

# **Bingera National Park, Bingera Conservation Park 1 and Bingera Conservation Park 2**

**Management Statement**

2013

Prepared by: **Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS), Department of Environment, Science and Innovation**

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The Bingera National Park, Bingera Conservation Park 1 and Bingera Conservation Park 2 Management Statement 2013 has been extended in 2024 in line with the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (s120G). Minor amendments have been made. There has been no change to the statement's original management intent and direction.

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|                               |                             |         |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Park size:                    | Bingera National Park       | 5,407ha |
|                               | Bingera Conservation Park 1 | 37ha    |
|                               | Bingera Conservation Park 2 | 1ha     |
| Bioregion:                    | South Eastern Queensland    |         |
| QPWS region:                  | Sunshine and Fraser Coast   |         |
| Local government estate/area: | Bundaberg Regional          |         |
| State electorate:             | Burnett                     |         |

**Legislative framework**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| ✓ | <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>                                 |
| ✓ | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>   |
| ✓ | <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>  |

**Plans and agreements**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| ✓ | Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement            |
| ✓ | National Multi-species Recovery Plan for the cycads |

**Thematic strategies**

|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| ✓ | Level 2 fire management strategy |
| ✓ | Level 2 pest management strategy |

## **Vision**

Bingera National Park, Bingera Conservation Park 1 and Bingera Conservation Park 2 will be managed to retain their high conservation values, especially plant and animal diversity. The parks' landscapes will be managed to minimise impacts from fire, pests and inappropriate recreational activities. They will provide a natural experience for self-reliant visitors, and cultural heritage values will be protected.

## **Conservation purpose**

Bingera National Park was gazetted in 2006 and is managed to protect coastal plant communities, the waterholes along Mahogany Creek and to consolidate and protect the important habitat corridor connecting the Bingera aggregation with Burrum Coast National Park. Bingera Conservation Park 1 was gazetted in 2010 and contains the airstrip and infrastructure for the Bundaberg Gliding Club. A sugar cane tramline corridor crosses the national park and was gazetted as Bingera Conservation Park 2 in 2010. All three parks are contiguous with Elliott River State Forest—which contains extensive pine plantations—and have similar vegetation types, plant and animal species, and pest and fire issues.

## **Protecting and presenting the park's values**

### **Landscape**

The topography of the parks varies from level to gently undulating plains to rises and low hills. Mahogany Creek flows through the area and drains directly into the Elliott River. The Gregory River runs just south of the parks. The parks form part of the wildlife corridor linking the Bingera aggregation with coastal habitats in Burrum Coast National Park. Apart from the State forest, the parks are bordered by land used for agriculture, particularly sugar cane and small crops farming. The national park was previously logged for native hardwood species. Habitat loss due to extractive activities on adjoining land has significantly diminished wildlife habitat and caused fragmentation of the corridor linking the park and other nearby natural areas.

Soils associated with the Elliott River have a tendency to erode and are salt prone which is evident along drainage lines. Management roads through the parks have associated erosion issues, although if road drainage lines are well maintained, this is not significant. Soil instability has resulted in significant erosion along fire breaks. Conversion of surrounding areas to pine plantation has reduced the surrounding habitat area, particularly for birds, and broken habitat conformity. Soil in the area has acid sulphate potential and dams built close to the forest boundary may contain elevated acid levels.

### **Regional ecosystems**

Twelve regional ecosystems are conserved on the parks, one of which is endangered and seven are of concern (Table 1). Main vegetation communities are coastal plant communities including sedgeland, heaths, woodlands and open forests. Wildflower displays occur in the heath during August and September.

### **Native plants and animals**

In excess of 250 plant species and 130 animal species have been recorded on the parks. Of these, six are threatened or near threatened including one which is endangered (Table 2). Several plant species are at their geographical limit in this area.

### **Aboriginal culture**

The native title claim QC01/029 Port Curtis Coral Coast covers the area in which the parks are located. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) have little information about the Aboriginal cultural values of the parks.

### **Shared-history culture**

Formerly harvested for its native hardwood species, the parks contains roads, fences, plantation plots and evidence of past timber harvesting activities. The sugar cane tramline corridor that crosses the national park is now gazetted as conservation park and is evidence of the rich history of sugar cane farming in the broader district.

### **Tourism and visitor opportunities**

Roads within the parks are normally suitable for two-wheel drive vehicles except in wet weather when four-wheel drive vehicles may be needed. Some visitors ride motor bikes through the parks causing minor erosion issues. Visitor infrastructure is not currently provided.

