



**Aboriginal Areas
Protection Authority**
protecting sacred sites across the territory

File: 2024/117
Ref: 202401513

Ms Jo Townsend
Chief Executive Officer
Parks and Wildlife Commission
Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security

Via email: parkplanning@nt.gov.au

Dear Jo

Proposed declaration of the Casuarina Coastal Reserve

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft section 14 report for the Casuarina Coastal Reserve.

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority supports the declaration of the Reserve (lot 9375) and Lot 9458 as a park under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976* (TPWC Act).

The area of the proposed park is within the area traditionally occupied by Larrakia people and retains significant cultural importance.

The proposed park will encompass Aboriginal sacred sites that are protected under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*. This includes Nungalinya (Old Man's Rock) which sits offshore from Casuarina Beach; Binyabara, which is an area of reef, rocky outcrops and beach located at the tip of Lee Point; as well as other sacred sites that are recognised under the Sacred Sites Act.

The proposed park will also incorporate other culturally significant places and burial sites, which are not sacred sites as defined in the Sacred Sites Act. Some of these places are protected under the *Heritage Act 2011*.

It is vital that consultation occurs with Larrakia in relation to the management of the park, to ensure that the importance of the cultural values and stories is recognised appropriately. In addition, an Authority Certificate should be obtained to support any proposed work or use of the land and sea within the park, to ensure that Aboriginal sacred sites are protected appropriately.

If you have any queries, or require any further information please contact
Secretariat.AAPA@nt.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benedict Scambary', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Benedict Scambary
Chief Executive Officer
22 April 2024