year quarantine restriction being implemented.

A short herbicide eradication program was undertaken prior to the 2004-05 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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