

Dripstone Cliffs, Casuarina Beach, Darwin

I have been unable to find before and after photos from the same vantage point, but the few that follow may be enough to give an idea as to what's happened this year. Dripstone Cliffs has been a popular picnic and walk site for all the 40 years I've been in Darwin. During that time, there has been little change. The two photos below were taken in October 2011.



In February this year, Darwin was hit by a storm at a near record high tide. The winds were nowhere near as strong as they would be in a cyclone, but



The cliffs came tumbling down. Prior to the storm, every rock you can see on the beach in the two photos above had been part of the cliffs behind. The area suffered more damage in this one storm than in the previous 40 years (which included Cyclone Tracy) that I'd been in Darwin.

You have to wonder what will happen if we ever do get a cyclone at high tide.