



Northern Territory Government

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

Casuarina Coastal Reserve Horse and Dog Regulations

Parks and Wildlife Service rangers are set to toughen their stance against people who repeatedly breach the Casuarina Coastal Reserve dog and horse regulations.

Senior District Ranger Kristen Appel said verbal warnings to repeat offenders would now be replaced by \$25 on-the-spot infringement fines.

Ms Appel said the fines would only affect a small portion of the reserve's users with most people understanding and appreciative of the zoning.

"We have tried hard to strike a balance between recreational use and the conservation interests of the reserve with most people happy to play by the rules," Ms Appel said.

"The reserve is zoned in a particular way to ensure safe multiple use of the areas occurs, limiting the threats some dogs might pose to native wildlife and visitors.

"Regular disturbance of native birds, reptiles and mammals by dogs in particular stresses these animals, disrupting their feeding, resting and breeding routines.

"Stressed native animals are less likely to survive and breed successfully. Darwin is the only capital city in the world where flatback turtles nest on city beaches.

"These turtles nest on Casuarina Beach between Rapid Creek and Lee Point and for this to continue it is important their nests are not disturbed."

Ms Appel said people who have infringed the zoning regulations in the past have been spoken to about the regulations as well as being handed informative brochures.

She said these brochures would still be handed to people who have previously not been recorded as breaching the regulations with an advertising campaign also beginning on December 5.

"Print, radio and television advertisements will run for two weeks advising people where they can and can't go, with or without dogs or horses," Ms Appel said.

"The Casuarina Coastal Reserve is a special place for people, dogs, horses and wildlife to share so adherence to the regulations will certainly bring about recreation and conservation benefits."

Media Note _ For more information contact Kristen Appel 0439887124

Ends

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Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts
Edwin Edlund 8999 6266 Mobile: 0437 915 366