

**Media Release:**

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## **Celebrating Cracker Night at Casuarina Coastal Reserve**

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service is reminding people to protect the delicate nature of Casuarina Coastal Reserve and ensure public safety is adhered to when celebrating Territory Day next Friday, 1 July 2011.

Darwin Parks District Deputy Chief Ranger Paul Cawood said the spectacular natural setting of Casuarina Coastal Reserve makes it a great spot to enjoy Firecracker Night but it's important that the area is protected and preserved for future enjoyment.

"The beach between Rapid Creek and the northern tip of Lee Point is the only area within the Casuarina Coastal Reserve that fireworks and small bonfires are permitted," Mr Cawood said.

"Fireworks are not permitted in other areas of the Reserve including Buffalo Creek beach, Rocklands Drive, the cliff-top and all carparking and picnic areas.

"Rangers will be patrolling Casuarina Coastal Reserve including the 'no-go' zones to ensure public safety is adhered to.

"They will also be handing out garbage bags for people to take their rubbish home, or to leave their rubbish by the bin for collection the next morning.

"For safety reasons it is important people don't burn or bury their rubbish, and that fires are extinguished before they leave.

Mr Cawood said Casuarina Coastal Reserve is an important conservation area and is sensitive to external effects so care needs to be taken to return the area back to its natural state.

"Small fires can only be lit on the beach between Rapid Creek and the northern tip of Lee Point below the high tide water mark," Mr Cawood said.

"People must supply their own firewood free of nails, screws and other fixtures from outside the Coastal Reserve, firewood must not be collected within the Reserve.

"We're asking people not to burn treated timbers, glass bottles, plastics, cans or tins, and not to bury their fire as hot sand and coals can cause injury to other beach users.

"The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service wishes everyone safe and happy Territory Day celebrations down at the beach."

For more information on Firecracker Night at Casuarina Coastal Reserve contact the Darwin District Parks Ranger Station on 8947 2305.

Ends

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