



MEDIA release

Community Engagement Unit

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Removal of Dead Trees

Territory and Municipal Services wish to advise Canberrans of the removal of dead Casuarina trees in the Cotter area.

Director Parks Conservation and Land Management, Russell Watkinson, said that the removal of trees was due to public safety concerns.

“The trees being removed were destroyed in the 2003 bushfires, and have been identified as a hazard in the recreation area.

“Since the fires dead and dangerous trees have been progressively removed from the immediate recreation areas. This work is being extended to cover some of the new walking tracks and associated areas. We have also had many Casuarinas put out green shoots after the fire but have subsequently died as a result of the prolonged drought conditions and will now also be removed.

“The current program of tree removal commenced on the 27th September and may take up to three weeks to complete. The work area includes Cotter Avenue, Cotter Bend, Cotter campground, Cotter Caves, Casuarina Sands, and ACTEW facilities associated with the Cotter Pump Station.

“Some walking tracks and recreational areas will be temporarily closed.

“Felled trees are being cut up, where access allows, into firewood blocks for use at TAMS campgrounds. Where access prevents us removing felled trees, the timber will be placed out of the flood zone where physically possible.

“Its important to note that not all Casuarinas will be felled - only those considered to be a public safety issue will be removed. Standing dead timber is an important wildlife habitat - especially for invertebrates and birds.

“There is currently no need to undertake a revegetation program as there is good natural regeneration occurring of casuarinas, eucalypts, and wattles. This may be reassessed in a few areas at a later date, but with the current drought it would be unwise to undertake any extensive tree planting program.

“All works have been carefully assessed and cleared with the Environment Protection Authority, with an operational plan in place.” said Mr Watkinson.

Statement ends:

Further information: Yersheena Nichols, telephone 6205 3696.