

Cordalba National Park

Management Statement

2013



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.

The department is committed to respecting, protecting, and promoting human rights, and our obligations under the Human Rights Act 2019.

This management statement does not intend to affect, diminish, or extinguish native title or associated rights.

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All due diligence and care has been taken in the preparation of this document based on the information in the 2013 management statement. The department holds no responsibility for any errors or omissions within this document. Any decisions made by other parties based on this document are solely the responsibility of those parties.

The Cordalba 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:	2,476ha
Bioregion:	South Eastern Queensland Bioregion
QPWS region:	Sunshine and Fraser Coast
Local government estate/area:	Bundaberg Regional Council
State electorate:	Burnett

Legislative framework

✓	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>
✓	<i>Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>
✓	<i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>

Plans and agreements

✓	Bonn Convention
✓	China—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Japan—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	National Recovery Plan for the isis tamarind <i>Alectryon ramiflorus</i>

Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 Fire Management Strategy
✓	Level 2 Pest Management Strategy

Vision

Cordalba National Park will be managed to retain its important conservation values, especially plants and animals of conservation significance. The landscape will be managed to minimise impacts from fire, pests and inappropriate recreational activities to assist natural regeneration as the park recovers from timber harvesting. It will provide a natural experience for self-reliant visitors, and cultural heritage values will be identified and protected.

Conservation purpose

Cordalba National Park was a former State forest reserve and was logged for hardwood species including spotted gum and ironbark. The park is now preserved to protect the open eucalyptus forests and microphyll vine forest that is regenerating post-logging. Proximity to Burrum Coast National Park, Bingera National Park and the Elliott, Booyal and Cordalba State forests increases the value of this park by improving connectivity between reserves. These reserves are part of a bioregional corridor of regional significance which connects the coast to Cordalba National Park.

Protecting and presenting the area's values

Landscape

Located in the Burnett River catchment, Cordalba National Park is an important buffer zone for the protection of the river from nutrient run off from surrounding agricultural land. The landscape varies from lowlands to undulating slopes and contains fine-grained sedimentary rocks and a mixture of fine textured and shallow, gravelly soils. These soils have a tendency to erode and this may be significant along the management road network associated with prior forestry activities, particular steep roads and tracks. Grazing of cattle occurs to the west and north of the park and sugar cane is grown along part of the eastern boundary. The park is bordered by state forest to the north and south which provides some connectivity with natural areas in the Bingera aggregation and Burrum Coast National Park.

Regional ecosystems

Fourteen regional ecosystems are conserved on the park of which four are of concern (Table 1). The main vegetation communities are open eucalypt forests and woodlands, dry sclerophyll forest and a small area of Araucarian microphyll vine forest.

Native plants and animals

The park contains the only known stand of *Alectryon ramiflorus*, an endangered plant species for which a recovery plan was developed in 2003. The stand is fenced and surrounded by a firebreak for protection. Other species of conservation significance are listed in Table 2. Species listed under International treaties are displayed in Table 3. Plant and animal records are not comprehensive. The much larger Cordalba State Forest which lies adjacent to the park provides significant continuous areas of native vegetation which extends the habitat for species currently recorded in the park.

Aboriginal culture

The native title claim QC01/029 Port Curtis Coral Coast covers the area in which the park is located. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) has little information about the Aboriginal cultural values of the park.

Shared-history culture

It is likely that the park has cultural value due to its history of logging. Little is known about this by QPWS.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

Some visitors use the park as a place to ride motor bikes or drive their four-wheel-drive vehicles. They mainly restrict their use to the road network so little damage to habitat and infrastructure occurs. The park has also been used by orienteering clubs, bushwalkers and nature photographers. Roads are maintained regularly but recreational use generally could be considered moderate at present. There are no visitor facilities and camping opportunities are not provided for.

Education and science

Research on birds has been carried out in the park and the Queensland Herbarium has used 11 research sites. The proximity of the park to Bundaberg and Childers enables ready access for educational purposes but there is little demand for such use.

Partnerships

Regular consultation is maintained with neighbours on fire and pest management issues. This has improved communications and so far appears to be effective in reducing the instances of wildfire escaping into the park.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Pest plants are not a major issue although small pockets of giant rat's tail grass, mother of millions, groundsel and lantana require regular monitoring and control. Cats, dogs, foxes and pigs are the main pest animals on the park but impacts are minor at this stage. The park is covered by a Level 2 pest management strategy.

Fire management

QPWS has been managing the park for a short period of time and not a lot is known about the fire history prior to gazettal as a national park. The last known wildfire in the park was in 2005 but there is a threat of future incidents due to the uncleared and partially cleared buffer zone bordering the park. Fire lines are being completed around the park and about one-third of the park has been subjected to planned burns during the last few years. This has been effective in reducing fuel loads and the risk of hot fires. A Level 2 fire management strategy has been completed.

Resource use

Seven active apiaries exist on the park.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
Landscape Maintain the current landscape setting and vegetation structure as the park recovers.	Monitor vegetation condition for impacts from pest plants and encroachment from species which might alter vegetation structure.
Native plants and animals Protect the endangered species <i>Alectryon ramiflorus</i> .	Monitor and maintain fencing around the park perimeter and around the stand of <i>Alectryon ramiflorus</i> to ensure cattle do not enter the park. Maintain the fire break surrounding the stand of <i>Alectryon ramiflorus</i> .

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.5.11	<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> subsp. <i>glomulifera</i> ± <i>Corymbia trachyphloia</i> , <i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> , <i>E. racemosa</i> subsp. <i>racemosa</i> tall open-forest to woodland.	Endangered
12.9-10.3	<i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i> ± <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> open-forest.	Of concern
12.9-10.18	Grassy open-forest with <i>Angophora leiocarpa</i> , <i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> ± <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> .	Of concern
12.11.12	Microphyll and microphyll/notophyll vine forest ± <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> .	Of concern
12.11.19	<i>Eucalyptus fibrosa</i> subsp. <i>fibrosa</i> ± <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> , <i>E. crebra</i> , <i>E. moluccana</i> , <i>E. acmenoides</i> or <i>E. portuensis</i> , <i>E. tereticornis</i> , <i>Angophora leiocarpa</i> open-forest.	Of concern

Table 2: Plant 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>Alectryon ramiflorus</i>	-	Endangered	Endangered	High
Animals				
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (south-east Queensland bioregion)	koala (south-east Queensland bioregion)	Vulnerable	-	-
<i>Chalinolobus picatus</i>	little pied bat	Near threatened	-	Medium
<i>Melithreptus gularis</i>	black-chinned honeyeater	Near threatened	-	Low

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	CMS	JAMBA	CAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	white-bellied sea-eagle	-	✓	-	-
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater	-	-	✓	-
<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