



Rapid Creek Landcare Group's Lesley Alford fears trees that have had the word "PRUNE" painted on them will be removed — despite Infrastructure Minister Peter Styles saying the trees were marked for 'data collection' Picture: DANIEL HARTLEY-ALLEN

Minister 'caught out' on trees

By NICOLE MILLS

TREES along Rapid Creek have been marked "prune all" — despite the Government claiming there were no plans to cut down vegetation to prevent flooding during this wet season.

NT Environment Centre director Stuart Blanch said he thought the Infrastructure Department staff had

jumped the gun before a discussion paper went out for community consultation.

"The minister has had to back pedal and say the trees will not be removed until that community paper is revealed," he said.

"I think he's been caught out by his department getting ahead of him."

Infrastructure Minister Peter Styles said this week

that the tree markings were for data collection.

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

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

But yesterday Infrastructure Department spokeswoman Lesley Major said dur-

ing the data collection some trees had been identified as needing pruning.

"Professional advice will be sought," she said.

"No action to remove vegetation will occur on site without consultation."

A public meeting hosted by Landcare will be held at the Jingili Water Gardens footbridge across Rapid Creek at 5.30pm on Tuesday.