Department of Environment, Science and Innovation

Kirrama National Park

Management Statement

2013

Queensland Government

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

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The Kirrama 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:	17,290ha
Bioregion:	Wet Tropics
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Tablelands Regional Council
State electorate:	Dalrymple

Legislative framework

✔	*Nature Conservation Act 1992*
✔	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth)
✔	*Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*
✔	*Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*

Plans and agreements

✔	Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005
✔	Recovery plan for the stream-dwelling rainforest frogs of the Wet Tropics biogeographic region of north-east Queensland 2000–2004
✔	National recovery plan for the spectacled flying-fox *Pteropus conspicillatus*
✔	Recovery plan for the southern cassowary *Casuarius casuarius johnsonii* 2001–2005

Thematic strategies

✔	Level 2 Fire Strategy
✔	QPWS Wet Tropics Pest Strategy

Vision

Kirrama National Park maintains and enhances the natural and cultural values. Ongoing pest and fire management programs sustain the diverse tall open forests and rainforest ecosystems. The drier western fringe of the World Heritage-listed forests provides open scenic landscapes and animal species, such as emus, not found in the wetter rainforests.

Conservation purpose

Previously a State forest, Kirrama National Park was gazetted on 16 December 2005 following a conservation assessment as part of the 2003 Wet Tropics Forest Transfer program. The 17,290ha area, was dedicated as a protected area because of its high levels of natural integrity and remarkable ecosystems.

Kirrama National Park boasts an exceptional array of plants and animals.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

The park lies adjacent to Koombooloomba, Tully Gorge, Girramay and Girringun national parks and is located within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Kirrama National Park has several significant mountain peaks on Kirrama Range, including Mount Pershouse 976m, Mount Hosie 929m, Mount Jones 1,032m, Mount Edgar 987m and the Mount Smoko 1,054m and Mount Marsey 913m on the boundary of Tully Gorge National Park.

Geology includes intermediate plutonic rocks including granites, microgranites and granodiorites. The Burradore, Yuccabine, Mixmaster and Rover mines ceased to operate after the World Heritage listing of the area. Logging activities were considerable until World Heritage listing in 1988. Old logging roads are sometimes used for community access but are regenerating.

Blencoe and Cameron creeks feed west while Davidson Creek feeds east.

Regional ecosystems

Of the 25 regional ecosystems mapped in Kirrama National Park, 19 are considered to have significant biodiversity value (Table 1).

Montane and heath forests occur at altitudes above 1,000m. Eastern facing slopes are covered in thick native rainforest while the western slopes are generally drier tall open forests.

Threats to the regional ecosystems include inappropriate fire regimes, pest plant and pest animal species.

Native plants and animals

Kirrama National Park is known to protect three plant and 12 animal species that are listed as significant for conservation (Table 2). The Back on Track status for these species is also included in Table 2.

Rose gums, paperbarks, northern silky oaks, Queensland walnuts and kauri pines support a variety of animal species including gliders, possums, honeyeaters, cassowaries, king parrots and musky rat-kangaroos.

Six bird species listed in international agreements are noted in Table 3.

Aboriginal culture

No native title claim or Indigenous land use agreements are current or in place over Kirrama National Park.

Old Aboriginal walking tracks exist on park. Artefacts such as shield trees, tools and art sites are also known to exist on this park.

Shared-history culture

An old sawmill site is registered on the junction of South Kirrama Creek and Kirrama Range Road. Pieces of timber industry memorabilia have been left abandoned throughout the park. These relicts provide a reminder of the previously active forest industry.

The Red Road runs north-south parallel to the western boundary of the park. This is an old wagon road and stock route used by the pioneers when settling the area. The Red Road joins the Kirrama Station Road and then the Kirrama Range Road through the park. All these roads are considered to have significant cultural value.

Society Flat was once a thriving community when the logging industry was at its peak in this area. Huge kauris and rose gum trees were left when the area was designated a 'beauty spot' in the 1950s.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

Kirrama National Park does not offer many tourism and recreation opportunities. However, it does facilitate access to the Wet Tropics Great Walk and Blencoe Falls to the west and the Captain Cook Highway to the east.

The Kirrama Range Road, which climbs into the higher altitude forests on Kirrama National Park, is very scenic. The road is gazetted from the east boundary to the junction of the James Cook University Research Centre and the Bilyana Track.

The Bilyana Track, previously an old stock route, links the Murray Falls camping and day-use area on Girramay National Park to the James Cook University Research site. It has not been well maintained but walkers and mountain bikers are interested in continuing to use and have access to the track. School groups use the Bilyana Track.

The Society Flat rainforest walk is a 720m circuit through some of the giant kauri pines and rose gum trees that feature in the forest.

Camping is not permitted in Kirrama National Park. However a camping area is located about 35km beyond Society Flat, at Blencoe Falls in Girringun National Park.

Culpa Road is no longer accessible from the Tully River on Koombooloomba National Park to the Kirrama Station Road on Kirrama National Park.

Education and science

The James Cook University Research Centre has operated within the park for more than a decade.

The proposal to build the Tully–Millstream Hydro Scheme further to the west triggered some very intense and comprehensive species surveys. These have been followed up by fire monitoring and climate studies.

Partnerships

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) is legislatively responsible for the day-to-day management of the national park and the Wet Tropics Management Authority regulates activity in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The goal of both agencies is to present the area’s values while protecting its natural and cultural values.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Although only cane toads *Rhinella marina* and black rats *Rattus rattus* have been recorded from Kirrama National Park, it is likely that other pest plant and animal species occur on the park. An investigation into the extent of pest plant and pest animals and consideration of the creation of a Level 2 pest management strategy is warranted for this area based on its natural values and World Heritage status.

Fire management

The area is managed by the Level 2 Cardwell Aggregation Fire Management Strategy.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
Pest management Pest plant and animal species do not threaten park values.	Develop a Level 2 pest management strategy.

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.3.10	Simple to complex mesophyll to notophyll vine forest on moderate to poorly drained alluvial plains of moderate fertility	Endangered
7.3.28	Rivers and streams including riparian herbfield and shrubland on river and stream bed alluvium, and rock within stream beds	Endangered
7.3.39	*Eucalyptus tereticornis* +/- *E. platyphylla* +/- *Corymbia intermedia* +/- *Lophostemon suaveolens* open woodland to open forest, and associated sedgelands and grasslands, on broad drainage depressions of uplands	Endangered
7.3.43	*Eucalyptus tereticornis* open forest to woodland, on uplands on well drained alluvium	Endangered
7.3.49	Notophyll vine forest on rubble terraces of streams	Of concern
7.12.9	*Acacia celsa* open to closed forest on granites and rhyolites	Of concern
7.12.13	*Acacia melanoxylon* and *A. celsa* closed forest, on uplands and highlands, on granites and rhyolites	Of concern
7.12.17	*Corymbia torelliana* open forest usually with a well developed simple notophyll vine forest element, on granites and rhyolites	Endangered
7.12.21	*Eucalyptus grandis* open forest to woodland, or *Corymbia intermedia*, *E. pellita*, and *E. grandis*, open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on granites and rhyolites	Endangered
7.12.22	*Eucalyptus resinifera* +/- *Eucalyptus portuensis* +/- *Syncarpia glomulifera* tall open forest to tall woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on moist to wet granite and rhyolite uplands and highlands	Endangered
7.12.35	*Eucalyptus portuensis*, *E. tereticornis*, *Corymbia intermedia* woodland, on extensive dissected granites and rhyolites in the Kirrama-Oak Hills area	Of concern
7.12.37	Rock pavements and see areas of wet lowlands, uplands and highlands of the eastern escarpment and central range (excluding high granite areas of Hinchinbrook Island and Bishops Peak) on granite and rhyolite, with *Allocasuarina* spp. shrublands and/or sedgelands	Of concern
7.12.48	Wind-sheared notophyll vine forest of exposed granite and rhyolite ridge-crests and steep slopes	Of concern
7.12.50	Simple microphyll vine-fern forest on granite and rhyolite, of wet highlands	Of concern
7.12.52	*Eucalyptus resinifera*, *Corymbia intermedia*, *Allocasuarina littoralis*, *Syncarpia glomulifera*, *E. drepanophylla* +/- *E. reducta* woodland, of dry to moist hills on granite and rhyolite	Of concern
7.12.61	*Eucalyptus tereticornis* +/- *E. granitica* woodland to open forest of moist and dry foothills and uplands on granite and rhyolite	Of concern
7.12.63	*Eucalyptus moluccana* woodland on granite and rhyolite	Endangered
7.12.65	Rock pavements or areas of skeletal soil, on granite and rhyolite, mostly of dry western or southern areas, often with shrublands to closed forests of *Acacia* spp. and/or *Lophostemon suaveolens* and/or *Allocasuarina littoralis* and/or *Eucalyptus lockyeri* subsp. *exuta*	Of concern
7.12.66	Exposed rocky slopes on granite and rhyolite, with *Lophostemon confertus* low shrubland or low to medium closed forest	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				
Alectryon semicinereus	-	Near threarened	-	Low
Diploglottis campbellii	small-leaved tamarind	Endangered	Endangered	Medium
Tylophora williamsii	Williams' tylophora	Least concern	Vulnerable	Low
Rourea brachyandra	-	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
Animals				
Accipiter novaehollandiae	grey goshawk	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
Aerodramus terraereginae	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
Antechinus godmani	Atherton antechinus	Near threatened	-	Low
Casuarius casuarius johnsonii (southern population)	southern cassowary (southern population)	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana	Macleay's fig-parrot	Vulnerable	Least concern	Low
Erythrotriorchis radiatus	red goshawk	Endangered	Vulnerable	High
Hemibelideus lemuroides	lemuroid ringtail possum	Near threatened	Near threatened	Low
Litoria serrata	tapping green eyed frog	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
Nyctimystes dayi	Australian lacelid	Endangered	Endangered	Low
Pseudochirops archeri	green ringtail possum	Near threatened	Near threatened	Low
Pseudochirulus herbertensis	Herbert River ringtail Possum	Near threatened	Near threatened	Low
Pteropus conspicillatus	spectacled flying-fox	Least concern	Vulnerable	High

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	BONN	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
Coracina tenuirostris	cicadabird	-	✓	-	-
Hirundapus caudacutus	white-throated needletail	-	✓	✓	✓
Merops ornatus	rainbow bee-eater	-	✓	-	-
Monarcha melanopsis	black-faced monarch	✓	-	-	-
Monarcha trivirgatus	spectacled monarch	✓	-	-	-
Rhipidura rufifrons	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-

BONN – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement