

Irongate Regional Park Management Statement

Park purpose

Irongate was formally gazetted as an Irongate Environmental Park in 1976 under the *Lands Act 1962*. At that time there was a Trustee Agreement with the Pittsworth Shire Council. In 1994 the environmental park was gazetted to Irongate Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

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

Park size	29ha
Bioregion	Brigalow Belt
Local government area	Toowoomba Regional Council
State electorate	Cunningham
QPWS region	South West
Year prepared: 2015	Review date: 2025

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Irongate Regional Park has been assessed as having a medium 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 medium level means that it will receive a minimum of quarterly routine inspections with occasional planned visits where issues have been identified. The focus is largely expected to be on natural resource management involving a proactive management effort at a moderate level to understand or protect known natural values.

Cultural values will be managed proactively to protect those values known to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, (QPWS). Ongoing consultation, collaboration and relationships with Traditional Owners and Indigenous stakeholders will be undertaken as required to support broader continuing park management programs.

This park currently has relatively low levels of visitor use and provides a walking track that is signed with information concerning the natural values. 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. A moderate level of infrastructure is provided to support safe and sustainable use by predominantly self-reliant visitors.

Public consultation on park management will be undertaken through on going local consultations with community stakeholders to support broad continuing management programs.

Park assets are functional and robust and require limited maintenance to protect the natural and cultural values and management capacity.

General park values, uses and management

Regional ecosystems

The park protects one endangered regional ecosystem, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance recorded from this park include one plant species and seven bird 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. 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 endangered regional ecosystem, one plant, seven 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 should be excluded from the park's endangered regional ecosystem
- the impacts of existing pest species on neighbouring land uses are mitigated
- pest threats are managed to conserve or maintain the condition of the regional ecosystem and conservation significant species.

Appendix 1

Conservation values inventory

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
11.9.5	<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> and/or <i>Casuarina cristata</i> open forest on fine-grained sedimentary rocks.	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
Plants				
<i>Homopholis belsonii</i>	a grass	Endangered	Vulnerable	Low
Animals				
<i>Apus pacificus</i> ²³⁴	fork-tailed swift	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	glossy black-cockatoo	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Grantiella picta</i>	painted honeyeater	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i> ²³⁴	white-throated needletail	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Merops ornatus</i> ³	rainbow bee-eater	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i> ¹	black-faced monarch	Special least concern	-	Low

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<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i> ¹	rufous fantail	Special least concern	-	Low
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¹Bonn: Bonn Convention

²CAMBA: China-Australia Migratory Agreement

³JAMBA: Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

⁴ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement