

Little Mulgrave National Park

Management Statement

2013



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

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The Little Mulgrave National Park 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: | 10,929 ha |
| Bioregion: | Wet Tropics |
| QPWS region: | Northern |
| Local government estate/area: | Cairns Regional Council |
| State electorate: | Mulgrave |

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> |
| ✓ | <i>Wet Tropics World Heritage Management and Protection Act 1993</i> |

Plans and agreements

| | |
|---|---|
| ✓ | Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005 |
| ✓ | Recovery Plan for the endangered cave-dwelling bats, <i>Rhinolophus philippinensis</i> , <i>Hipposideros semoni</i> and <i>Taphozous troughtoni</i> 2001-2005 |
| ✓ | Recovery plan for the southern cassowary <i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> 2001-2005. |
| ✓ | Recovery plan for the stream-dwelling rainforest frogs of the Wet Tropics biogeographic region of north-east Queensland 2000–2004 |

Thematic strategies

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| ✓ | Level 2 Fire Strategy |
| ✓ | QPWS Wet Tropics Pest Strategy 2009 |

Vision

Little Mulgrave National Park retains a scenic, natural forested back-drop to the Little Mulgrave Valley and the coastal plains. The park continues to protect a range of threatened habitats and species.

Conservation purpose

Little Mulgrave National Park was gazetted 10 December 2010 as part of the Wet Tropics Forest Transfer process. The area was previously Little Mulgrave Forest Reserve.

The park protects an array of endangered regional ecosystems and endangered plant and animal species. The conservation values include its altitudinal range that extends from 20 metres (m) to over 900m above sea-level. This range creates a variety of climatic niches able to be used by a diverse range of plant and animal species.

Most of this park is inside the Wet Tropics World Heritage area.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

The park forms a backdrop to the Goldsborough and Little Mulgrave Valleys and includes seasonal waterfalls, areas of exposed granite, sclerophyll forests and rainforests. The park is adjacent to Gadgarra, Dinden and Danbulla national parks. Little Mulgrave National park partially surrounds the Mount Peter Conservation Park.

Little Mulgrave and the Mulgrave rivers run through the park. The park is bisected by the Gillies Highway which runs from the Goldsborough Valley onto the Atherton Tablelands.

Regional ecosystems

Little Mulgrave National Park has 33 regional ecosystems mapped within its boundaries (Table 1).

The park ecosystems are representative of those on many of the hill slopes of the Cairns hinterland. Maintenance of this mosaic of habitat types is strongly dependent on the fire regime.

Native plants and animals

Species of conservation significance are listed in Table 2. Species listed under international agreement are listed in Table 3.

Aboriginal culture

A native title claim over the western edge of the park (QC99/036) has been lodged by the Tableland Yidinji People. The park is located wholly within the Yidinjdji language group area.

Shared-history culture

Several historic walking and dray tracks cross the park representing routes used to access the Atherton Tablelands from the Cairns lowlands. Little evidence of these tracks remains. However, at certain times of the year, the alignments are visible.

The Robsons Track may have been an Aboriginal walking track. Post-settlement it was used as the telegraph line.

Historic mining leases previously existed within the park. These enterprises targeted limestone, manganese and gold. Licences were discontinued with the Wet Tropics World Heritage listing. Some sites contain cultural material but are not actively managed or promoted as features of the park.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The steep nature of the park and its fragile granite soils reduce the opportunity for mountain bikes and walkers to use certain areas (e.g. Robson Track).

Most visitors appreciate the park's scenic amenity when traversing the Gillies Range road.

Access to the Gillies Lookout is seasonal. Hang-gliding clubs have a take-off point established at the lookout. Day-use facilities are provided but camping is not allowed.

Education and science

Potential for research or educational use of Little Mulgrave National Park is limited by difficulties in access.

Partnerships

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) is legislatively responsible for the day-to-day management of the national park. The Wet Tropics Management Authority regulates activity in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The goal of both agencies is to present the area's values while protecting its natural and cultural values.

Traditional Owners are involved in cooperative management of the park.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Pests of primary concern are introduced plant species in the vicinity of the disused mine sites and along the Gillies Highway.

Fire management

Fire management will be important in the management of pest plants in some areas of the park and in the maintenance of sclerophyll dominated regional ecosystems on the hill slopes.

Management directions

| Desired outcomes | Actions and guidelines |
|--|---|
| <p>Aboriginal culture Traditional Owners are engaged in cooperative park management.</p> | <p>Support the involvement of the Traditional Owners in park management.</p> |
| <p>Fire and pest management Fire is used to maintain the natural integrity of the park.</p> | <p>Actively use fire to maintain the structure and health of sclerophyll communities on hill slopes. In combination with other mechanisms, use fire as a management tool, to control pest plants.</p> |

