



ACT
Government

Territory and Municipal Services

MEDIA Release

MR54/0212

3 February 2012

REMINDER: VANITY'S CROSSING PERMANENTLY CLOSED FROM MONDAY

Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) wishes to remind the public that from Monday 6 February 2012, Vanity's Crossing, which crosses the Cotter River upstream of the enlarged Cotter Dam, will be permanently closed to protect the ACT's drinking water supply.

"From Monday Vanity's Crossing will be permanently closed to unauthorised vehicle access to reduce the public health risk that the ACT's drinking water supply could become contaminated from this site," Brett McNamara, Rural District Manager for Parks and Conservation said today.

"TAMS' decision to permanently close Vanity's Crossing follows advice from ActewAGL and is a precautionary measure to reduce the risk of contamination or an event which would make the Cotter Reservoir temporarily unusable as a source of drinking water.

"ActewAGL is delivering a Source Water Protection program to assist the community in protecting Canberra's drinking water catchments. Potential sources of contamination include:

- dumping of vehicles;
- lighting of fires;
- human waste;
- litter;
- erosion caused by off-road vehicles; and
- hydrocarbons from vehicles driving through the Cotter River, especially when the water level is high.

"Gates were installed on either side of the crossing in mid-November 2011. The gates, which have remained opened, will now be permanently locked to prevent vehicle access.

"Once the gates are closed people will still be able to access the area on foot or bicycle however we ask that people be mindful of how their behaviour may impact on the water and surrounding environment."

Mr McNamara said in the last three months two cars have been abandoned in the Vanity's Crossing area and a total of seven cars have been dumped in the area since March 2011. Illegal dumping of domestic rubbish is also an ongoing issue.

Signage has been in place since November to inform people of the impending closure and of the water quality issues at the site. A letter was also sent to key stakeholder groups about the closure.

"Significant opportunities for recreation remain within the immediate area," Mr McNamara said. "These include Casuarina Sands Recreational Area and the nearby Murray's Corner picnic area.

"Canberra's water security is a priority and with only a limited number of water sources available, ensuring they remain clean and free from contamination is very important."

For more information about the road closure visit www.tams.act.gov.au or call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

Statement Ends

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