

Mount Windsor National Park

Management Statement

2013



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

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The Mount Windsor 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:	Mount Windsor National Park 43,820ha Mount Windsor National Park 480ha (Recovery)
Bioregion:	Wet Tropics, Einasleigh Uplands
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Cairns Regional Cook Shire Tablelands Regional
State electorate:	Cook Shire

Legislative framework

✓	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>
✓	<i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
✓	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>
✓	<i>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993</i>

Plans and agreements

✓	Draft recovery plan for the spotted-tail quoll (northern sub-species) <i>Dasyurus maculatus gracilis</i> 2011
✓	Draft recovery plan for the spotted-tail quoll (northern sub-species) <i>Dasyurus maculatus gracilis</i>
✓	National recovery plan for the northern quoll (<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>)
✓	National recovery plan for the spectacled flying fox <i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>
✓	National recovery plan for the yellow-bellied glider (Wet Tropics) <i>Petaurus australis</i> unnamed subspecies
✓	Recovery plan for the northern bettong <i>Bettongia tropica</i> 2000–2004
✓	Recovery plan for the stream-dwelling rainforest frogs of the Wet Tropics biogeographic region of north-east Queensland 2000–2004
✓	Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005

Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 Pest Strategy
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Vision

Mount Windsor National Park is conserved as a significant wilderness area. Scientific monitoring and research continues. Pest and fire management practice has been determined through research.

Conservation purpose

Mount Windsor National Park was gazetted on 22 December 2005 in recognition of its outstanding natural and wilderness values.

Large areas of this park are relatively undisturbed although some areas are rehabilitating after the previous timber harvesting and grazing activities.

It is located adjacent to both Daintree and Mount Lewis national parks. Approximately half of the park (eastern section) lies within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Management of this park is intended to maintain the remote wilderness values and the significant plant and animal species in this large forest massif.

Mount Windsor National Park (Recovery) is located along the Windsor Tableland Road. This area is anticipated to be amalgamated with Mount Windsor National Park.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Mount Windsor National Park is an area often viewed as a mysterious tableland, regularly obscured by clouds to the east of the road between Mount Carbine and Lakeland. It lies on the Mount Windsor Tableland. Enormous kauri pines and rainforest walnut and maple species, spectacular tall open forest and dry sclerophyll forest grow between 880 and 1359 metres (m).

The park is almost exclusively spread over a granite/granodiorite plateau, with a metamorphic fringe in the south-east and west.

Prospect Creek forms the western boundary of the park. Numerous waterfalls and old tin workings, particularly along Piccaninny Creek, lie on the escarpment between 600m and 1100m in elevation. The eastern section of the park is rugged. However old roads are still evident east of the Campbell Creek Track primarily in rainforest at elevations between 880m and 1359m (Mount Windsor).

Regional ecosystems

Of the 46 regional ecosystems mapped in Mount Windsor National Park, 26 are of significance (Table 1).

The vast areas of sclerophyll woodland fringing the wet sclerophyll forest are some of the best maintained and undisturbed woodland communities in the area. However, potential exists for pest plant invasion facilitated by spread from users of the Mount Windsor Track.

Native plants and animals

Mount Windsor National Park is known to protect plant and animal species of conservation significance (Table 2). Three bird species are listed in other international agreements (Table 3).

The fleshy snake orchid *Bulbophyllum wolfei*, previously known as *Serpenticaulis wolfei*, is found from the Carbine Tableland to Mount Windsor Tableland at altitudes from 900m to 1200m.

The dryland forest areas within Mount Windsor National Park provide important habitat for the red goshawk *Erythrotriorchis radiatus*.

Aboriginal culture

The Western Yalanji People are the Traditional Owners for this area.

Shared-history culture

At least four gold and six tin mines have operated on the area that is now Mount Windsor National Park. The sclerophyll forests of the Windsor Tableland were previously used for cattle grazing.

The rainforest area was heavily logged in the 10 years immediately preceding the declaration of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, leaving behind immense tree stumps and areas of fallen but not retrieved timber. The forestry

barracks is still on the Windsor Tableland Road and can be used by researchers and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS) staff.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

Mount Windsor National Park is not easily accessed. Roads used to access the park traverse the McLeod River and a leasehold grazing property, and have locked gates in place. The access road is maintained to rough four-wheel driving condition.

Education and science

CSIRO maintained a forest research station on Bargoo Creek until the 1980s when use of this facility was superseded by use as a forestry base camp.

Mount Windsor Feature Protection Area (FPA 110) and Mount Windsor Scientific Area (unlogged area SA 45 North Bargoo Creek) were gazetted under the *Forestry Act 1959*. This park has also been the site of intensive study of rainforest fauna by CSIRO.

Partnerships

QPWS is responsible for the day-to-day management of the national park. 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

Mount Windsor National Park is managed under the Daintree South Level 2 Pest Management Strategy.

