

Lama Lama National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land)

Management Statement

2013



Queensland
Government

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

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The Lama Lama National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) 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:	35,560ha
Bioregion:	Cape York Peninsula
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Cook Shire
State electorate:	Cook

Legislative framework

✓	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>
✓	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>
✓	<i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>
✓	<i>Aboriginal Land Act 1991</i>

Plans and agreements

✓	Indigenous Land Use Agreement "Lilyvale" between Alison Liddy, Gavin Bassani and McGinty Salt and State of Queensland
✓	Indigenous Management Agreement between Lama Lama Land Trust and State of Queensland (for Lama Lama National Park (CYPAL))
✓	China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Bonn Convention
✓	Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

Thematic strategies

✓	DRAFT Level 2 Fire Strategy
✓	DRAFT Level 2 Pest Strategy

Lama Lama Land Trust and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service jointly manage this park. The underlying tenure of this park is Aboriginal freehold land, owned by the Lama Lama Land Trust.

The Lama Lama people are the Traditional Owners of this area and are represented by the Lama Lama Land Trust in respect to the joint management of this park.

Vision

The Lama Lama Land Trust and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) work together in a spirit of cooperation to manage Lama Lama National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) (NP (CYPAL)).

Lama Lama country is managed in a way that recognises its importance to the Traditional Owners, and non-Indigenous people are encouraged to visit and share responsibility for the country.

Lama Lama people and non-Indigenous people work side by side for country, the old people, and current and future generations, in the same way Lama Lama land and sea country works side by side and comes together.

Equal partnerships and good spirit characterises Lama Lama NP (CYPAL) business including language, information sharing, meetings and on ground work. Effective joint management is based on the relationship between the partners that is built on trust, understanding and mutual respect.

Biodiversity conservation drives the management of Lama Lama NP (CYPAL) and is based on the keystone that natural and cultural values are inseparable in Lama Lama country.

Visitors to Queensland's first jointly managed park have the opportunity to appreciate, respect and enjoy Lama Lama NP (CYPAL)'s natural and cultural values.

Conservation purpose

Initially managed as Lilyvale Pastoral Holding and Binyo Timber Reserve 3, the 35,560ha Lama Lama NP (CYPAL) became Queensland's first jointly managed protected area on 11 July 2008. The park is jointly managed by the Lama Lama Land Trust and QPWS in accordance with the Lama Lama Indigenous Management Agreement (IMA) and other relevant legislation.

Lama Lama NP (CYPAL) protects important wetlands, catchments and river systems, coastal plains, significant plant communities and provides habitat for threatened and near threatened species.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Lama Lama NP (CYPAL) is in the Cape York Peninsula bioregion, within the Laura Lowland Basin, which is predominantly based on Tertiary/Quaternary deposits including sands, ferricretes, alluvial silts, clays and minor cretaceous shales with landforms of undulating lowlands. The eastern edge of the park is within the coastal plain of Princess Charlotte Bay and features Quaternary geology of coastal deposits, with landforms of saline clay plains, sand and shell beach ridges. The eastern side of Mount Newberry is the highest point in the park at 140m.

The Annie River forms the southern park boundary and forms an extensive ephemeral wetland during the wet season. Several swamps and wetlands occur on the park including the cultural significant Bull Swamp and Goose Swamp.

Watercourse and wetland soils currently experience severe impact during wet season from feral pigs *Sus scrofa*. Other landscape management issues are:

- developing a joint information system that enables cross cultural understanding of landscape values
- damage to these values from inappropriate use and management such as quad bike and four-wheel drive vehicles moving off designated tracks
- wetland/watercourse degradation, for example from pest related impacts erosion of tracks and roads and associated impacts on access and water quality
- impacts on landscape health and consequently scenic amenity from habitat degradation such as from pests, site degradation such as from erosion or damage from over use, spread of pest plants along roads and tracks, use of infrastructure that is not suitable for the landscape setting.

The many Lama Lama stories and cultural sites associated with this landscape are testimony to the Lama Lama people's traditional lifestyle and long spiritual connection with this country.

Regional ecosystems

Twenty-five regional ecosystem (RE) types have been identified in Lama Lama NP (CYPAL). Two of these are of concern (Table 1).

Evergreen notophyll vine forest on beach ridges on the east coast (RE 3.2.13) has been extensively cleared for grazing and agriculture. It is a fire sensitive ecosystem that is also threatened by invasive weeds like hyptis *Hyptis suaveolens*, lantana *Lantana camara* and rubber vine *Cryptostegia grandiflora*.

