

Good Night Scrub National Park

Management Statement

2013



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

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The Good Night Scrub 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:	6,680 ha
Bioregion:	South Eastern Queensland
QPWS region:	Sunshine and Fraser Coast
Local government estate/area:	Bundaberg Regional Council North Burnett Regional Council
State electorate:	Callide

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

Good Night Scrub National Park will be managed to conserve its high biodiversity values including regional ecosystems, plants and animals of conservation significance. It will be maintained in its natural state for use by self-reliant visitors. Cultural heritage values will be protected.

Conservation purpose

Good Night Scrub National Park is situated on the Burnett River approximately 10km to the west of the small township of Booyal and about 35km by road southwest of the town of Gin Gin. It is conserved to protect approximately 5,500ha of one of the few remaining examples of dry vine scrub in the district.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscapes

The landscape consists of moderate to steep slopes and Cainozoic alluvial plains and Piedmont fans. It contains moderately to strongly deformed and metamorphosed Mesozoic to Protozoic sediments and interbedded volcanic rocks. Prior to original gazettal as a national park in 1998, the park was a State forest and was used for timber harvesting and cattle grazing. There are minor to moderate erosion issues relating to inadequate track and road maintenance. The park has excellent scenic values with spectacular 360-degree views from Bundaberg to Mt Walsh achievable on clear days from the old fire tower site on One Tree Hill Lookout. The wall of Paradise Dam is located at the south-east corner of the park and the dam and its catchment can be seen from the southern boundary track.

The major threat to the landscape comes from creeping lantana *Lantana montevidensis* which almost totally dominates the ground layer and greatly affects juvenile recruitment of the upper vegetation layer in large parts of the eucalypt/corymbia woodland. Grazing and rural residential properties surround the park.

Regional ecosystems

The park contains one endangered regional ecosystem and four that are of concern (Table 1). Intact stands of endangered 12.3.3 *Eucalyptus tereticornis* open forest to woodland on alluvial plains are important habitat for animals as *Eucalyptus tereticornis* grows into a very large hollow-forming tree. The dry vine scrub community containing low microphyll rainforest with *Araucaria cunninghamii* and semi-evergreen vine thicket is significant in size and conservation value and is of concern. It is interwoven with microphyll and microphyll/notophyll rainforest throughout much of the park and is not a fire tolerant community.

The remainder of the vegetation communities consist of dry sclerophyll eucalyptus/corymbia forest/woodland and small areas of riparian open forest. The dry sclerophyll eucalypt/corymbia communities are well on the way to recovering from timber harvesting and grazing impacts.

Native plants and animals

In excess of 690 plant and animal species have been recorded on the park. Significant plants and animals are listed in Table 2. There are no special species management programs in place.

Aboriginal culture

The native title claim QC2001/029 Port Curtis Coral Coast covers the area in which the park is located. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) has limited detailed information about the Aboriginal cultural values of the park.

Opportunity exists to further develop relationships with the Traditional Owners of the area.

Shared-history culture

There are no known shared-history cultural resources left on the park. The infrastructure built for timber harvesting has been removed, with the Kalliwa slab hut now the responsibility of hydrological management agency SunWater as part of the Paradise Dam land excision.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The semi-remote, rugged nature of the landscape lends itself to adventure recreation. Camping is not permitted but casual visitor use is made of the park for picnics, exploring, hiking and trail bike riding. Relatively low levels of illegal camping still occur. The Bundaberg Regional Council proposal to build a campground on the park boundary

near the dam wall has not yet progressed but visitor usage levels would increase markedly if it does. The park is bound and crossed by gazetted public gravel roads suitable mainly for four-wheel-drive vehicles, although two-wheel drives can be used in dry periods. The management intent is to retain the natural state of the park for self-reliant visitors.

Partnerships

Regular liaison is maintained with neighbours, the Bundaberg Regional Council and SunWater on issues of common interest such as infrastructure maintenance, and fire and pest management. Future levels of consultation and cooperation will increase if the proposed Council campground is built adjacent to the park.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Creeping lantana *Lantana montevidensis* has had the greatest impact on the landscape values of the park by almost totally dominating the ground vegetation layer and greatly affecting juvenile recruitment of the upper vegetation layer. Without an effective biological control agent it is not feasible to remove this pest plant from the park. Other pest plants include lantana *Lantana camara*, mother of millions *Bryophyllum tubiflorum*, cat's claw creeper *Macfadyena unguis-cati*, and giant rat's tail grass *Sporobolus pyramidalis*.

Feral pigs, feral cattle and foxes are present and present moderate threats. There is no formal pest animal control program in place at present. Baiting of wild dogs along the park boundary has been undertaken in the past with the cooperation of neighbours. A Level 2 pest management strategy is in place.

Fire management

The vine scrub, particularly the margins, is very susceptible to fire. Careful fire management, including prudent planned burning intervals, is necessary as the vine scrub is located within fire tolerant eucalyptus/corymbia communities. A Level 2 fire management strategy has been developed.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Pest management Creeping lantana and its impacts are controlled, and cats claw is excluded from the vine scrub.</p>	<p>Identify and implement an effective method for controlling creeping lantana, including a suitable biological method. Monitor the spread of cat's claw creeper and implement control measures as needed. Increase level of co-ordination and co-operation with neighbours as required for pest plant control.</p>
<p>Tourism and visitor opportunities The park will continue to offer low key recreation opportunities for self-reliant visitors.</p>	<p>Monitor visitor use trends to enable early identification of increasing visitor numbers should facilities on adjacent off-park recreational areas be expanded.</p>
<p>Partnerships Solid partnerships exist with other stakeholders on park management issues.</p>	<p>Promote partnerships with local authorities, neighbours, hydrological management agencies and tourism and recreation bodies to achieve effective park management.</p>

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.3.3	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open-forest to woodland.	Endangered
12.11.8	<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i> usually with <i>E. crebra</i> grassy woodland.	Of concern
12.11.12	Microphyll and microphyll/notophyll vine forest ± <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> .	Of concern
12.11.13	Low microphyll vine forest ± <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> and semi-evergreen vine thicket.	Of concern
12.12.8	<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i> , usually with <i>E. crebra</i> ± <i>Corymbia erythrophloia</i> grassy woodland.	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>Alyxia magnifolia</i>		Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Cycas megacarpa</i>		Endangered	Endangered	Critical
<i>Cupaniopsis shirleyana</i>	wedge-leaf tuckeroo	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High
Animals				
<i>Adelotus brevis</i>	tusked frog	Vulnerable	-	Medium
<i>Litoria brevipalmata</i>	green-thighed frog	Near threatened	-	Medium
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	square-tailed kite	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	powerful owl	Vulnerable	-	Medium
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	koala (South East Queensland bioregion)	Vulnerable	-	-

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	BONN	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater	-	-	✓	-
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	black-faced monarch	✓	-	-	-
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-

BONN (CMS) – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement