



MEDIA RELEASE

Argentine Ant Eradication Program Update

The Norfolk Island Regional Council Argentine Ant Eradication Program (AAEP) team is continuing to treat and monitor the presence of Argentine Ants across the island. To date, 15 zones have been identified with ants eradicated from three (2, 6, 8). A further two zones (13, 14) are awaiting confirmation of eradication, a process that requires 2 years of ant-free status.

During recent months, the AAEP team have treated zones 4, 5 and 15 (Grassy Road/ Douglas Drive/Mission Road area) through a combination of aerial and ground baiting methods. Monitoring of Zone 5 suggests good results of eradication. Monitoring of Zone 4 is continuing, and has found some remnant populations of ants, which have subsequently been re-treated.

Large zones of ant infestations remain at Zones 1 (Puppies Point), 9 (Steeles Point) and 12 (Rocky Point). While there is no treatment being conducted in these areas currently, the AAEP can provide advice and, where necessary, paste bait to control ants where these are having an impact on the use of people's property. These zones will be systematically treated in the future under the guidance of the CSIRO.

Please note – success of the eradication relies on participation and cooperation from the community. NIRC requests that care is taken in transporting wood, machinery, green waste, plants or any other organic materials across the Island to avoid spreading the ants into new areas. If you plan to transport these materials from an Argentine Ant zone, please contact NIRC first to have the material inspected and treated. All enquiries should first be directed to Customer Care on local free call 0100 and an AAEP team member will contact you to discuss options for control. NIRC thanks the community for its participation in the AAEP program and protection of the local environment and economy.



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