

Ficus virens — Banyan

Scientific Name:

Ficus virens

Common Name:

Banyan

Register Number:

10

Location of Tree:

Commonwealth Bank, 66 Smith Street, Darwin NT

GPS:

-12.46169, 130.84062

Categories of Significance:

Size

Age

Unique Location

Physical Features

Year Listed:

1986



This Banyan is a remnant of coastal monsoon forest vegetation, which once covered most of the Darwin Peninsula. Birds feeding on the small, fleshy fruit of the Banyan deposit the undigested seed on other trees. The seed may then germinate and eventually develop long aerial roots in order to obtain nutrients from the soil, as well as support its heavy crown. The Banyan finally strangles its host. Masses of birds and other small animals are attracted to *Ficus virens*. They feed on the fruit, numerous insects and grubs living in and around it.

In 1981 the Territory Insurance Office designed their head office around this impressive Darwin landmark. Construction commenced in June 1982.



Proudly sponsored by
**Northern Territory
 Government**