

**Media Release:**

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## **Cabomba Quarantine Order Extended**

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) has announced that the current quarantine restrictions for Darwin River will be extended for a further three years, until November 2011.

NRETAS Weed Management Branch Principal Weeds Officer, Steve Wingrave said the restrictions are part of the Cabomba Eradication Program, which aims to prevent the spread of what is considered one of the worst weeds in Australia.

“Cabomba is regarded as one of the most threatening weeds for freshwater ecosystems in the Northern Territory,” Mr Wingrave said.

“When it was first discovered in the Darwin River in 2004 an eradication program was put in place, and although the fight against Cabomba has produced positive results it continues to germinate in localised areas.

“In 2005 we discovered Cabomba was regenerating itself by producing viable seed, the first time this is known to have occurred anywhere in Australia.

“This has increased the urgent need to continue the eradication program to ensure the best possible chance of elimination.”

“The quarantine order of Darwin River stretches between the Cox Peninsula Road crossing to the Leonino Road crossing and extends five metres from the water’s edge onto the river’s bank, which means that activities such as fishing, swimming and boating are not permitted.

“Quarantine signs are in place along the restricted area and people who breach the restrictions could face fines of up to \$50,000.

“Access to the restricted area is only available by permit from NRETAS Weed Management Branch.”

Mr Wingrave said chemical control at Lok Landji has reduced Cabomba by an estimated 99 per cent since 2004, and spraying of the aquatic weed will continue in the Darwin River downstream of the Leonino Road crossing.

“Chemical control will involve the use of the herbicide Agricrop Rubbervine Spray and will be applied directly to affected sites within the quarantine zone,” Mr Wingrave said.

“We will continue to monitor the water quality and biodiversity of the Darwin River area, as we have done throughout all Cabomba control operations.”

Further information is available on the website [www.cabomba.nt.gov.au](http://www.cabomba.nt.gov.au) or by phoning the Weed Management Branch on 8999 4567.

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Steve Wingrave on 0428 888 204**  
**Images – 1. River before cabomba and 2. River after cabomba**

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