

Newsletter – September 2021

Friends of Lee Point (**FLP**) are a community-based group of Darwin residents campaigning to conserve Lee Point while encouraging the efficient use of land, infrastructure and services in Darwin. We acknowledge that the Larrakia are the traditional owners of Lee Point and the land and surrounding sea require protection, management and respect from all.

Bulldozing of urban forest starts at Lee Point

Bulldozing work started on the 29 Sept between the Resort and Muirhead. This area was described as a biodiversity corridor in City of Darwin Greening Darwin Strategy – see next section.

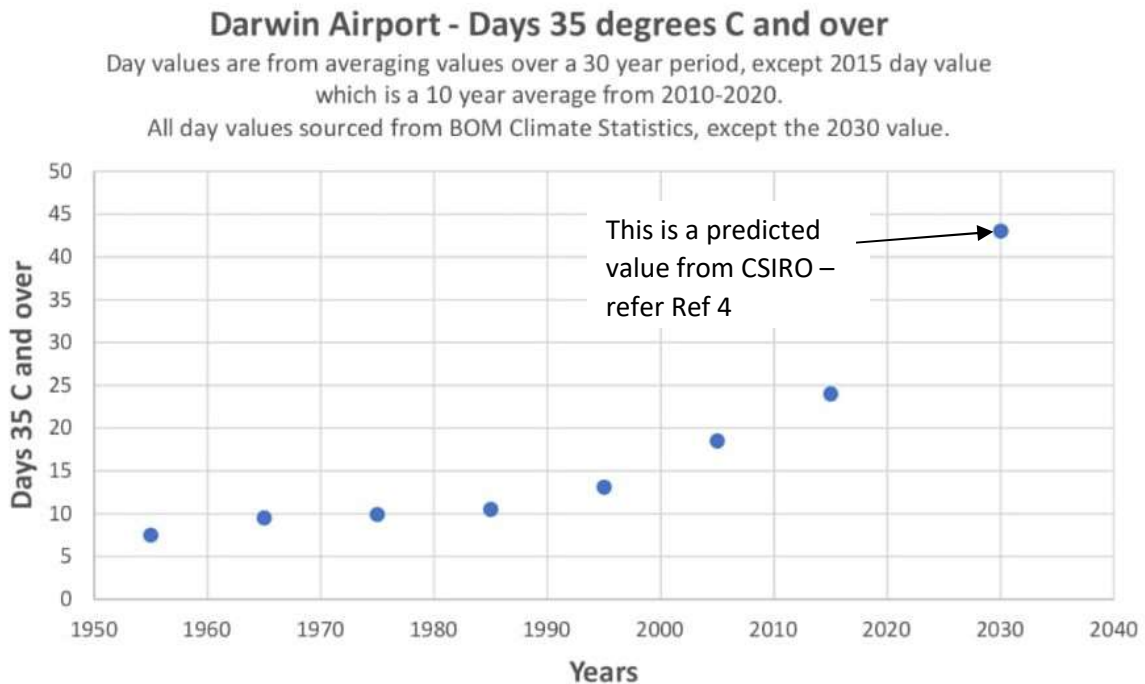


Photo below shows Muirhead on the left and Lyons on the right with bulldozing underway.



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Darwin is getting hotter and urban forests are important



Part of the City of Darwin Greening Darwin Strategy (Ref 2) response to deal with Darwin’s increasing temperature is to increase the canopy cover from trees. This involves planting a lot more trees (now underway) and protecting the existing urban forest to help cool Darwin.

Lee Point is part of Darwin’s urban forest. Clearing thousands of trees from Lee Point is likely to increase temperatures (due to an urban heat island effect) and people’s risk of heat stress in adjacent areas, in particular in Muirhead. Muirhead was assessed by CSIRO (Ref 3) as having the highest heat vulnerability index in Darwin.