Melaleuca saligna ± *Hakea pedunculata* open forest occurs on the edges of salt pans. Current threats include extensive damage to soil structure, plants and animals from feral pigs *Sus scofra*; pest plants such as rubbervine *Cryptostegia grandiflora*; inappropriate incursions of quad bikes and four-wheel-drive vehicles; sea level rise; and salt incursion through cattle and quad bike impacts followed by wind erosion.

Native plants and animals

Over 266 plant species have been recorded in Lama Lama NP (CYPAL).

Key vegetation management issues include a lack of baseline data, the need to maintain diversity through fire and pest management regimes, and a lack of knowledge of the cultural and ecological role of fire.

Over 120 animal species have been recorded in Lama Lama NP (CYPAL), some of which are of conservation significance (Table 2).

Management issues include limited baseline data, the various habitat maintenance regimes required for specific species, monitoring of disease threats and monitoring of population dynamics.

Aboriginal culture

The Aboriginal Traditional Owners for this country are the Lama Lama people. Their land extends for several hundred kilometres around Princess Charlotte Bay, from the Massey River north to Silver Plains, to the Stewart River and south to the Normanby River. The country extends from the plains at the foot of the Great Dividing Range to the coast, and includes islands north of Princess Charlotte Bay. The many stories and cultural sites associated with this landscape are testimony to the Lama Lama people's traditional lifestyle and long spiritual connection with this country.

The cultural significance of Alingina Wungku Living Area, and Goose Swamp and Bull Swamp Area, have been recognised, with both being declared restricted access areas. A person, other than an acknowledged Lama Lama Traditional Owner, cannot enter or remain in these areas without a permit or written approval from QPWS.

Shared-history culture

The Lama Lama people living on country and in Coen today are the direct descendants of people who were forcibly removed from Aakurru (their homelands) under the *Department of Native Affairs Act 1961*. They were sent to live in communities at Lockhart River, Bamaga, Palm Island, Yarrabah and Cowal Creek (now Injinoo).

“The Port Stewart Lama Lama people were removed from their homes near the mouth of the Stewart River by the police in 1961, they were taken by boat to Bamaga (at the top of Cape York), their homes were burnt and their dogs were shot. In the following twenty years, Lama Lama people made their way back to the Port Stewart area and have started living in Coen, which is the nearest town.

During the 1970s many Lama Lama people visited the Port Stewart area on weekends and holidays and in the 1980s some families made a permanent camp at the site on the bank of the Stewart River, called Theethinji.

In 1992, the Queensland Government returned ownership of a public purpose reserve to the Lama Lama people. In 1997, a house was built for Lama Lama people at another camp on the river bank upstream from Theethinji. This site is called Moojeeba after a nearby waterhole.”

From—Moojeeba Theethinji: Planning for a Healthy Growing Community: Project Report (1997) Centre for Appropriate Technologies, Alice Springs.

The Lama Lama people played a major part in the establishment of the Cape York Peninsula cattle industry and their involvement was critical to its success. Most of the reminders of this history are located on Lilyvale and Running Creek stations.

The Overland Telegraph Line marks the western boundary of the park.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

Lama Lama NP (CYPAL) offers remote, low-key, self-reliant visitor experiences. Commercial tours may also provide an important way for the public to access and enjoy the park in a culturally appropriate way. The foreshore day-use area, in the north-east corner of the park, provides picnicking opportunities and is mainly visited by fishers. There are no current plans to develop camping areas on the park as there are several camping opportunities in

close vicinity.

Cross-cultural visitor information will be available through websites, displays and signs.

Tourism and visitor opportunities have been outlined for neighbouring Lama Lama country in the Lama Lama Country planning for a healthy growing community: Strategic community plan 2009 to 2013 and will complement those opportunities provided on Lama Lama NP (CYPAL).

Education and science

Lama Lama knowledge and information contributes to all aspects of park management. Education and science are keystones for achieving management objectives. Management of country can be improved by continuous learning. Cross-cultural learning—including Indigenous and non-Indigenous study of plant and animal species, habitat, natural systems and processes, and threats—is an integral component of park management.

The provision of relevant and appropriate educational resources and products will promote an understanding and appreciation of Lama Lama NP (CYPAL)'s values, visitor opportunities, appropriate behaviour and potential impacts and hazards. A statement of interpretive intent will be developed to identify educational opportunities for the park.

Limited recorded information means it is difficult to identify specific scientific values of Lama Lama NP (CYPAL). It may be a valuable scientific reference area for comparative research with more disturbed areas. Wetlands, such as Goose Lagoon, Bull Swamp and associated ephemeral wetlands, are important for many plant and animal species within the park, and are an excellent reference point for the coastal plains of Princess Charlotte Bay.

