



MEDIA RELEASE

IMPORTANT REMINDER NOT TO MOVE FIREWOOD IN KNOWN ARGENTINE ANT ZONES

Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) Argentine Ant Eradication Program staff and contractors work under the guidance of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to conduct targeted baiting in Argentine ant infested areas. The Argentine Ant Eradication Program is funded through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC).

Norfolk Island Regional Council staff and contractors continue to assess zones that have been treated as part of the Argentine Ant Eradication Program. Bella the detector dog and the AAEP team has been focussing on monitoring and visual assessments before ground and aerial baiting commences in zone 9. Unfortunately due to delay in obtaining regulatory permits we have had to postpone commencement of these activities for approximately one month.

The cooperation and support from land owners and the community has been fantastic and continues to be crucial if the program is to be successful. We must all remain vigilant and continue to be mindful of how easily Argentine ants can be transported around the Island.

We would like to remind the community not to move firewood from the side of the road or someone's property in a known Argentine ant zone without contacting the Argentine Ant team(see map below). They can be contacted by calling 23353/52193 and an inspection and treatment of infested items can be arranged quickly and at no cost to the individual. Argentine ants can also be moved by moving, pot plants, garden waste, building waste, and machinery.



Map 1. Extent and location of known Argentine ant infestations on Norfolk Island as at June 2021. Green zones indicates zones that have undergone treatment and are now undergoing post-treatment assessments. Red zones are those that have not yet been treated and the ants remain unmanaged.

Tara Patel

SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

3 September 2021