

# Bell Creek Regional Park Management Statement

## Park purpose

Bell Creek Regional Park was formally gazetted as Bell Creek Environmental Park in 1986 under the *Land Act 1962*. At that time there was a Trustee Agreement with Banana Shire Council. The environmental park was gazetted to Bell Creek Conservation Park in 1994 under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

No park specific purpose was identified as part of the gazettal.

Park size	93.3ha
Bioregion	Brigalow Belt
Local government area	Banana Shire Council
State electorate	Callide
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, Bell Creek 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 other Indigenous stakeholders will be undertaken as required to progress specific issues and programs.

This park currently has low levels of infrequent visitor use. The park surrounds a small reserve used by the local tennis club. 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.

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. One 22kV power-line is located within a cleared corridor that transects the park.

## General park values, uses and management

### Regional ecosystems

Bell Creek Regional Park protects two regional ecosystems, both of which have of concern biodiversity status, Table 1.

### Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance recorded from this park include the golden-tailed gecko *Strophurus taenicauda*, 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. Although cultural records on physical artefacts and sites of spiritual significance are not well 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*.

## Priorities for park management

The two regional ecosystems and one 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 is protected;
- fire is managed to conserve or maintain the condition of the regional ecosystem 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.

## Appendix 1

### Conservation values inventory

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

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
11.3.4	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> and/or <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. woodland on alluvial plains.	Of concern
11.3.25	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> or <i>E. camaldulensis</i> woodland fringing drainage lines.	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
Animals				
<i>Strophurus taenicauda</i>	golden-tailed gecko	Near threatened	-	Medium