



MEDIA RELEASE

Vandalism in Public Reserves

Recent vandalism of public assets has now extended into the island's Public Reserves. This includes defacing BBQ areas with offensive material and burning of toxic substances. Images shown are of Bumbora Reserve. Public facilities at Lions Park and some areas of KAVHA have also recently been vandalised. Damage has even extended to the removal and taking of fencing material in Cascade (Cockpit) Reserve in recent weeks.

This is a disappointing outcome for the reserves, particularly given recent and substantial investment in improving public facilities. BBQ areas, boardwalks and lookout fencing are enjoyed by residents and visitors to the island, while riparian fencing and native vegetation plantings are part of an ongoing effort to revegetate parts of our reserves, protect endemic species and improve water quality.

Under the Public Reserves Act 1997 (NI), the Conservator may temporarily close reserves to protect or conserve the reserve in accordance with the plan of management. Where ongoing vandalism results in damage to public assets, a decision may be forced to close one or several reserves in an attempt to protect assets.

Where instances of vandalism occur, we encourage people to contact NIRC and the police, in particular to hold responsible people accountable.

Vandalism of our public assets is an outcome that the community does not want. I encourage the community to use these areas responsibly and with respect. We all wish to enjoy our public reserves and experience the natural values they have to offer.

Phil Reid
Manager Planning and Environment