Partnerships

The primary management partnership for Lama Lama NP (CYPAL) is the joint management arrangement between the Lama Lama Land Trust and QPWS in accordance with an IMA and other relevant legislation. The parties manage the park according to the following management principles:

- to provide, to the greatest possible extent, for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition and the protection of the area's cultural resources and values
- to present the area's cultural and natural resources and their values
- to ensure that the only use of the area is nature-based and ecologically sustainable
- subject to the above, in a way that is consistent with any Aboriginal traditions applicable to the area, including any tradition relating to activities in the area.

Other key issues and responses

Fire management

Fire is part of Lama Lama's management of country and associated cultural business. Optimal timing, frequency and intensity of fire vary from ecosystem to ecosystem.

A whole-of-country approach is used to manage fire on Lama Lama NP (CYPAL).

The key objectives are:

- fire management based on a collaborative, traditional, adaptive and ecological approach, which is informed by a joint information baseline
- life, property and infrastructure in the park and neighbouring lands are protected
- Lama Lama Traditional Owners manage fire in relation to their cultural responsibilities as per the agreed fire management strategy, with technical and practical support where required
- the joint information baseline and fire regimes are informed by continuous learning about fire as an ecological process
- intensity and frequency of burning is consistent with the ecological requirements of Lama Lama NP (CYPAL)'s mosaic of ecosystems.

Pest management

A whole-of-country approach is used to manage pests on Lama Lama NP (CYPAL).

Pests on Lama Lama NP (CYPAL) are mainly related to previous grazing, forestry, roadworks and recreational activities such as fishing. Pest plant prevention and control are a priority, particularly given the spread of aggressive declared pest plants in the surrounding areas.

Pest plants identified in adjoining Lilyvale and Running Creek areas which may pose significant threats are:

- star burr *Acanthospermum hispidum*
- green amaranth *Amaranthus viridis*
- khaki weed *Alternanthera pungens*
- creeping cindarella weed *Calyptocarpus vialis*
- olive hymenachne *Hymenachne amplexicaulis* (Class 2)
- rubber vine *Cryptostegia grandiflora* (Class 2)
- lantana *Lantana camara* (Class 3)
- snakeweed *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis* (non-declared)
- hyptis *Mesosphaerum sauveolens* (non-declared)
- coffee senna *Senna occidentalis* (non-declared)
- American jointvetch *Aeschynomene americana* (non-declared)
- noogoora burr *Xanthium pungens* (non-declared)
- spinyhead sida *Sida acuta* (non-declared)
- centro *Centrosema molle* (non-declared)
- roundleaf cassia *Chamaecrista rotundifolia* (non-declared)
- gambia pea *Crotalaria goreensis* (non-declared)
- button grass *Dactyloctenium radulans* (non-declared)
- emilia *Emilia sonchifolia* (non-declared)
- seedbox *Ludwigia hyssopifolia* (non-declared)
- common sensitive plant *Mimosa pudica* (non-declared)
- wild passionfruit *Passiflora foetida* (non-declared)
- ground cherry *Physalis angulate* (non-declared)
- sicklepod senna *Senna obtusifolia* (non-declared)
- flannel weed *Sida cordifolia* (non-declared)
- Caribbean stylo *Stylosanthes hamata* (non-declared)
- Townsville stylo *Stylosanthes humilis* (non-declared)
- cinderella weed *Synedrella nodiflora* (non-declared)
- tridax daisy *Tridax procumbens* (non-declared)
- chinese burr *Triumfetta rhomboidea* (non-declared)
- urena weed *Urena lobata* (non-declared).

Pest animals identified in the park include:

- feral pigs *Sus scrofa* (Class 2)
- cats *Felis catus* (Class 2)
- wild dogs *Canis lupus familiaris* (Class 2)
- European cattle *Bos Taurus*.

Monitoring and prevention activities for the noxious fish, spotted tilapia *Tilapia mariae* and Mozambique mouthbrooder *Oreochromis mossambicus*, will be critical to the health of water bodies in the park. These species are aggressive colonisers with high tolerances to a variety of aquatic conditions.

The key pest management issues for Lama Lama NP (CYPAL) are building accurate baseline data, systematic surveys, control (eradication or containment) of existing high priority pests, and active monitoring and control of new pest threats.

References

- Abrahams, H, et al (1995) *CYPLUS Land Use Program: Areas of Conservation Significance on CYP*.
- Cork, S.J (2003) *The nature and value of ecosystem services in Australia*, CSIRO: Canberra.
- Lama Lama Land Trust (2010) *Lama Lama Country, Planning for a healthy growing community: Strategic Community Plan 2009 to 2013*.
- QPWS (2001) *Assessment of the Conservation Values of "Lilyvale Station": As part of Strategy 1 of the Cape York NHT Plan*.
- QPWS (2001) *Assessment of the Conservation Values of "Running Creek": As part of Strategy 1 of the Cape York NHT Plan*.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Landscape</p> <p>Joint decision-making is based on a cross cultural understanding of Lama Lama lore and landscape processes.</p> <p>Landscape values are conserved.</p> <p>Scenic amenity values of Lama Lama NP (CYPAL) are consistent with the overall character of the park and site-specific landscape settings.</p> <p>Watercourses, wetlands, groundwater and catchments are protected.</p> <p>Natural stream processes are maintained/restored.</p>	<p>Develop and apply joint decision-making processes that are based upon a joint information management system that links cross-cultural information.</p> <p>Ensure public amenities and infrastructure are appropriate to the landscape.</p> <p>Use local provenance (local to the park) plants and natural materials to rehabilitate disturbed and degraded areas.</p> <p>Monitor the health of watercourses and wetlands.</p> <p>Minimise the impacts of infrastructure and works on catchment, watercourse, ground water and wetland health.</p>
<p>Native plants and animals</p> <p>The diversity and values of native plants and animals are conserved, and where possible, enhanced.</p>	<p>Address critical knowledge gaps through research, monitoring and assessment.</p> <p>Undertake cross-cultural monitoring of regional ecosystems and species of conservation significance as indicators of habitat condition.</p> <p>Develop a priority list of representative species and communities of conservation concern that require special management.</p>
<p>Aboriginal culture</p> <p>QPWS employees are aware of cultural values and management requirements.</p>	<p>Develop and implement cross-cultural and traditional land management training for QPWS employees.</p> <p>Explore development of a cultural heritage management plan under the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>.</p>
<p>Shared-history culture</p> <p>Shared-history cultural heritage is conserved, protected and presented, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Identify, record, conserve and protect shared-history cultural heritage themes, sites and items and use for interpretive and educational purposes in a culturally appropriate manner.</p>
<p>Tourism and visitor opportunities</p> <p>Provide a low-key, self-reliant visitor experience without damaging natural or cultural values.</p> <p>Commercial activities in Lama Lama NP (CYPAL) are culturally and environmentally appropriate.</p>	<p>Provide visitor opportunities based on appreciating, respecting and enjoying natural and cultural values of Lama Lama NP (CYPAL).</p> <p>Conduct regular park patrols during the visitor season to interact with visitors and ensure appropriate visitor behaviour.</p> <p>Support culturally appropriate tourism.</p> <p>Establish partnerships between tourism operators and Traditional Owners.</p> <p>Encourage commercial operators to improve their understanding of Lama Lama NP (CYPAL)'s overall values by using available educational information.</p>
<p>Education and science</p> <p>Research and monitoring programs provide a greater understanding of Lama Lama NP (CYPAL)'s values and inform future management decisions.</p>	<p>Park management regimes are based on the outcomes of research and implemented to ensure continuous improvement.</p>
<p>Partnerships</p> <p>The Land Trust and QPWS have a strong and positive collaborative working relationship, built on trust and respect for each other's knowledge and responsibilities.</p> <p>Relationships with neighbours are fostered and maintained and collaborative management occurs across the landscape.</p>	<p>Provide a Lama Lama NP (CYPAL) annual report, conduct joint management meetings, develop protocols and provide activity notices as prescribed in the IMA.</p>
<p>Fire management</p> <p>Natural and cultural values are maintained through a strategic cross-cultural fire management regime.</p> <p>Fire management processes and plans are developed in accordance with the IMA.</p>	<p>Use the QPWS Fire Management Systems to develop fire management strategies and operations that achieve key objectives.</p> <p>Lama Lama NP (CYPAL)'s fire regime is part of a whole-of-country approach.</p> <p>Particular attention is given to maintaining ecosystems, ecotones and buffers through mosaic burns.</p> <p>Fires are only permitted in designated fireplaces in the day-use area, and for authorised management and/or Traditional Owner purposes</p>

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Pest management Natural and cultural values are maintained through strategic sustained pest management.</p>	<p>Use the QPWS Pest Management Systems tools to organise pest management operations.</p>

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
3.2.13	Evergreen notophyll vine forest on beach ridges on the east coast.	Of concern
3.3.13	<i>Melaleuca saligna</i> ± <i>Hakea pedunculata</i> open forest. Occurs on edges of salt pans.	Of concern

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 status	Back on Track status
Plants				
<i>Dendrobium johannis</i>	brown antelope orchid	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Stylidium longissimum</i>	trigger plant	Vulnerable	-	Low
Animals				
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	little tern	Endangered	-	High
<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	estuarine crocodile	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Tadorna radjah</i>	Radjah shelduck	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	black-necked stork	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	Near threatened	-	Low