

Casuarina Coastal Reserve – community led conservation



High level summary

Recommended for trip: long-pants, long-sleeved shirts, sturdy closed-toed shoes, broad-brimmed hat, sunscreen, drinking water

Friends of Casuarina Coastal Reserve (FCCR) Inc. are seeking effective strategies to protect and enhance the natural values of the Reserve. Attendees can make a difference by sharing their knowledge and expertise to help this cause.

On this trip, attendees will visit diverse habitats in the Casuarina Coastal Reserve and learn about the natural values and the growing threats to the Reserve. After a delicious morning tea overlooking the Arafura Sea, attendees will participate in a learning exchange with local campaigners and other delegates. Lunch will also be provided.

Detailed description

The Casuarina Coastal Reserve is the most visited park in the Northern Territory and highly valued by locals for its natural and cultural values. Dariba Nungalinya, a Larrakia sacred site, is located in the waters offshore. The Reserve has an internationally significant roost for migratory waders, its beaches are nesting sites for sea turtles and the endangered Black-footed Tree-rat is known to den and forage in the Reserve. Cycads are one of the rare plants found in the Reserve.

The Reserve is under threat from multiple sources, primarily human activity. Arson over recent years has significantly reduced the diversity and maturity of vegetation communities along the coast. Adjacent bush has been cleared for residential development. Increasing numbers of human visitors and uncontrolled dogs often disturb roosting birds on the beaches. Operational resources for management of the Reserve are insufficient to address misbehaviour as well as counter grass and woody weed incursions to native plant communities and the fire risk these pose.

The second part of the morning will begin with morning tea beside the Arafura Sea. You will meet the Friends of Casuarina Coastal Reserve Inc. and hear their story so far. The Friends of Casuarina Coastal Reserve Inc. was formed in 2022 and is passionate about protecting and enhancing the Reserve's natural values. The group advocates for the Reserve, it is in the process of building an on-line presence and has met with government ministers and policymakers. Delegates will be able to continue the discussions and socialise as they enjoy lunch beside the sea before the bus trip back to Darwin.

Delegates will have experiences to share about successful community-based campaigning for nature. Small groups and facilitators will provide an ideal opportunity for a learning exchange. Scribes will collect the information for a written resource to contribute to the papers from the SER conference.

Travel between sites will be provided by bus, however participants will be required to walk to sites, sometimes on gravel paths, cleared walking trails and over sand. The weather is expected to be warm and humid, so covered footwear, broad-brimmed hats and clothing which provides sun protection is recommended.