



MEDIA RELEASE

Katherine Farm and Garden Day

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA) will play a key role at this Saturday's Katherine Farm and Garden Day at the Katherine Research Station.

NRETA displays will focus on weed and water issues affecting the Katherine region.

NRETA Weed Management Branch regional weeds officer Susan King said visitors to the weed display will be provided with information about garden weeds such as lantana and other general weeds that currently or could potentially affect the Katherine region.

"We currently have 119 declared weed species in the NT with 20 Weeds of National Significance (WONS) species all declared in the NT," Ms King said.

"There are many noxious weeds that are present in the Katherine district. The main weeds of concern are devil's claw, chinese apple, rubber bush, sida, hyptis, bellyache bush, barleria, sicklepod and ornamental rubber vine.

"It is not only major landholders and the Government who have a role to play in combating weeds, but householders can also play an important role.

"Weeds have been known to be spread from domestic backyards and onto pastoral properties or vice versa, so it is vital that everyone be able to identify a weed and do what they can to prevent that weed from spreading.

"Our display will provide visitors with key information about the different weed species found in the Katherine region, or those weed species that could affect the Katherine region, and what action should be taken once these weeds are found and identified."

NRETA Water Management Branch water resource planner Daniel Connor said visitors to the water display would gain information about water allocation planning in the Katherine and Daly regions.

Mr Connor said information relating to the Daly River Management Advisory Committee and the newly-formed Katherine Water Advisory Committee would be one of the highlights, along with information relating to the jointly funded Northern Territory Government and Australian Government Daly/Darwin bore metering project.

"The Katherine Water Advisory Committee has been formed by the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage as a sub-committee of the Daly River Management Advisory Committee to look specifically at the management of water resources within the Katherine Water Control District," Mr Connor said.

"The initial focus of the Katherine Water Advisory Committee is to advise on the formulation of a water allocation plan for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer in the Katherine region.

“The management of water contained within the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, Katherine, is considered very important as this water feeds the majority of springs in the Katherine River ensuring it continues to flow all year round.

“We would like to encourage all those who would like to participate or learn more about the water allocation process in the Katherine region to visit our display.

“People keen to participate or learn more about the current Daly and Darwin regions bore metering project are also encouraged to come along.”

This year marks the 13th Farm and Garden Day, which has been held annually since its inception in 1994, excluding 1998 due to the Australia Day flood.

Go to www.nt.gov.au/boremeter for more information about the bore metering project.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Susan King on 8973 8107 or Daniel Connor on 8973 8115

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