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

| Regional ecosystem number | Description | Biodiversity status |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 7.3.10 | Simple to complex mesophyll to notophyll vine forest on moderate to poorly drained alluvial plains of moderate fertility | Endangered |
| 7.3.17 | Complex mesophyll vine forest on well drained alluvium of high fertility | Endangered |
| 7.3.23 | Simple to complex semi-deciduous notophyll to mesophyll vine forest on lowland alluvium | Endangered |
| 7.3.25 | <i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> +/- vine forest species, open to closed forest, on alluvium fringing streams | Of concern |
| 7.3.28 | Rivers and streams including riparian herbfield and shrubland on river and stream bed alluvium, and rock within stream beds | Endangered |
| 7.3.40 | <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> medium to tall open forest on well drained alluvial plains of lowlands | Endangered |
| 7.8.14 | Complex notophyll vine forest with emergent <i>Agathis robusta</i> , on basalt | Endangered |
| 7.11.6 | <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> open forest of metamorphics, on deep soils | Endangered |
| 7.11.8 | <i>Acacia polystachya</i> woodland to closed forest, or <i>Acacia mangium</i> and <i>Acacia celsa</i> open to closed forest, on metamorphics | Of concern |
| 7.11.10 | <i>Acacia celsa</i> open to closed forest on metamorphics | Of concern |
| 7.11.14 | <i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> open forest to woodland, or <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> , <i>E. pellita</i> , and <i>E. grandis</i> , open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on metamorphics | Endangered |
| 7.11.16 | <i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> and <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest to woodland, on wet and moist metamorphics of foothills and uplands | Endangered |
| 7.11.19 | <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and/or <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest to woodland of uplands, on metamorphics | Of concern |
| 7.11.23 | Complex mesophyll vine forest on fertile, well drained metamorphics of very wet and wet footslopes | Of concern |
| 7.11.28 | Wind-sheared notophyll vine forest of exposed metamorphic ridge crests and steep slopes | Of concern |
| 7.11.32 | <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> and/or <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp. +/- heathy understorey, medium to tall woodland to open forest (or vine forest with these species as emergents), of steep rocky metamorphic slopes with shallow soils | Of concern |
| 7.11.44 | <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest to woodland of coastal metamorphic foothills | Of concern |
| 7.11.51 | <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> and/or <i>Eucalyptus drepanophylla</i> open forest to woodland on metamorphics | Of concern |
| 7.12.4 | <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> open forest of granites and rhyolites, on deep soils | Endangered |
| 7.12.9 | <i>Acacia celsa</i> open to closed forest on granites and rhyolites | Of concern |
| 7.12.21 | <i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> open forest to woodland, or <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> , <i>E. pellita</i> , and <i>E. grandis</i> , open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on granites and rhyolites | Endangered |
| 7.12.22 | <i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> +/- <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> tall open forest to tall woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on moist to wet granite and rhyolite uplands and highlands | Endangered |
| 7.12.37 | Rock pavements and see areas of wet lowlands, uplands and highlands of the eastern escarpment and central range (excluding high granite areas of Hinchinbrook Island and Bishops Peak) on granite and rhyolite, with <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp. shrublands and/or sedgeland | Of concern |

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 |
|--|--|--|---|----------------------|
| Plants | | | | |
| <i>Acalypha lyonsii</i> | | Vulnerable | Least concern | High |
| <i>Agathis microstachya</i> | bull kauri | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Alloxylon flammeum</i> | | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | Low |
| <i>Corybas cerasinus</i> | orchid | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Demorchis queenslandica</i> | orchid | Near threatened | Least concern | Data deficient |
| <i>Endiandra sideroxylon</i> | | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Eria irukandjiana</i> | orchid | Near threatened | Least concern | Data deficient |
| <i>Goodyera viridiflora</i> | orchid | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Huperzia lockyera</i> | | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | Critical |
| <i>Phyllanthera grayi</i> | | Vulnerable | Least concern | Medium |
| <i>Plectranthus gratus</i> | | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | Critical |
| <i>Psueduvaria mulgraveana</i> var <i>glabrescens</i> | | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Schizomeria whitei</i> | white birch | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Sphaerantia discolor</i> | Tully penda | Vulnerable | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Waterhousea mulgraveana</i> | | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| Animals | | | | |
| <i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i> | grey goshawk | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i> | Australian swiftlet | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> | southern cassowary (southern population) | Endangered | Endangered | Critical |
| <i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana</i> | Macleay's fig-parrot | Vulnerable | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Litoria nannotis</i> | waterfall frog | Endangered | Endangered | Low |
| <i>Litoria rheocola</i> | common mistfrog | Endangered | Endangered | Low |
| <i>Litoria serrata</i> | tapping green-eyed frog | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Nyctimystes dayi</i> | Australian lacelid | Endangered | Endangered | Low |
| <i>Pseudochirulus herbertensis</i> | Herbert River ringtail possum | Near threatened | Near threatened | Low |
| <i>Rhinolophus philippinensis</i> | greater large-eared horseshoe bat | Endangered | Endangered | High |
| <i>Taudactylus acutirostris</i> | sharp snouted dayfrog | Endangered | Extinct | Low |

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

| Scientific name | Common name | BONN | JAMBA | ROKAMBA | CAMBA |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------|-------|---------|-------|
| <i>Coracina tenuirostris</i> | cicadabird | - | ✓ | - | - |
| <i>Merops ornatus</i> | rainbow bee-eater | - | ✓ | - | - |
| <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> | glossy ibis | ✓ | - | - | ✓ |
| <i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i> | rufous fantail | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i> | spectacled monarch | ✓ | - | - | - |

BONN – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement