

What is it like to live on a frontal dune?

Sunlight exposure

Full exposure in most areas

Some shade from wattles & casuarinas.

Soil

Very little available nutrient in soil; mineral content is from windblown sea spray

Some plants are able to grow & deposit mulch but most of the dunes are exposed sand.

Potential nutrients are bound in a yellow coating on the sand grains that is difficult for plants to process.

Stability

Bare sand dunes are constantly moving

Windblown sand is very abrasive to plants

Spinifex and vines have fast-growing roots to hold sand in place.

Shelter

Many creatures burrow in the sand

Clumps of Coastal Wattle provide dense cover for animal communities

Shelter increases as you move inland.

Water

Sand dunes are very porous, so rainwater soaks away quickly except where plants have dropped mulch.

Salinity

Constant salt exposure from ocean spray.

What plants and animals can you find on a frontal dune?

Plants

Beach Spinifex *Spinifex sericeus*

Coastal Sheoak *Casuarina equisetifolia*

Coastal Banksia *Banksia integrifolia*

Coastal Wattle *Acacia sophorae*

Beach Primrose *Oenothera drummondii*

Invertebrates

Ghost Crab *Ocypode* sp.

Mangrove cicada *Arunta interclusa* (nymph)

Vertebrates

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

Fairy Martin *Hirundo ariel*

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus neglectus*

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Bearded Dragon *Pogona barbata*

Lace Monitor *Varanus varius*

Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis*

Northern Brown Bandicoot *Isodon macrourus*