

# Connells Lagoon Conservation Reserve



## Fact Sheet

Connells Lagoon Conservation Reserve is situated in the heart of the Barkly Tableland. It is the only Reserve in Australia established primarily for the conservation of Mitchell Grassland communities.

Situated north-east of the Barkly Homestead, on the eastern boundary of Brunette Downs Station, it covers an area of approximately 256 square kilometres.

The landscape is extremely flat, broken only by shallow watercourses in the north and occasional, barely perceptible gravelly rises.

### Access

Connells Lagoon Conservation Reserve can be reached via a gravel 2WD road between Brunette Downs and Alexandria Stations on the Barkly Tableland. The road may be closed after rain.

### What to do



A 4WD track exists within the Reserve which provides access to observe the native flora and fauna.

### Flora and Fauna

The Reserve is dominated by perennial Mitchell Grass (*Astrebla* sp.). Trees are found only in the watercourse and floodout areas with Bluebush (*Maireana* sp.) dominating the wettest areas.

Parks and Wildlife carried out the only major biological survey in the region in 1982. Even though the Reserve looks flat

and uninteresting, 189 species of plants were found demonstrating a surprisingly rich diversity. At the time nine mammal, 53 bird and 19 reptile species were also recorded in and near the Reserve.

Several birds considered endangered, including the Flock Bronzewing Pigeon, Pictorella Mannikin Finch, Red-chested Button-quail and the Australian Bustard were recorded in higher than expected numbers.

Native mammals found included the Red Kangaroo, carnivorous marsupials such as the Long-tailed Planigale, several native rodents and the Dingo.

One of the native rodents is the Long-haired Rat or Plague Rat. The Barkly Tablelands are an important refuge for this little Australian. Normally rare, it occasionally plagues following a series of big rains which turn the cracking clay plains into a swampy quagmire covered by an abundance of grasses.

Today Parks and Wildlife ensures the values of the Reserve are protected with continued research and fire management.


### Safety and Comfort

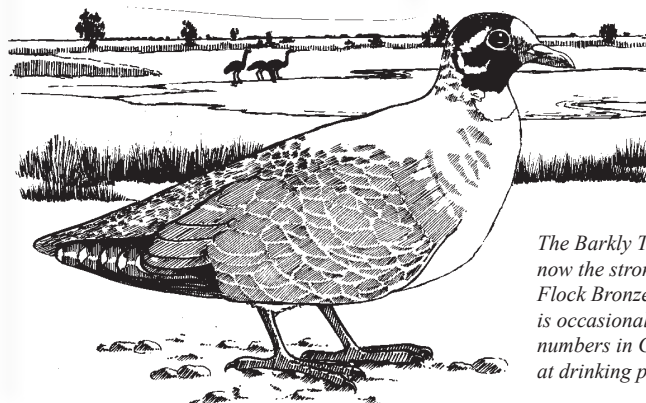
- Observe park safety signs.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Wear a shady hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, suitable clothing and footwear.
- Avoid strenuous activity during the heat of the day.
- Consider your health and fitness when choosing a walk.

### Please Remember

- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- All historic, cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Fires are not permitted in the reserve.
- Bins are not provided, please take your rubbish with you.
- Pets are not permitted.
- Generators are not permitted.
- A permit is required for Drone use – conditions apply and it must be obtained prior to your arrival in the Reserve.

Visitors to Connells Lagoon will be rewarded with an opportunity to understand more about these unique Mitchell Grass areas.

 There are no camping facilities at Connells Lagoon.



The Barkly Tablelands is now the stronghold for the Flock Bronzewing Pigeon; it is occasionally seen in large numbers in Connells Lagoon, at drinking places.

## Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

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