

Barking up wrong trees

By NICOLE MILLS

THE NT Government has no plan to bulldoze trees along Rapid Creek as part of its flood mitigation strategy, Infrastructure Minister Peter Styles says.

Mr Styles said some trees had recently been marked with pink crosses as part of an environmental survey.

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

Mr Styles described any claims the marked trees were going to be bulldozed as scaremongering.

"We are not going into Rapid Creek and bulldozing trees, this is purely Labor creating a fear campaign," Mr Styles said.

"The marks on the trees are simply there for survey and data collection purposes."



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Mr Styles said the Government would use the information to create a flood mitigation report that would go out for community consultation before the end of the year.

He said no contracts to remove any trees had been issued but admitted regular vegetation maintenance was part of improving water flow.

"Silt and debris build-up can result from thick emergent plants, grasses and saplings and can accumulate on fallen timber and vegetation during flood events," he said.

"We will continue to monitor this beautiful area of Ra-

pid Creek to ensure the best outcome is reached."

Many homes around Rapid Creek were flooded after heavy rains during Cyclone Carlos in 2011.

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

Rapid Creek Landcare secretary Lesley Alford said there was no evidence that removing trees would help to reduce flooding.

"The only thing they can do is major engineering work," she said.

Ms Alford called on the Government to make a report into the options for flood mitigation at Rapid Creek public.

The Landcare group will hold a public meeting at the Jingili Water Gardens foot bridge at 5.30pm on Tuesday.

Ms Alford said it would be a chance for residents to raise concerns about the possibility of felling trees in the name of flood mitigation.