## **Education and science**

The national park has the potential to be a destination for educational field trips due to its proximity to Bundaberg and other nearby population centres.

## **Partnerships**

Regular liaison is maintained with the Queensland Rural Fire Service and the parks' neighbours on the management of issues of mutual concern including fire and pest management.

## **Other key issues and responses**

### **Pest management**

Giant rat's tail grass *Sporobolus* spp. is the main pest plant on the parks. While controlled adequately with spraying, there are significant infestations on parts of the contiguous pine plantations and throughout the general area, particularly on wetter soils. This reduces the effectiveness of QPWS control programs. Pigs *Sus scrofa* are the major pest animal species and foxes *Vulpes vulpes*, dogs *Canis lupus familiaris*, cats *Felis catus* and cane toads *Rhinella marina* are also present. Trapping and baiting programs in conjunction with neighbours are proving to be an adequate control measure. Pine wildlings spread into the park from neighbouring plantations. A Level 2 pest management strategy is in place.

### **Fire management**

There is evidence of an inappropriate fire regime in the past which has affected plant species composition. Wildfires caused by accidental and deliberate ignition or spread from cane burns are a constant threat. The eastern part of the park was burnt extensively by wildfire in September 2005. A Level 2 fire management strategy is used to guide fire management.

## Management directions

| Desired outcomes   | Actions and guidelines   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Regional ecosystems</b><br/>Ecosystem diversity is maintained.</p>   | <p>Monitor vegetation for signs of disturbance resulting from visitor use, the impacts of pest animals and the encroachment of introduced species such as pine wildlings, and erosion.</p> |
| <p><b>Tourism and visitor opportunities</b><br/>The park retains its natural state for the use of self-reliant visitors.</p> | <p>Manage visitor use with particular attention to confining vehicle traffic to formed roads and tracks.</p>   |
| <p><b>Pest management</b><br/>Impacts from pest plants and animals on the park are managed effectively.</p>                  | <p>Negotiate with neighbouring plantation managers to implement cooperative measures to control giant rat's tail grass.</p>  |

## Tables – Conservation values management

**Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems**

| Regional ecosystem number | Description   | Biodiversity status |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 12.3.5                    | <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> open forest on coastal alluvium  | Of concern          |
| 12.3.11                   | <i>Eucalyptus siderophloia</i> , <i>E. tereticornis</i> , <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest on alluvial plains usually near the coast. | Of concern          |
| 12.3.12                   | <i>Eucalyptus latisinensis</i> or <i>E. exserta</i> , <i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i> on alluvial plains.                                      | Of concern          |
| 12.3.13                   | Closed heathland on seasonally waterlogged alluvial plains usually near coast.  | Of concern          |
| 12.3.14                   | <i>Banksia aemula</i> woodland on alluvial plains usually near coast.   | Of concern          |
| 12.5.8                    | <i>Eucalyptus hallii</i> woodland on complex of remnant Tertiary surface and Tertiary sedimentary rocks.                                    | Of concern          |
| 12.5.9                    | Sedgeland to heathland in low lying areas on complex of remnant Tertiary surface and Tertiary sedimentary rocks.                            | Of concern          |
| 12.5.11                   | <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> open forest on complex of remnant Tertiary surface and Tertiary sedimentary rocks.                             | Endangered          |

**Table 2: Species of conservation significance**

| Scientific name  | Common name                            | <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> status | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> status | Back on Track status |
|--|--|--|---|----------------------|
| <b>Plants</b>  |  |  |   |                      |
| <i>Alyxia sharpei</i>  | -                                      | Near threatened                            | -   | Low                  |
| <i>Eucalyptus hallii</i>                                       | Goodwood gum                           | Vulnerable                                 | Vulnerable  | Medium               |
| <i>Macrozamia lomandroides</i>                                 | -                                      | Endangered                                 | Endangered  | Critical             |
| <i>Melaleuca cheelii</i>                                       | -                                      | Near threatened                            | -   | Low                  |
| <b>Animals</b>   |  |  |   |                      |
| <i>Chalinolobus picatus</i>                                    | little pied bat                        | Near threatened                            | -   | Medium               |
| <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (southeast Queensland bioregion) | koala (southeast Queensland bioregion) | Vulnerable                                 | -   | -                    |

**Table 3: Species listed in international agreements**

| Scientific name       | Common name       | BONN | JAMBA | ROKAMBA | CAMBA |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------|-------|---------|-------|
| <i>Merops ornatus</i> | rainbow bee-eater | -    | ✓     | -       | -     |

BONN: Bonn Convention

CAMBA: China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA: Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement