

Newsletter – October 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.

City of Darwin Council tries to cool Darwin as global temperatures rise

Global warming is a major problem and Darwin's temperature is rising. Council's response to cool Darwin has been to be plant more trees (increase canopy cover) and reduce surface temperatures, it's called the Greening Darwin Strategy;

<https://www.darwin.nt.gov.au/council/governance-strategy/strategic-and-municipal-planning/a-cool-clean-and-green-city-strategies>

The destruction at Lee Point goes completely against what the Council is trying to achieve. Muirhead is already a hot place and this leaves residents worse off:

<https://research.csiro.au/darwinlivinglab/what-are-the-hot-and-cool-spots-in-darwin/>

Removing thousands of trees (carbon sinks) from Lee Point and having defence personnel drive 60-100 min extra each week from Lee Point to the defence bases near the Stuart Highway will increase CO2 emissions. This is at odds with the Australian and NT Government commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. There are much better housing locations available that will result in lower emissions and reduce travel times.

The NT Government has committed to take action on climate change. Planning Minister (Eva Lawler) has the power to stop the land clearing works at Lee Point, see FAQ at www.saveleepoint.org.au



Biodiversity corridors from City of Darwin's Greening Darwin Strategy

Darwin Airport temperature Days at 35C or over

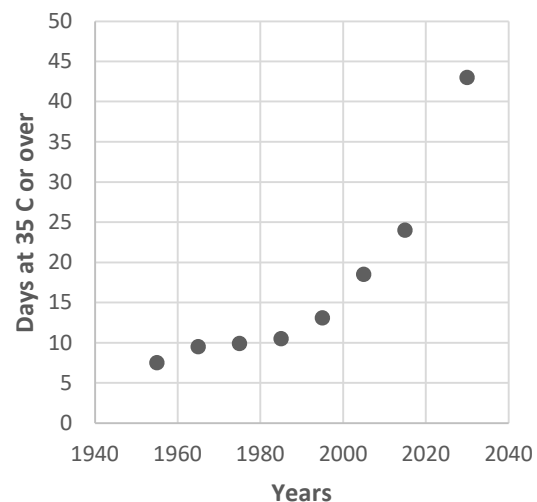


Chart values are average values over a 30 year period, except the 2015 value which is a 10 year average from 2010 to 2020. All values are from BOM except the 2030 value which is from CSIRO.

FRIENDS OF LEE POINT

Destruction of old trees and cycads at Lee Point causes public outrage

Darwin residents were outraged to see the senseless destruction of some of the last intact tropical habitat in Darwin. This included loss of old growth eucalypt trees and Darwin Cycads that were probably hundreds of years old.

People in Darwin get to see a high variety of wildlife in their backyards because of nearby intact tropical habitat (like Lee Point). This habitat provides natural food that is not always available in the suburbs. Wildlife such as Red-Tailed Black Cockatoos, Red Winged Parrots and the (endangered) Black Footed Tree Rat rely on old growth trees to nest in.

To establish an intact tropical habitat with a high biodiversity takes thousands of years.



Looking towards Lee Point with Muirhead in the foreground. Stage 1A was cleared early Oct 2021. There are 5 stages with clearing planned for both sides of the road. Photos A and B are below.



Photo A (July 2021). The finest stand of Darwin Cycads in Lee Point and Casuarina Coastal Reserve was lost. Only about 200 out of the 600 cycads were saved.

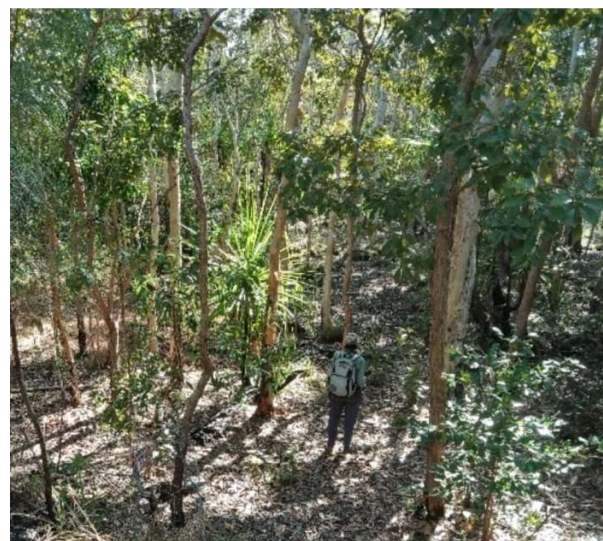


Photo B (July 2021). Approx 100m of rainforest was lost, it wasn't classed as rainforest, but FLP believed it should have been.

FRIENDS OF LEE POINT

SUPPORT FOR SAVE LEE POINT

City of Darwin council votes YES to Save Lee Point on 12 October

The council voted overwhelmingly in favour (11 to 1) on the Save Lee Point Motion. Aldermen Rebecca Want De Rowe moved the motion and Justine Glover seconded it.

The Save Lee Point motion asks the Planning Minister to put a moratorium on the current development of Lee Point until the NT Planning Commission, an independent authority, has developed a comprehensive area plan for the whole of Lee Point as it has done for other published area plans such as the Central Palmerston Area plan and the Humpy Doo Rural Activity Centre Master Plan.



People lining up to get in to watch the council discuss/vote on the Save Lee Point motion.

Raintree Park Rally – 10am Saturday 23 October



Around 100 people attended the rally to listen to FLP representatives, Larrakia (Nadine Lee) City of Darwin (Alderman Justine Glover) speak. MC was Nick Kirlew from Planning Action Network.

FLP speakers (David Percival, Kasey Hansen, Ian Redmond) said there was very limited consultation with the community on the Lee Point Area Plan and limited awareness on the scope and impacts of housing thousands of people at Lee Point. Darwin's future would be affected:

<https://saveleepoint.org.au/current-lee-point-area-plan-is-harming-darwins-future/>

FRIENDS OF LEE POINT

Welcome Back Shorebirds 4.30pm - 6.30pm Sunday 7th November at Lee Point
Like to find out about more about the amazing migratory shorebirds that fly ~10,000km to Lee Point each year and watch the shorebirds through a scope? There will be activities for the kids and healthy snacks plus a guided nature walk. Event is hosted by Birdlife TopEnd, PPlan and FLP. FREE event and all welcome, see upcoming events: www.saveleepoint.org.au

Lee Point Trivia

Q1. Australia has recorded 17 species of finches. How many species of finches have been recorded at Lee Point? Answers at end.

- A. 3 B. 5 C. 7 D.10

Masked Finch (*Poephila personata*) – Status: Near Threatened under IUCN 3.1



Masked Finch near the Lee Point Caravan Park in Sept 2021

The Masked Finch feeds on grass seeds and likes to be near water. This finch is uncommon in the Darwin region; however, it has been regularly seen in parts of Lee Point. Lee Point dam and surrounds is a good place to see them and they have nested in this area.

Until next time, enjoy Lee Point

Answer Q1 – C. The (7) recorded finches at Lee Point, commonest ones first are: Crimson, Double Barred, Chestnut Breasted Mannikan, Long Tailed and Masked Finch. The Yellow Rumped Mannikan and Gouldian Finches are much less common.