Gary Higgins
Minister for Sport and Recreation

A simple approach for netball and Rapid Creek Landcare

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What do the Marrara Netball Courts and the Yankee Pools area at Rapid Creek have in common?

They are both areas which are about to be made safer with the installation of bollards to bar access via the courts car park to Yankee Pools by 4WD vehicles.

“I’ve been lobbied by my colleague the Member for Sanderson, Netball NT and the Rapid Creek Landcare Group and it makes enormous sense to erect the barriers,” Sport Minister Gary Higgins said.

“I’ve approved funding through the Department of Sport and Recreation’s facilities operational budget to ensure these works are carried out.

“It is important our facilities are protected and I understand the vehicles have been causing significant damage to the grassed area around the netball court car park as they traverse down a steep embankment towards the Yankee Pools area.

“Of course, that leads to another real concern – the protection of the much loved Rapid Creek and Yankee Pools.”

The Minister has approved up to $25,000 in funding for the project.

Netball NT Executive Officer Shelley Haynes welcomed the installation of the bollards to prevent vehicle access to the area, which will also help safeguard the netball complex.

“We’re very pleased as this will not only help prevent damage to vegetation and the environment in the area, but will also help ensure our facility is being protected outside of normal operational hours,” Ms Haynes said.

Rapid Creek Landcare Group chair Lisa Peters also welcomed the announcement.

“Yankee Pools contains one of the widest stretches of monsoon forest in the Rapid Creek catchment – it is incredibly bio diverse and highly valued by the Darwin community,” Ms Peters said.

“Inappropriate vehicle access causes weed spread and degradation of the important riparian corridor and leads to littering and illegal dumping.
“We have already worked with various NTG agencies on access restrictions, this recent commitment from the Department of Sport and Recreation should finalise the access control needed to protect this special part of Darwin at Yankee Pools.”

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