

Skull Knob Regional Park Management Statement

Park purpose

Skull Knob Regional Park was formally gazetted as an environmental park in 1988. In 1994 it was re-gazetted under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* to become a conservation park. Over time additions to the park have increased its size from an initial 26ha to 303ha.

No park specific purpose was identified as part of the gazettal. However the wetlands protected by this park are listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia.

Park size	303ha
Bioregion	Central Queensland Coast
Local government area	Mackay Regional Council
State electorate	Whitsunday
QPWS region	Central
Year prepared: 2015	Review date: 2025

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Skull Knob Regional Park has been assessed as having a basic level of priority for management and will be managed according to this priority rating.

Park management will be based on the best available local knowledge, professional judgement and anecdotal information. The basic level priority means it will receive annual routine inspections, with occasional planned visits where issues have been identified. The focus is largely expected to be on natural resource management involving proactive management to understand and protect known natural values.

Cultural values will be managed proactively to protect those values known to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, (QPWS). Informal ad-hoc local consultation, collaboration and relationships with Traditional Owners and Indigenous stakeholders, will be undertaken as required to progress specific issues and programs.

This park currently has low levels of visitor use and provides no developed visitor sites. Visitors are unlikely to encounter a ranger on site during their visit. Current and future recreational opportunities will require that visitors have a high level of self-sufficiency and are primarily responsible for their own personal safety. The Mackay Regional Council has a small campground adjacent to the regional park.

Informal ad-hoc consultation with community stakeholders will be undertaken on specific issues of park management.

Park assets will consist of minimal robust infrastructure which is required for the protection of natural and cultural values and self-reliant use by the public. The park is crossed by an Ergon power-line.

General park values, uses and management

Regional ecosystems

Skull Knob Regional Park protects nine regional ecosystems, of which three have endangered biodiversity status and three have of concern status, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

Ten species of conservation significance recorded from this park include eight bird species and two mammal species, Table 2.

Cultural heritage

All protected areas are recognised as cultural landscapes and Aboriginal people see themselves as inextricably linked to country, both spiritually and physically. Cultural records on physical artefacts and sites of spiritual significance are documented for this area. All proposed activities need to meet duty of care requirements under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*. Non-indigenous historic places will be managed in accordance with the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

Marine protected areas

Skull Knob Regional Park adjoins the general use zone (light blue) in the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Coast Marine Park. A general use zone provides for conservation whilst still allowing reasonable use of the area to occur. Any person wishing to conduct activities in this zone must comply with the *Marine Parks Act 2004*.

Skull Knob Regional Park is located within the Repulse declared Fish Habitat Area (FHA) management A area, which significantly constrains development activities. This declaration under the *Fisheries Act 1994* requires that activities on the regional park must consider the potential impacts on the FHA. Approval is required before development can commence, unless authorised under a self-assessable code. Development works may include on-park activities such as construction of boardwalks and bird hides.

Priorities for park management

The six regional ecosystems and ten animal species of conservation significance are the main values of this park. The priorities for park management will be to mitigate any threats to these values through fire and pest management.

Management actions will be undertaken which aim to ensure:

- life and property on and adjacent to the park are protected
- fire is managed to conserve or maintain the condition of the regional ecosystems through the application of planned burn guidelines
- the impacts of existing pest species on neighbouring land uses are mitigated
- pest threats are managed to conserve or maintain the condition of regional ecosystems and animal species of conservation significance
- consideration of the impacts on the declared FHA is undertaken when planning and conducting fire or pest management activities on the park in accordance with the FHA code of practice.

Appendix 1

Conservation values inventory

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
8.12.20a	<i>Eucalyptus drepanophylla</i> and/or <i>E. platyphylla</i> woodland to open forest	Of concern
8.1.2	Samphire open forbland on saltpans and plains adjacent to mangroves	Of concern
8.2.2	Semi-evergreen microphyll vine thicket to vine forest, on coastal dunes	Endangered
8.2.6a	<i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> open forest to low woodland on parallel dunes	Of concern
8.3.2	<i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i> woodland on seasonally inundated alluvial plains with impeded drainage	Endangered
8.3.5	<i>Eucalyptus platyphylla</i> and/or <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> and/or <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> woodland on alluvial plains	Endangered

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
Animals				
<i>Ardea ibis</i> ^{2,3}	cattle egret	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Ardea modesta</i> ^{2,3}	eastern great egret	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	beach stone-curlew	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Merops ornatus</i> ³	rainbow bee-eater	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> ^{1,2,3,4}	eastern curlew	Near threatened	Critically endangered	Low
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i> ^{1,2,3,4}	whimbrel	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Pandion cristatus</i> ¹	eastern osprey	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i> ¹	spectacled monarch	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Taphozous australis</i>	coastal sheath-tail bat	Near threatened	-	High
<i>Xeromys myoides</i>	water mouse	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High

¹Bonn: Bonn Convention

³JAMBA: Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

²CAMBA: China-Australia Migratory Agreement

⁴ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement