

Sandringham Bay Regional Park Management Statement

Park purpose

Sandringham Bay Regional Park was formally gazetted as Sandringham Bay Conservation Park in 2003 under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and covered 534.5ha. In 2007 the area of the park was increased to 591ha.

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

Park size	591ha
Bioregion	Central Queensland Coast
Local government area	Mackay Regional Council
State electorate	Mirani
QPWS region	Central
Year prepared: 2015	Review date: 2025

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Sandringham Bay 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 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 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 low 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 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

The park protects nine regional ecosystems, five of which have endangered biodiversity status and three are of concern, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance that are recorded from this park include the false water-rat *Xeromys myoides*, 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 eight regional ecosystems and one 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 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
8.1.2	Samphire open forbland on saltpans and plains adjacent to mangroves.	Of concern
8.1.3	<i>Sporobolus virginicus</i> tussock grassland on marine sediments.	Of concern
8.1.4	<i>Schoenoplectus subulatus</i> and/or <i>Eleocharis dulcis</i> sedgeland or <i>Paspalum vaginatum</i> tussock grassland.	Endangered
8.1.5	<i>Melaleuca</i> spp. and/or <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> and/or <i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> woodland with a ground stratum of salt tolerant grasses and sedges, usually in a narrow zone adjoining tidal ecosystems.	Endangered
8.3.2	<i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i> woodland on seasonally inundated alluvial plains with impeded drainage.	Endangered
8.3.3a	Riverine wetland or fringing riverine wetland. <i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> or <i>M. fluviatilis</i> and/or <i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> open forest to woodland (to low open forest to low-woodland) (8-30m tall).	Of concern
8.3.5	<i>Eucalyptus platyphylla</i> and/or <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> and/or <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> woodland on alluvial plains.	Endangered
8.3.13a	Palustrine wetland (e.g. vegetated swamp). <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> and/or <i>M. leucadendra</i> closed forest to low open woodland (to tall open forest) (10-35m tall).	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>Xeromys myoides</i>	false water-rat	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High