

Coastal she-oak

Casuarina equisetifolia



Adaptation to environment

- Constantly falling “leaves” produce large quantity of mulch that help conserve moisture & stop erosion on exposed dunes
- Thick bark to preserve water & protect from fire
- Strong flexible branches can withstand strong winds
- Can survive in soil with little nutrient by being ‘mycorrhizal’ – roots with fungus that helps access nutrients
- Tough, hairy ‘cladodes’ (leaf-like stems) reduce water loss.



Where do I live?

Frontal Dunes

What eats me?

- Rainbow Lorikeet, bees, stick insects eat nectar & pollen
- Cockatoos eat seeds
- Aboriginal people used bark for stomach problems.

- Small tree to 10 m
- Male & female flowers on same tree: male brown, female red
- Leaves reduced to scales, leaving thin stems to function as leaves
- Fruit woody, spherical cone.