Shoalwater Bay Regional Park Management Statement

Park purpose

Shoalwater Bay Regional Park was formally gazetted as Shoalwater Bay Conservation Park in 1995 under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and covered 1602.08 hectares. In 2000 the area of the park was increased to 1650 hectares.

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

Park size	1650ha
Bioregion	Brigalow Belt and Central Queensland Coast
Local government area	Livingstone Shire 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, Shoalwater 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 13 regional ecosystems, six of which have of concern biodiversity status, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance that are recorded from this park include one plant species and two animal 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 the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003.* Non-indigenous heritage places will be managed in accordance with the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992.*

Marine protected areas

Shoalwater Regional Park adjoins the marine national park zone (green), conservation park zone (yellow zone), habitat protection zone (dark blue) and the general use zone (light blue) of the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park. An estuarine conservation zone protects areas of Queensland's Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park in a natural state while allowing the public to appreciate and enjoy the relatively undisturbed nature of the area. Any person wishing to conduct activities in this zone must comply with the *Marine Parks Act 2004.*

Shoalwater Bay Regional Park is within the Shoalwater Bay and Corio Bay Area Ramsar site.

Priorities for park management

The six regional ecosystems, one plant and two 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 species of conservation significance.

Appendix 1

Conservation values inventory

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
8.11.10	*Lophostemon* spp. and/or *Acacia* spp. and/or *Melaleuca viridiflora* and/or *Allocasuarina littoralis* +/- *Eucalyptus* spp. +/- *Corymbia* spp. tall open shrubland on exposed hill slopes of islands and headlands, on metamorphosed sediments.	Of concern
11.2.1	*Corymbia tessellaris* woodland on flat coastal dunes.	Of concern
11.2.2	Complex of *Spinifex sericeus, Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Casuarina equisetifolia* grassland and herbland on fore dunes.	Of concern
11.2.3	Microphyll vine forest ("beach scrub") on sandy beach ridges and dune swales.	Of concern
11.3.25b	Riverine wetland or fringing riverine wetland. *Melaleuca leucadendra* and/or *M. fluviatilis, Nauclea orientalis* open forest.	Of concern
11.11.10	*Eucalyptus melanophloia* woodland on deformed and metamorphosed sediments and interbedded volcanics.	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				
Xylosma ovata	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Animals				
Esacus magnirostris	beach stone-curlew	Vulnerable	-	High
Pandion cristatus[1]	eastern osprey	Special least concern	-	Low

[1]Bonn: Bonn Convention
[2]CAMBA: China-Australia Migratory Agreement
[3]JAMBA: Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
[4]ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement