

Maleny National Park

Management Statement

2013



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

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The Maleny 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:	1,880ha
Bioregion:	South Eastern Queensland
QPWS region:	Sunshine and Fraser Coast
Local government estate/area:	Sunshine Coast Council
State electorate:	Glass House and Nicklin

Legislative framework

✓	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>
✓	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990</i>
✓	<i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>

Plans and agreements

✓	Bonn Convention
✓	China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 Fire Management Strategy
✓	Level 2 Pest Management Strategy

Vision

Maleny National Park, consisting of two large sub-coastal remnants, will protect particular Eucalypt open forests considered of concern in South East Queensland that are not well conserved in other protected area estate. The park will continue to provide connectivity with other protected areas and will continue to be managed to maintain the good quality ecosystems and significant plant and animal species present.

Conservation purpose

Maleny National Park, gazetted in 2006, was previously Maleny Forest Reserve 2 and Walli Forest Reserve which were transferred from State forests as part of the South East Queensland Forests Agreement in 2003. As State forests, these areas were relatively untouched. Visitor numbers have remained very low since conversion to national park tenure. This undisturbed nature has maintained significant ecological values. Management will focus on retaining the conservation values of the park.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

The park lies to the west and south west of Mapleton township. It consists of two separate sections—Walli (western) and Kidaman Creek (eastern)—with largely cleared rural freehold land in between. The park represents a relatively large, sub-coastal remnant area which protects important vegetation links with several other protected areas including Kondalilla National Park, Conondale National Park, Imbil State Forest and Mapleton National Park.

The vegetation protects the water quality in some of the headwaters for the Mary River system. The creeks provide important habitat for stream frogs including the vulnerable *Adelotus brevis*. A number of waterfalls which are difficult to access are known to occur in the Walli section.

The Kidaman Creek section has a scenic corridor along 'The Suicide' or Kidaman Creek Road which was designated as a landscape protection area under the *Forestry Act 1959*.

Five nature refuges lie in the vicinity of the national park. The Jilumbar Nature Refuge shares a boundary with the Kidaman section of the park. The largest of these five is Curramore Sanctuary Nature Refuge (170ha) to the south of the Walli section.

Regional ecosystems

Sixteen regional ecosystems have been mapped for the park including six of conservation significance (Table 1).

The lowland rainforest remnants state biodiversity significance status due to their importance as a drought/fire refuge.

The Kidaman Creek section contains areas of non-remnant vegetation.

Native plants and animals

A comprehensive plant survey recorded 500 species of which five are scheduled as of conservation significance (Table 2). A further eight species are also considered priority taxa for South East Queensland. These are *Brunoniella spiciflora*, white karambal *Harnieria hygrophiloides*, velvet leaf *Callicarpa pedunculata*, *Grevillea hilliana*, *Triflorensia cameronii*, *Dinosperma melanophloia*, *Artanema fimbriatum* and white apple *Endiandra virens*.

The Kidaman Creek section has an unusual *Eucalyptus montivaga* community which is rare for the Sunshine Coast region. It is mostly restricted to higher altitudes above 600m. This is one of the lowest altitudes at which this species has been recorded.

Seven species of native animals of conservation significance have been recorded (Table 2) as well as the greater glider *Petauroides volans* which is a priority taxa in South East Queensland. A further six birds protected under international migratory agreements have also been recorded (Table 3).

Aboriginal culture

The western sections of the park are covered by a native title claim QC2013/003 on behalf of the Kabi Kabi First Nation. The Jinibara people have a successful native title determination over the east part of the Kidaman Creek section of the park. An Indigenous Land Use Agreement has been reached between the State Of Queensland and the Jinibara People Aboriginal Corporation in March 2013.

Four sites have been identified under the Aboriginal Sites Database for the Walli section. They include an earthen arrangement, a pathway, an artefact scatter and one other not specified.

Shared-history culture

The Walli section did contain open mine shafts from early mining activities but many of these have been filled in as part of a mines safety audit. Due to the remote nature of this park though, it is possible open mine shafts may still be found especially after fire events.

The park has been used extensively for grazing by adjacent property holders. All grazing leases have currently expired. Cattle straying from neighbouring properties occasionally impact on the park.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

Visitor opportunities in the park include bushwalking and nature observation. There are no recreational or interpretive facilities currently provided on this park as the nearby Mapleton National Park provides a diverse variety of recreational and educational opportunities.

Education and science

Maleny National Park provides valuable benchmark opportunities for ecological studies due to its relatively undisturbed nature.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Pest plant infestations occur mostly along the park edges, track sides and creek edges. The key species requiring control include lantana *Lantana camara*, mistflower *Ageratina riparia*, silver-leaf desmodium *Desmodium uncinatum* and asparagus fern *Protasparagus* sp. Molasses grass *Melinis minutiflora* and lantana have also been located at the site of a severely degraded land slip area along the ridge line towards the northern boundary of the Kidaman Creek section.

Extreme weather events may cause an increase in the spread of pest plants as well as a change in the structure of native vegetation.

Feral dogs *Canus familiaris*, cats *Felis catus* and cane toads *Rhinella marina* are present. In addition, the Kidaman Creek section also has cows which stray onto park and can cause exotic grasses to become established.

Fire management

The park is managed under a fire management strategy (2010) that covers Kondalilla National Park and Maleny National Park. The conservation zone contains rainforest/vine scrub/riparian areas which should not be burnt and the ecotone between this and drier forest types are habitat for significant species. This area could be adversely affected by repeated scorching of rainforest margins leading to retraction of rainforest and increased potential for invasion by pest plants.

The eucalypt communities have been burnt in the past following forestry burning regimes. The large areas of blady grass *Imperata cylindrica* in these open forests is evidence of this regular burning regime.

Resource use

There are no known permits or leases over the Kidaman Creek section but there is a major power line that cuts through the north-eastern corner. Military exercises also occur on park.

One commercial activity permit exists for the Walli section. Banyo Road is a gazetted road through the Walli section and is managed by Sunshine Coast Regional Council.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Landscape</p> <p>The integrity of the landscapes, regional ecosystems and conservation significant species is conserved.</p>	<p>Undertake a native plant and animal survey in the Kidaman Creek section to improve baseline information.</p> <p>Map and monitor the populations of plants considered priority taxa in South East Queensland bioregion.</p> <p>Consider additions of land to the park estate to link the two sections as opportunities arise.</p> <p>Degazette the section of Banyo Road which runs through the park and incorporate it in the protected area thereby transferring management to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.</p>
<p>Cultural heritage</p> <p>Sites and materials of Aboriginal or shared-history cultural significance are identified and preserved where appropriate.</p>	<p>Ensure cultural heritage values are not compromised by fire, access and track management.</p>
<p>Tourism and visitor opportunities</p> <p>Recreation opportunities are consistent with the natural and cultural values of the national park.</p>	<p>Manage the park to provide visitor opportunities which are in keeping with the undisturbed character of the park and do not require day use facilities.</p>
<p>Fire and pest management</p> <p>Regional ecosystems and communities are not detrimentally affected by fire and pest plants.</p>	<p>Undertake an assessment for the revegetation/regeneration plan for the severely degraded molasses grass site on the Kidaman Creek section and control climbing pest plants such as blue morning glory <i>Ipomoea indica</i>, <i>Desmodium uncinatum</i> and siratro <i>Macroptilium atropurpureum</i> on the park.</p>
<p>Partnerships</p> <p>Relationships with neighbours are maintained and collaborative management occurs on issues of mutual concern.</p>	<p>Work closely with neighbours to restrict encroachment of stock on to park (including the north east corner of the Kidaman Creek section).</p>

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.3.1	Gallery rainforest (notophyll vine forest) on alluvial plains.	Endangered
12.3.11	<i>Eucalyptus siderophloia</i> , <i>E. tereticornis</i> , <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest on alluvial plains usually near coast.	Of concern
12.8.8	<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i> or <i>E. grandis</i> tall open forest on Cainozoic igneous rocks.	Of concern
12.11.9	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest on metamorphics ± interbedded volcanics. Higher altitudes.	Of concern
12.12.1	Simple notophyll vine forest usually with abundant <i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i> (gully vine forest) on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks.	Of concern
12.12.12	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> , <i>E. crebra</i> or <i>E. siderophloia</i> , <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks.	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>Bosistoa transversa</i>	three leaved bosistoa	Least concern	Vulnerable	-
<i>Macadamia ternifolia</i>	bopple nut	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Pararistolochia praevenosa</i>	Richmond birdwing vine	Near threatened	-	High
<i>Romnaldia strobilacea</i>	-	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
<i>Symplocos harroldii</i>	hairy hazelwood	Near threatened	-	Low
Animals				
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	grey goshawk	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Adelotus brevis</i>	tusked frog	Vulnerable	-	Medium
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	koala	Vulnerable	-	-
<i>Podargus ocellatus plumiferus</i>	plumed frogmouth	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	grey-headed flying-fox	Least concern	Vulnerable	Critical
<i>Saproscincus rosei</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Tyto tenebricosa tenebricosa</i>	sooty owl	Near threatened	-	Low

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	BONN	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	cicadabird	-	-	✓	-
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	white throated needletail	-	✓	✓	✓
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater	-	-	✓	-
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	black-faced monarch	✓	-	-	-
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-
<i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i>	spectacled monarch	✓	-	-	-

BONN (CMS) – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement