



Marion Scrymgour

MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

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Be prepared and take care on Cracker Night

Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour is asking revellers planning to enjoy Territory Day at Casuarina Coastal Reserve to bring their own firewood.

Ms Scrymgour said it was important people planning to celebrate Territory Day with bonfires and fireworks at the popular coastal reserve this weekend come adequately prepared with wood from outside the reserve that is free of nails, screws and other fixtures.

She also said all fires had to be built on the beach below the high tide mark.

“Cracker Night is a long-standing Territory tradition that is enjoyed and loved by Territorians young and old – including myself!” Ms Scrymgour said.

“There are very few places in the world still permitting fireworks and bonfires within a nature reserve and we’re reminding Territorians this is a sensitive area that should be returned to its natural state when people leave.

“I am reminding people to use their commonsense and think of other Reserve users, including Parks and Wildlife Service rangers who spend much of the following day picking through the fires for hazards, but there is no guarantee they will find every last nail or piece of glass.

“We don’t want a great night to be marred by injury to people, especially children, who could step on a sharp object during the night or the following days, when the incident could have been prevented.”

Ms Scrymgour said Parks and Wildlife Service rangers would also be handing out garbage bags on the night for revellers to take their rubbish home, or leave by a bin for rangers to collect the following day.

She said people should not burn and/or bury their rubbish including glass and cans and they should extinguish their fires before leaving the Reserve.

“Parks and Wildlife Service Rangers will also be on hand throughout the evening patrolling car parks, cliff tops, picnic areas and other fireworks no-go zones,” she said.

“People discharging fireworks on cliff tops pose a serious safety hazard for visitors on the beach below.

“We’re all for a good time. It’s a great night out, we’re just asking for the public’s help in protecting the delicate nature of the park and ensuring public safety.”

Ms Scrymgour said Buffalo Creek beach is off limits to fireworks as a means of protecting the area as a habitat for migratory birds.

“The beach between Rapid Creek and the northern tip of Lee Point is the only area within the Reserve where it is permitted to discharge fireworks and light fires below the high tide mark.

“It’s a very special night in the park – a spectacular setting and a fun time for all.

“Not only are we protecting the park, but also the future of it as a popular Cracker Night spot.”

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