Fire management

Mount Windsor National Park does not currently have a fire management strategy.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Plants and animals</p> <p>Ecosystems and species of conservation significance are conserved to the greatest possible extent.</p>	<p>Develop a fire management strategy for Mount Windsor National Park.</p> <p>Continue to encourage the rehabilitation of logged forest and grazed lands through monitoring and the removal of pests and stock from the estate.</p> <p>Continue the long-term scientific research particularly in relation to species of conservation significance.</p>
<p>Science and education</p> <p>Access is limited to scientific and management interests.</p>	<p>Allow scientific research permit holders to access the park in return for shared data and analysis. Monitor the numbers and activities of the permit holders.</p>

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.3.25	<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> +/- vine forest species, open to closed forest, on alluvium fringing streams	Of concern
7.3.26	<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> woodland to open forest on alluvium fringing streams	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	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> +/- <i>E. platyphylla</i> +/- <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> +/- <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open woodland to open forest, and associated sedgeland and grasslands, on broad drainage depressions of uplands	Endangered
7.3.49	Notophyll vine forest on rubble terraces of streams	Of concern
7.11.14	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> open forest to woodland, or <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> , <i>E. pellita</i> , and <i>E. grandis</i> , open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on metamorphics	Endangered
7.11.19	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and/or <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest to woodland of uplands, on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.26	Rock pavements with <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> and <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> open to closed shrublands or <i>Bombax ceiba</i> and <i>Cochlospermum gillivraei</i> open woodland, or <i>Acacia</i> spp. shrubland, on metamorphics	Endangered
7.11.32	<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> and/or <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp. +/- heathy understorey, medium to tall woodland to open forest (or vine forest with these species as emergents), of steep rocky metamorphic slopes with shallow soils	Of concern
7.11.33	<i>Eucalyptus reducta</i> open forest to woodland on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.35	<i>Acacia mangium</i> and/or <i>A. celsa</i> and/or <i>A. polystachya</i> closed forest on alluvial plains	Endangered
7.11.44	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest to woodland of coastal metamorphic foothills	Of concern
7.11.51	<i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> and/or <i>Eucalyptus drepanophylla</i> open forest to woodland on metamorphics	Of concern
7.12.9	<i>Acacia celsa</i> open to closed forest on granites and rhyolites	Of concern
7.12.17	<i>Corymbia torelliana</i> open forest usually with a well developed simple notophyll vine forest element, on granites and rhyolites	Endangered
7.12.20	Simple microphyll vine-fern thicket of cloudy wet and moist windswept high exposed peaks on granite	Of concern
7.12.21	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> open forest to woodland, or <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> , <i>E. pellita</i> , and <i>E. grandis</i> , open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on granites and rhyolites	Endangered
7.12.22	<i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> +/- <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> 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
7.12.37	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 <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp. shrublands and/or sedgelands	Of concern
7.12.38	Deciduous microphyll vine forest and/or blue-green algae-covered granite and rhyolite boulderfields	Endangered
7.12.61	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> +/- <i>E. granitica</i> woodland to open forest of moist and dry foothills and uplands on granite and rhyolite	Of concern
7.12.62	<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. (any ironbark species) and/or <i>Corymbia stockeri</i> , +/- <i>C. hylandii</i> +/- <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> +/- <i>E. portuensis</i> woodland on dry granite hillslopes in the north-west of the bioregion	Of concern
7.12.65	Rock pavements or areas of skeletal soil, on granite and rhyolite, mostly of dry western or	Of concern

	southern areas, often with shrublands to closed forests of <i>Acacia</i> spp. and/or <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> and/or <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> and/or <i>Eucalyptus lockyeri</i> subsp. <i>exuta</i>	
7.12.66	Exposed rocky slopes on granite and rhyolite, with <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> low shrubland or low to medium closed forest	Of concern
9.3.12	River beds and associated waterholes	Of concern
9.3.14	<i>Melaleuca</i> spp. +/- <i>Acacia</i> spp. +/- <i>Syzygium</i> spp. +/- <i>Leptospermum</i> spp. fringing woodland on channels and levees	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				
<i>Albizia</i> sp. (Windsor Tableland B. Gray 2181)	-	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Cyathea baileyana</i>	wig tree fern	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Elaeocarpus thelmae</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Elaphoglossum callifolium</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Genoplesium alticola</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Data deficient
<i>Homoranthus porteri</i>	-	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
<i>Hypserpa smilacifolia</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Linospadix microcaryus</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Peripleura scabra</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Plectranthus spectabilis</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Animals				
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	grey goshawk	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Bettongia tropica</i>	northern bettong	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	northern quoll	Least concern	Endangered	Medium
<i>Dasyurus maculatus gracilis</i>	spotted-tailed quoll (northern subspecies)	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
<i>Dendrolagus bennettianus</i>	Bennett's tree-kangaroo	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Eulamprus tigrinus</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Hipposideros diadema reginae</i>	diadema leaf-nosed bat	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Kerivoula papuensis</i>	golden-tipped bat	Near threatened	-	Medium
<i>Litoria nannotis</i>	waterfall frog	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Litoria rheocola</i>	common mistfrog	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Litoria serrata</i>	tapping green eyed frog	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Ninox rufa queenslandica</i>	rufous owl (southern subspecies)	Vulnerable	Near threatened	Low
<i>Nyctimystes dayi</i>	Australian laceid	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Petaurus australis</i> unnamed subsp.	yellow-bellied glider (northern subspecies)	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical
<i>Pseudocheirops archeri</i>	green ringtail possum	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Pseudochirulus cinereus</i>	Daintree River ringtail possum	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>	spectacled flying-fox	Least concern	Vulnerable	High
<i>Taudactylus acutirostris</i>	sharp snouted dayfrog	Endangered	Extinct	Low
<i>Tyto tenebricosa tenebricosa</i>	sooty owl	Near threatened	-	Low

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

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