



Media Release

**Darwin City Council**

Communications & Marketing Ph. (08) 8930 0504 Fax (08) 8930 0669

**Butt Littering**  
Trust



---

# Keeping Butts off Darwin's streets

Darwin City Council launches the Butt Free City 2009 campaign today and is asking people in the street to "PLEASE BUTT IT, THEN BIN IT®" to help eliminate the impact of cigarette butt littering on Darwin's streets and out of our harbour and waterways.

The Council will launch their campaign at the corner of Knuckey and Woods Street at 1pm on Monday the 23rd of March 2009.

Darwin Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer commented on the 7 BILLION butts being littered in Australia every year, "and while each individual butt is small, together, 7 billion have a huge impact" he said.

Butt Free City is an initiative of the Darwin City Council in partnership with the Butt Littering Trust – an independent body established to help local government, business and organisations manage butt littering.

Wendy Jones, Executive Director of the Butt Littering Trust explains, "Our biggest challenge is that most people aren't truly aware of the huge and unnecessary impacts a small butt can have on our fragile environment.

"Cigarette butts don't just go away. The filters are made from a synthetic fibre and can take up to 12 years to break down. They also leach toxic chemicals into soils and water: one butt can poison eight litres of water to a toxic level within hours." She said.

"Our experience shows positive education can help people change their behaviour. We congratulate Darwin City Council for recognising butt littering as the serious issue it is, and for addressing it so comprehensively with the rest of Australia."

The last day of the Butt Free City campaign, Friday 27th of March, is 'Butt litter? FINE!' Day. Council Officers nationally will be enforcing local litter laws and issuing fines to cigarette butt litterers. In Darwin, littering incurs a fine of \$50 per cigarette butt.

'Butt Free City' is an annual national campaign with 16 cities participating this year, including capital and major regional cities across all states and territories.

**What:** Launch of Butt Free Campaign 2009  
**When:** 1pm March 23 2009  
**Where:** Corner of Knuckey and Woods Street  
**Who:** Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer

---

Contact: Gary Haslett, 8930 0504 or 0410 612 142