

Concern floods in for trees

By CLAYTON BENNETT

NEARLY 200 people attended a public meeting to save the trees in the Darwin suburb of Rapid Creek.

Residents in the area voiced their concern about the NT Government's plans to cut down trees as part of a flood mitigation scheme.

Environment Centre spokesman Ron Lawes said it was a good turnout but Infrastructure Minister Peter Styles did not show.

"None of the ministers cared to show which was unfortunate," Mr Lawes said. "But it was good to get a message back to the ministers that the community wants to be consulted, there was a strong show of support from the public."

Mr Styles told the *NT News* recently that some trees had been marked with pink crosses as part of an environmental survey.

He said the Government was trying to collect information in order to develop the best plan to stop Rapid Creek bursting its banks in heavy rain.

Mr Lawes said the community was calling on the Government to release their studies.

"Science tells us that the removal of trees does nothing to reduce flood risk," he said. "The community wants a proper public consultation on this matter."

Roads are often cut off and backyards flooded during almost every Wet around Rapid Creek.