Darwin’s rising temperature is just one reason, and there are many, why the Lee Point Area Plan needs to change. The Greater Darwin Regional Land Use Plan says that (paraphrasing here) - Land use plans are dynamic (not static) and need to adapt to changing circumstances

The Planning Minister (Eva Lawler) has the power to stop the land clearing works at Lee Point, read more on FAQ at www.saveleepoint.org.au

References

- Ref 1. Days 35 C and over - BOM link: <http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/ncc/cdio/cvg/av>
- Ref 2. City of Darwin Greening Strategy - [A cool, clean and green city strategies | City of Darwin | Darwin Council, Northern Territory](#)
- Ref 3. Heat vulnerability - CSIRO: <https://research.csiro.au/darwinlivinglab/what-are-the-hot-and-cool-spots-in-darwin/>
- Ref 4. 2030 Prediction for days 35 C and over - Webb LB and Hennessy K (2015) Climate change in Australia: Projections for selected Australian cities. CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology, Australia. <https://publications.csiro.au/rpr/download?pid=csiro:EP151569&dsid=DS1>

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Support for Save Lee Point campaign.

The majority of City of Darwin alderman support the Save Lee Point petition. Hopefully City of Darwin can get the NT Government to listen to the Darwin community's wishes and needs on Lee Point.



City of Darwin Alderman Rebecca Want De Rowe (on left) and Justine Glover (crouching) are working on the Save Lee Point motion. Other people here from left are; Ian Redmond (FLP), Nadine Lee (Larrakia), Rajiv Thayil, Morgan Rickard (Alderman). Photo from Raintree Park Rally - 28 Aug 2021.

CITY OF DARWIN - Aldermen Amye Un and Justine Glover spoke about Lee Point (filmed at Lee Point Sun 12 Sept) - <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofLeePoint/videos/3397515357057692>

LARRAKIA elder message - <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofLeePoint/videos/828604714467019>

Getting the message out

Vanderlin Shuffle - Thurs 9 Sept. Eastern Curlews joined the morning rush hour at the Vanderlin Shuffle. The shuffle involves waiting minutes to get through the Vanderlin Dr and Lee Point roundabout. Lots of people honked their support for the Save Lee Point campaign.

The Curlews were painted by kids as part of a Birdlife TopEnd – Goodbye to Shorebird event in April 2021. We are happy to say that the Eastern Curlews (the real ones) returned from the Arctic Circle ie. Siberia in late August, a return trip of ~20,000km.

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Sunset and Signs – Sat 18 Sept. We welcomed many prominent people (including Kevin Rudd) to Labor’s 20th Anniversary at the museum. The people who came to speak to us (we weren’t allowed on the grass) were supportive of the Save Lee Point campaign.



Aldermen Vim Sharma and Justine Glover



Kate Carter (FLP) with Marion Scrymour



Kate Carter (FLP) with Senator Malarndarri McCarthy

NT Parks Masterplan 2022-2052

NT Government is developing a 30-year plan for its parks in the Territory. If you think most of Lee Point should be a nature reserve, please let government know: refer:

<https://haveyoursay.nt.gov.au/parksmasterplan>

Note - Consultation closes on the 15 Oct 2021.

Lee Point Trivia (answers at end)

Q1. AWARENESS – Prior to 2020, what proportion of the northern suburb residents knew about the Lee Point Area Plan or the proposed DHA Housing development.

A Insignificant (less than 15%) B. 15-50% C. 50-80% D. Most (80% or more)

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Northern Spring – many plants are starting to fruit now

In the top end many plants start flowering from August on in what has been described as the “northern spring”. This is so seeds are ready for the wet season rains.

Rosary Peas or Crab Eye Vine (*Abrus precatorius*)

This herbaceous flowering vine twines around trees and shrubs in Lee Point. It is native to Asia and Australia. The bright red seeds are used by aboriginal people as beads to make jewellery ie. necklaces, bracelets, and sometimes sold at Darwin markets.



Flowers Jan-Apr, Fruits Jun-Jan

The seeds are toxic and can be fatal if swallowed.

Reference - Top End Native Plants – John Brock and Wikipedia

Cluster Fig (*Ficus racemosa*)

A large spreading tree 12-15m high often buttressed at the base. Fruits June to Dec. Aboriginal uses – fruits are eaten.



Until next time, enjoy the “northern spring”

Answer Q1 - A. An on-line survey from May-Aug 2021 by FLP asked people “Prior to 2020, were you aware of the Lee Point Area Plan or proposal to house thousands of people at Lee Point”. There were 639 respondents from Darwin northern suburbs, 81 said yes (they were aware), giving an awareness level of 12.7%.