

Media Release:

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Tree Maintenance at George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

Tree maintenance and removal has commenced at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens this week in preparation for the coming cyclone season.

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens Curator, David Griffiths, said the maintenance and removal of trees is occurring as a matter of safety for visitors to the Gardens.

“As an ongoing effort to ensure visitor safety at the Gardens is of the highest priority, there is a need to remove eleven trees and conduct significant pruning of seven other trees,” Mr Griffiths said.

“The decision to undertake this work has not been taken lightly with an arborcultural report and risk assessment conducted of trees in the Gardens’ rainforest loop area.”

Mr Griffiths said the maintenance and removal was part of a five-year management plan for the Gardens’ rainforest trees.

He said the action would reduce the likelihood of areas in the Gardens’ being closed for long periods in the event of strong storms and cyclones.

“The effects of Tropical Cyclone Helen earlier this year saw some areas of the Gardens have reduced public access as numerous trees were damaged as a result of the strong winds,” he said.

“The clean-up efforts from the cyclone saw some areas of the Gardens closed for up to one month.

“This pro-active effort to remove trees deemed at risk of being damaged in strong winds, and pruning those that could become a danger, is in the interest of public safety.”

The trees that will be removed from the Gardens include Black Wattle, Indian Rose Wood and Terminalia while pruning will be conducted on Enterolobium, Albizia and Eleocarpus.

Mr Griffiths said the closures of the area would be kept to a minimum by closing individual walking tracks in the rainforest loop, as required during the works program.

“The pruning and removal process will take four weeks, and will be scheduled so visitor impact is negligible,” he said.

Darwin based tree removal company Vegsol NT was awarded the \$65,835 tender for this maintenance and removal project.

Ends

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