

Bustard Head Regional Park Management Statement

Park purpose

Bustard Head Regional Park was formally gazetted as Bustard Head Reserve in 1977 under the *Land Act 1962*. At that time there was a Trustee Agreement with the Director General of the Department of Environment. The reserve covered 419.2 hectares. In 2000, 3.14 hectares of the reserve was gazetted as Bustard Head Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

The purpose of gazettal as a conservation park was the protection of Bustard Head lighthouse.

Park size	3.14ha
Bioregion	South East Queensland
Local government area	Gladstone Regional Council
State electorate	Burnett
QPWS region	Sunshine and Fraser Coast
Year prepared: 2015	Review date: 2025

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Bustard Head 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 cultural heritage and 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 other Indigenous stakeholders will be undertaken as required to support broader continuing park management programs.

This park currently has high levels of visitor use and provides a variety of visitor sites. The public may opportunistically have contact with rangers who are likely to be on site undertaking a range of protection and presentation tasks. Occasional interpretative activities may be delivered by rangers. A high level of necessary infrastructure is provided especially at established visitor sites cater for existing levels and patterns of visitor use. High quality on-site information displays are installed at key sites and attractions.

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.

The Queensland Government entered into an agreement with the Bustard Head Lighthouse Association in 2002 under Section 34 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* to enable the Association to operate a tourism facility within the park. The park will be managed in partnership with stakeholders including the Bustard Head Lighthouse Association who conduct formal tours of the site and in consultation with local tour operators and the general public.

General park values, uses and management

Regional ecosystems

The park protects two regional ecosystems, one of which has of concern biodiversity status, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

There are currently no records of species of conservation significance on Queensland Government wildlife databases for this park.

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*.

An area within the Bustard Head Regional Park, including the lighthouse, lighthouse keeper's residence, associated sheds and cemetery is listed in the Queensland Heritage Register.

Priorities for park management

The cultural heritage values of the lighthouse and the of concern regional ecosystem are the main values of this park. The priorities for park management will be largely to protect cultural heritage and to mitigate any threats to natural values through fire and pest management.

Management actions will be undertaken which aim to ensure:

- protection of the cultural heritage structures through a collaborative approach with stakeholders
- life and property on and adjacent to the park is protected
- fire is managed to conserve or maintain the condition of the regional ecosystem through the application of 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 this regional ecosystem.

Appendix 1

Conservation values inventory

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.12.19	Vegetation complex of rocky headlands on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks.	Of concern