

Expedition Resources Reserve

Management Statement

2015

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

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The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation acknowledges Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land. We recognise their connection to land, sea and community, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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The Expedition Resources Reserve Management Statement 2015 has been extended in 2024, in line with the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (s120G). Minor administrative amendments have been made to correct an error relating to the reserve purpose and to update general reserve information. There has been no change to the statement's original management intent and direction.

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| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Reserve size: | 3059.9ha |
| Bioregion: | Brigalow Belt |
| QPWS region: | South West |
| Local government estate/area: | Banana Shire Council Central Highlands Regional Council |
| State electorate: | Callide Gregory |

Legislative framework

| | |
|---|--|
| ✓ | <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Lands Act 1982</i> |

Plans and agreements

| | |
|---|--|
| ✓ | Japan—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement |
|---|--|

Reserve purpose

Expedition Resources Reserve was gazetted under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* for the purpose of conserving the significant natural and cultural values in concert with resource use for water supply. It comprises 3 discontinuous parcels - Lot 5 on Plan TR839674 (2,930 hectares) gazetted in 1994, and Lots 5 and 7 on Plan SP275178 (17.9 and 112ha respectively) gazetted in 2015.

In 1986, the area of the large parcel was identified for inclusion in adjoining national park, however due to this area's potential as water storage for a proposed dam site on the Dawson River it was instead gazetted as Reserve for Departmental and Official (Water, Recreation and Environmental) Purposes in 1992 under the *Land Act 1962* with the former National Parks and Wildlife Service and former Queensland Water Resources Commission as trustees. In 1994, the parcel was gazetted Expedition Resource Reserve under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, rather than national park, to allow continued access to the water supply resource use.

Resources reserve is an interim conservation tenure intended for future progression to the higher conservation tenure of conservation park or national park, upon cessation of the resource use.

Strategic direction for management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Expedition Resources Reserve has been assessed as having a basic level of priority for management. The reserve will be managed according to this priority rating.

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

Cultural values will be managed proactively to protect those values known to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services, (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 reserve currently has low levels of infrequent visitor use and provides a few relatively undeveloped 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.

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

Reserve 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.

Protecting and presenting the area's values

Regional ecosystems

The reserve protects six regional ecosystems, one of which has endangered biodiversity status and two are of concern, Table 1.

Plants and animals

Species of conservation significance recorded from this reserve includes one bird species, Table 2 and 3.

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*.

Other key issues and responses

Resource use

The resource use identified for Expedition Resources Reserve at gazettal was water supply for the then proposed damsite on the Upper Dawson River.

Two petroleum leases (PL 232 and PL 100), a petroleum pipeline licence (PPL 2066), and an exploration permit for coal (EPC 1110) currently cover much of the large parcel of the resource reserve, although no infrastructure has been constructed to date. The northernmost parcel (Lot 7 SP275178) is covered by 3 resource authorities - Potential Commercial Area Petroleum (PCA 317), Authority to Prospect (ATP 2023) and Petroleum Survey Licence (PSL 2058). There are no current leases for grazing.

Priorities for management

The three regional ecosystems, the bird species of conservation significance and mineral resources are the main values of this reserve. The priorities for 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 reserve is 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 these regional ecosystems and species of conservation significance
- access to mineral resources continues.

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

| Regional ecosystem number | Description | Biodiversity status |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 11.3.2 | <i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> woodland on alluvial plains | Of concern |
| 11.3.25 | <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> or <i>E. camaldulensis</i> woodland fringing drainage lines | Of concern |
| 11.9.4a | Semi-evergreen vine thicket, generally dominated by a low tree layer (5-10m high) which is floristically diverse and variable. Vines are frequent. The ground layer is very sparse, and is most frequently composed of <i>Ancistrachne uncinulata</i> and <i>Eragrostis megalosperma</i> . Occurs on steep upper and middle slopes where heavy clay soils have formed from sediments. | 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>Merops ornatus</i> | rainbow bee-eater | Special least Concern | - | Low |

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

| Scientific name | Common name | CMS | CAMBA | JAMBA | ROKAMBA |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----|-------|-------|---------|
| <i>Merops ornatus</i> | rainbow bee-eater | - | - | ✓ | - |

BONN (CMS) – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement