



Media Release

Darwin City Council

Public Relations Office Ph. (08) 8930 0504 Fax (08) 8930 0669

YELLOW CRAZY ANT

Yesterday Darwin City Council, The Department of Natural Resources, Environment The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) and other stakeholders met to organise a co-ordinated and comprehensive response to the discovery of Yellow Crazy Ants in Berrimah.

NRETAS is leading the charge to eliminate this pest in the Darwin Area. The NT Government has received Federal funding for an exotic ants project. Darwin City Council is committed to helping to prevent the spread of this pest. Already investigations have established that the Yellow Crazy Ant has not entered the Darwin waste stream. Council's environmental and outdoor staff have been briefed by NRETAS on the threat and strategies to combat the problem.

Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer indicated the Yellow Crazy Ant, if not contained, could severely impact back yard in Darwin. He raised this issue as a 'Matter of Public Importance' at Tuesday's Council Meeting .

"If left unchecked this exotic pest will displace native ant species and significantly reduce our biodiversity," he said

Darwin City Council and NRETAS are encouraging the community to get involved in this program to ensure the containment and eradication of the Yellow Crazy Ant.

The community are encouraged to have a look in their yards to see if they think they have the Yellow Crazy Ants and report any findings to NRETAS on 8995 5036. Alternatively, collection kits are available for people to put in their yards to collect specimens for the Wildlife Management team.

To collect a kit or have one mailed out to you phone the Northern Territory Government Wildlife Management Team on 8995 5036 or go to www.nt.gov.au/exoticants

Darwin City Council remains committed to combating any threat to the Darwin environmental integrity including the invasion of exotic pests like the Yellow Crazy Ant and will continue to liaise closely with the NT Government on this issue.

Date: 29 January 2009

Contact: Gary Haslett, 8930 0504 or 0410 612 142