

Lake Murphy Regional Park Management Statement

Park purpose

Lake Murphy Regional Park was formally gazetted as Lake Murphy Conservation Park in 1998 under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

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

Park size	550.6ha
Bioregion	Brigalow Belt
Local government area	Banana Shire Council
State electorate	Callide
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, Lake Murphy Regional Park has been assessed as having a medium priority for management. The park 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 local interest groups, Traditional Owners and Indigenous stakeholders will be undertaken as required to support broader continuing park management programs. Leichardt's camp site and related materials will be managed proactively to understand and protect these values.

This park currently has relatively low levels of 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. A moderate level of infrastructure is provided to support safe and sustainable use by predominantly self-reliant visitors. General park information is provided off-site, primarily through the Departmental website and through interpretive signs on park.

Public consultation on park management will be undertaken through ongoing 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

Lake Murphy Regional Park protects seven regional ecosystems, one of which has endangered biodiversity status and four which have of concern status, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance that are recorded from this park include twelve bird, one mammal, one reptile and one butterfly 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 both the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*. Non-indigenous historic places will be managed in accordance with the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

Lake Murphy Regional Park provides access to the only camp site from Ludwig Leichardt's 1844 expedition that is located on publically accessible land.

Priorities for park management

The five regional ecosystems and 15 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 ecosystems, through the application of state-wide 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
11.3.2	<i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> woodland on alluvial plains.	Of concern
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
11.3.27	Freshwater wetlands.	Of concern
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
Animals				
<i>Acrocephalus australis</i> ¹	Australian reed-warbler	Special least concern	-	Low
<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

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<i>Calidris acuminata</i> ¹²³⁴	sharp-tailed sandpiper	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> ²³⁴	white-winged black tern	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i> ³	cicadabird	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Danaus plexippus plexippus</i> ¹	monarch	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> ²	white-bellied sea-eagle	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> ²³	Caspian tern	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i> ¹²³⁴	Latham's snipe	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Merops ornatus</i> ³	rainbow bee-eater	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	powerful owl	Vulnerable	-	Medium
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	koala	Special least concern	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> ¹²	glossy ibis	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Strophurus taenicauda</i>	golden-tailed gecko	Near threatened	-	Medium

¹Bonn: Bonn Convention

³JAMBA: Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

²CAMBA: China-Australia Migratory Agreement

⁴ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement