

Hinchinbrook Island National Park

Incorporates: Eva Island, Agnes Island and Haycock Island



Management Plan
2017



Prepared by: **Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing**



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Contents

Introduction	2
Values-Based Management Framework	3
Hinchinbrook Island National Park	4
Park overview	4
Traditional Owners	5
Key management considerations	5
Key values	7
Indigenous: Traditional Owner connection to country	8
Ecosystems and biodiversity: Wetlands, estuaries and creeks.....	10
Ecosystems and biodiversity: Heathland, shrubland, and cypress communities	12
Ecosystems and biodiversity: Eucalypt forest and woodland communities	13
Ecosystems and biodiversity: Rainforest communities	14
Ecosystems services: ‘Remote and wild nature’ experience	16
Scenic and aesthetic value	16
Recreational opportunities: ‘Remote and wild nature’ experience	17
Thorsborne Trail precinct.....	17
Map 1: Hinchinbrook Island National Park Key Value.....	18
Levels of service	19
Traditional Owner engagement and cultural heritage	20
Fire.....	21
Pests.....	22
Natural values.....	23
Historic cultural heritage	24
Visitor.....	25
Community, partnerships and other interests.....	26
Field management capability.....	27
Operational planning and management support	28
Summary of strategic management directions	29
Key Values.....	29
Levels of service	31
Thematic strategies	34
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting	34
References	34

Introduction

To set high level strategies and management priorities, the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Queensland) requires a management statement or management plan to be prepared for each of Queensland's national parks. The plans are strategic, management-oriented documents that focus on maintaining or improving the condition of the park's **key values**, and delivering an appropriate **level of service** for its management.

Hinchinbrook Island National Park will be managed in accordance with this plan. This is in keeping with the management principles, and supporting regulations, for each class of park as defined in the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Queensland) and the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* (Queensland) as well as other appropriate legislation i.e. *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) and agreements (i.e. Memorandum of Understanding, Indigenous Land Use Agreement). In addition, management decisions will consider supporting **thematic strategies**, along with relevant government policies and procedures such as the *Implementation Framework for Ecotourism Facilities on National Parks*.

Complementing this plan is the park's **resource information**. Resource information is a compendium of park information, a supporting document that contains background information about the park's purpose, values, resources, and legal and administrative framework.

Management plans/statements and resource information are available on the National Parks, Sports and Racing (NPSR) website at www.npsr.qld.gov.au.

The park incorporates Hinchinbrook Island National Park, Eva Island, Agnes Island and Haycock Island.

Values-Based Management Framework

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) developed the Values-Based Management Framework (VBMF), an adaptive management process, to manage the state's diverse protected area estate. It provides structure for strategic **planning**, and incorporates key steps for **monitoring** progress, **evaluating** performance, and **reporting** on the effectiveness of management actions over time. Based on international best-practice standards, the VBMF ensures accountability and transparency for QPWS's management of protected areas.

A statewide assessment of over 1,000 reserves (12.5 million hectares) has identified fifty reserves as *priority parks*, classifying 10 of these as *iconic*. Statewide benchmarking guides the allocation of resources and sets the priorities for planning.

Park-level planning

The natural, cultural and social values of a reserve contribute to the diversity of Queensland's protected area estate. To prepare management plans and statements, QPWS undertakes two assessment processes to establish management priorities:

1. A values assessment to identify **key values** and assess their condition
2. A **levels of service** (LoS) assessment to establish a current park-level LoS for each of the nine management elements

Management plans and **management statements** outline the **strategic management direction** for achieving a desired outcome to protect and manage these key values and to meet a LoS standard. **Thematic strategies** and **action plans** are the next level of planning. Thematic strategies set clear and measurable management objectives that feed into achievable tasks within an action plan. In **Figure 1** the VBMF adaptive management flowchart shows how monitoring and evaluating ensures QPWS can keep on track to achieve its goals and adapt as required. For more information about the QPWS VBMF visit www.npsr.qld.gov.au.

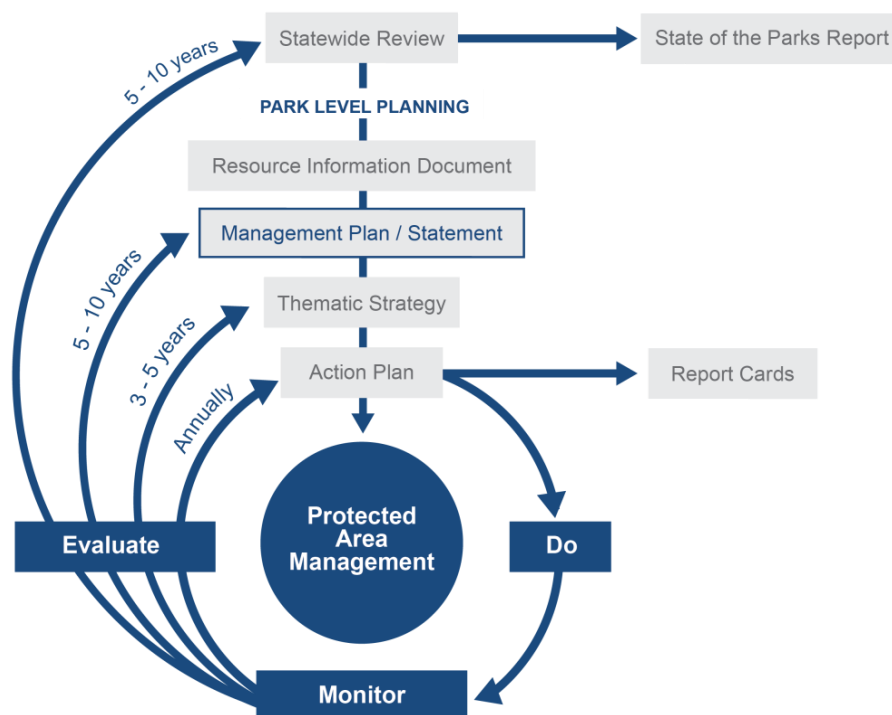


Figure 1. Flowchart illustrating the QPWS Values-Based Management Framework.

Hinchinbrook Island National Park

Park overview

The park, including Agnes, Eva and Haycock islands, is one of the world's largest island national parks. Hinchinbrook Island, Hinchinbrook Channel and the adjacent coastal plain, are a unique part of the Wet Tropics region—and the park is one of the least disturbed coastal environments in this region. From mountains down to mangroves, the park's ecological communities are largely undisturbed. The park contains 54 regional ecosystems—46 are 'of concern' or 'endangered', and four are found nowhere else in Queensland's park system.

Heath and shrubland communities are largely confined to the high peaks and rocky escarpments, and often shrouded in cloud. Eucalypt communities dominate between the midslopes and alluvial flats, mixing with melaleuca on swampier margins. Large areas of sclerophyll woodlands, found on the park's alluvial flats and foothills, have been widely cleared on the mainland.



The luxuriant mangrove forests of Missionary Bay and Hinchinbrook Channel are among the largest and richest of their type in Australia. Clear freshwater streams run into many serpentine estuaries and the surrounding marine waters. The healthy condition of these waterways and wetlands makes them a valuable habitat for freshwater and marine wildlife, including threatened stream-breeding frogs, dugong, turtles and dolphins.

The park's undeveloped, tropical and isolated island setting—and exceptional scenic and natural beauty—leaves visitors with feelings of remoteness and solitude, and in awe of wild nature. Many local and international visitors come to walk and camp along the renowned 32km Thorsborne Trail, with its superb views of the park's rugged mountain backbone, secluded sweeps of beach and rocky headlands, off-shore islands, vast mangrove forests, lush rainforest and hidden creeks and waterfalls. Visitor numbers are managed to maintain the integrity of the park's special remote and wild natural qualities.

The park's outstanding natural and scenic values were recognised in its listing as part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area in 1981, under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

The park has few reminders of its early European history, including remnants of a coconut plantation at The Haven and the wreck of a World War II American bomber, which crashed on the slopes of Mt Straloch.

Hinchinbrook Island National Park will continue to be conserved to protect its endemic and threatened plants and animals, ecosystems, exceptional scenic beauty, and visitors' experience of remote and wild nature, many of these values having international significance. The park will be managed to meet Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention—to care for, present and hand the park down to future generations.

Traditional Owners

The Traditional Owners have an enduring connection with the park and surrounding waters, including ongoing use of country for cultural resources and activities, as well as commitments and cultural obligations to manage the area. The stone fish traps at The Haven are possibly the largest and most complex coastal fish traps in North Queensland, and middens, rock shelters and other reminders of Aboriginal people's presence, are found elsewhere on the park. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) has a strong partnership with the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation, the body representing Traditional Owners, backed by formal and informal agreements.

Giringun's land and sea vision

Our land and sea country is special and of great importance to all our people; our ancestors and all our generations past, present and future. As the Traditional Owners of Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gulnay, Gugu Badhun, Nywaigi, Warramay and Warungnu country, we are working together, with all levels of government and other partners, to holistically look after and care for our country.

Key management considerations

There are some key considerations that may affect management decisions for Hinchinbrook Island National Park.

Resort lease

In 1978, a 75-year lease was granted (under the *Land Act 1962*) over part of the national park at Cape Richards, to allow a small resort to be developed. This lease will continue to be supported to facilitate ecotourism activities that are consistent with the existing purpose and conditions of the lease, and which do not adversely impact on the park's values.

Esplanade (road reserve)

The Cassowary Coast Regional Council is responsible for managing an esplanade (road reserve), which is not part of the national park, next to the leased area at Cape Richards. The esplanade may be added to the national park in future.



World Heritage

Many of the park's values are of global significance, and this is recognised by the park being included in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA). The GBRWHA has been inscribed into the World Heritage List of the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*. This listing confirms the Outstanding Universal Value of a cultural or natural property that deserves protection for the benefit of all humanity.

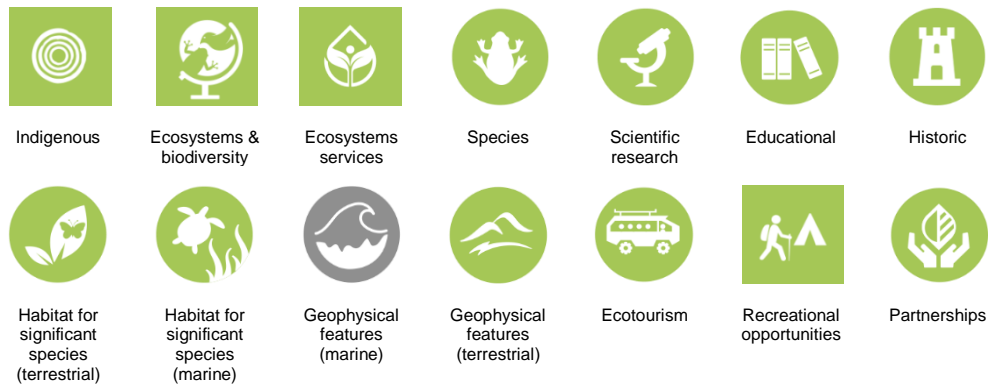
The listing criteria for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and how these criteria are supported by the park's key values, are shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1. UNESCO World Heritage Convention criteria		Associated key value
Criterion 7	Contains superlative natural phenomena or area of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.	Ecosystems and biodiversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands, estuaries and creeks • Rainforest communities
Criterion 8	Outstanding examples representing major stages of Earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features.	Ecosystems and biodiversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands, estuaries and creeks
Criterion 9	Outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.	Ecosystems and biodiversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands, estuaries and creeks
Criterion 10	Contains the most important and significant habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science or conservation.	Ecosystems and biodiversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands, estuaries and creeks • Heathland, shrubland and cypress communities • Rainforest communities Recreational opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorsborne Trail precinct Ecosystems services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic and aesthetic value

Key values

All parks and their values are important and contribute to the state’s comprehensive and representative protected area estate. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) Values-Based Management Framework provides a process for identifying and protecting the most important values, the key values, and this directs the allocation of resources. Values fall within fourteen broad value categories. The green icons in **Figure 2** identify the value categories associated with the Great Sandy Area; the square icons highlight the categories that contain one or more key value.

Figure 2: Value categories for Hinchinbrook Island National Park’s values



Note: Grey values have not been assessed or are not associated with the planning area.

The values assessment process identified seven key values, within four value categories, for Hinchinbrook Island National Park. For each key value, the plan provides a *value statement*, an assessment of the key values’ *current condition* and *trend*, an assessment of identified threats, a *desired outcome statement*, and *strategic management directions*. QPWS continuously assesses the effectiveness of management actions, and the condition of each value, through a cycle of monitoring and evaluation.

Figure 3: Key to condition, trend and confidence icons

Condition of key value	Good 	Good with some concern 	Significant concern 	Critical
	The value is in good condition and is likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, provided that current measures are maintained	The value is likely to be maintained over the long-term with minor additional conservation measures to address existing concerns	The value is threatened by a number of current and/or potential threats. Significant additional conservation measures are required to preserve the value over the medium to long-term	The value is severely threatened. Urgent additional large-scale conservation measures are required or the value may be lost
Trend rating of condition	Improving 	Stable 	Deteriorating 	No consistent trend
Confidence in assessment	Inferred 	Limited 	Adequate 	



Indigenous: Traditional Owner connection to country

Description		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
Traditional Owner connection to country	Condition and trend	2017 		
	Assessment confidence	Adequate 	Adequate 	

Value statement

The Traditional Owners of Hinchinbrook Island have lived in harmony with the land, sea and seasons—they have maintained spiritual, social, traditional resource and family connections. The park continues to be very significant for the health and education, social structure, economy, law, spiritual and cultural well-being of Traditional Owners—despite European settlers driving them from the island in the late 19th century.

Traditional Owners have an enduring connection with their country and being ‘on country’ is important when maintaining and passing on cultural knowledge to the next generation. Traditional Owners have long-standing spiritual and cultural obligations and traditions over lands and waters that have become protected areas—including Hinchinbrook Island National Park.

The use of fire by Traditional Owners has shaped the park’s landscapes and vegetation communities over thousands of years, and fire remains critical in maintaining the health and biodiversity of the park’s ecosystems. Stone fish traps, rock shelters, shell middens and the remains of tools, also remind us of the Traditional Owners’ presence on the island. Spiritual or sacred places are less tangible and are often connected to creation (‘Jujaba’) and dreaming stories, upon which customary laws and traditions are based. Traditional Owners have a special relationship with crocodiles, considered icons or totems, and which are the focus of many stories, songs, dances and art.

The Girringun Aboriginal Corporation represents the interests of nine Traditional Owner groups in achieving common strategic goals across the region, which includes their land and sea country. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Girringun have a very positive working relationship, backed by formal and informal agreements. Co-operative programs are undertaken, including employing local Traditional Owners as QPWS rangers, contracting Traditional Owner groups and the Girringun Rangers to deliver operational projects, and collaborating with Girringun in decision-making and other natural and cultural management programs.

Threats

Primary threat: Visitors (and potentially pests and fire) may damage or disturb Indigenous cultural heritage, including stone fish traps and shell middens. **Threat rating: Moderate**

Secondary threat: There are challenges for Traditional Owners in maintaining a strong connection with their country and meeting their social and cultural obligations—including a lack of resources to implement programs associated with the park. **Threat rating: Moderate**

Other threat: a lack of fire in some vegetation communities has altered the ‘cultural’ landscape that has resulted from thousands of years of traditional fire practices. **Threat rating: Moderate**

Desired outcome and strategic management directions

Desired outcome		
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
 <p>The condition of the Traditional Owners' connection to country and their cultural heritage has been maintained as 'good', by supporting long term partnerships, increasing access to Country and the role of Traditional Owners in managing the park, and presenting (where appropriate) and managing threats to cultural heritage places.</p>		
Human impacts	Protect and present the park's Indigenous cultural heritage values, by partnering with the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation and Traditional Owners.	2
Loss of connection to country	Support Traditional Owners to strengthen connection to country, including involving Traditional Owners in managing the park, facilitating access to Country, and jointly seeking new opportunities that help sustain culture.	2

*KEY: 1 – extremely urgent and extremely necessary (needed within 12 months), 2 – very necessary and very urgent (needed within one-two years), 3 - moderately necessary and moderately urgent (needed within next three years), 4 – somewhat necessary and somewhat urgent (needed within five years), 5 – optional and not urgent (addressed after other priorities).



Ecosystems and biodiversity: Wetlands, estuaries and creeks

World Heritage Criterion 7, 8, 9 and 10

Description		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
Vast and rich mangrove forests of Missionary Bay and Hinchinbrook Channel, Broad leaf tea-tree lowland forests and woodlands, and near pristine waterways.	Condition and trend	2017 		
	Assessment confidence	Adequate 	Inferred 	

Value statement

Vast and luxuriant mangrove forests fringe parts of the park—particularly at Missionary Bay (20km²) and Hinchinbrook Channel (164km²)—sustained by high rainfall, a tropical climate and a sheltered coastline. These forests are among the largest and richest of their type in Australia, with at least 31 mangroves species. Mangroves flourish in tidal shallows, often growing on broad mud banks, and dissected by serpentine tidal creeks. The park’s mangroves also hold unique sediments or ‘facies’ that provide a record of past sea levels and environmental conditions. Mangroves help recycle marine nutrient, trap sediments and protect the island’s estuaries and coastline from erosion. Other wetland areas include swamps, marshes, salt-pans and mudflats, sometimes extending up creeks. Small patches of Broad leaf tea-tree *Melaleuca viridiflora* woodland grow on alluvial plains and drainage areas, particularly on the north coast near Deluge Inlet and next to Missionary Bay.

The park’s near pristine waterways and catchments provide valuable habitat for endemic and threatened marine and freshwater life. Wetlands, mangroves or tidal mudflats provide habitat for the Apollo jewel butterfly *Hypochrysops apollo*, the epiphytic Ant plant *Myrmecodia beccarii*, Beach stone-curlew and Eastern curlew. Estuarine crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*, Dugong, Green turtles and in-shore dolphin species are common in the surrounding marine water and sometimes visit the park’s larger estuaries.


Threats

Primary threat: Feral pigs are digging up soil and vegetation along pristine waterways, causing erosion, spreading weeds and reducing resilience to the effects of climate change. Pigs also predate on fauna such as frogs and shorebird eggs and chicks. **Threat rating: Moderate**

Secondary threat: Other introduced pests, including weeds (e.g. Pond apple, Paramatta grass) and cane toads, are spreading along some waterways, displacing native species (frogs and aquatic invertebrates), competing for food and changing ecosystems. **Threat rating: Moderate**

Other threat: Climate change is likely to increase extreme weather events (cyclones, high rainfall), damaging mangroves and waterways, and affecting ecosystems and species. Sea level rise will bring further impacts. **Threat rating: Moderate**

Desired outcome and strategic management directions

Desired outcome		
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
 <p>The condition of waterways and wetlands has been improved to 'good', by reducing the impact of plant and animal pests, avoiding new pests and pathogens being introduced, and building resilience to climate change.</p>		
Pests	Reduce the impacts of feral pigs on wetlands, estuaries and creeks.	2
	Contain infestations of Pond apple, Paramatta grass, Singapore daisy and other priority species, which are impacting on wetland and riparian areas.	2
	Reduce the risk of visitors, commercial operators and park managers introducing or spreading pests or disease in the park, by improving biosecurity.	2
Climate change	Maintain and strengthen the ability of ecosystems to recover and adapt in response to climate change.	3

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Ecosystems and biodiversity: Heathland, shrubland, and cypress communities

World Heritage Criterion 10

Description		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
Extensive heathland and shrublands, often only growing on the park's rocky, granite mountain highlands.	Condition and trend	2017 		
	Assessment confidence	Limited 	Limited 	

Value statement

Extensive areas of heathland and shrubland grow on the often cloud-covered high mountain peaks, ridges and rocky granite pavements and escarpments. Different types of heaths and shrublands often intertwine in a 'mosaic'—including ecosystems only found on the park and dominated by northern brown pine *Podocarpus grayae*, black cypress *Callitris endlicheri*, brown salwood *Acacia celsa*, grasstree *Xanthorrhoea* spp. and Black sheoak *Allocasuarina littoralis*. Mountain top heath and scrub hosts Blue banksia *Banksia plagiocarpa*, which only grows on the island and the nearby mainland. Many heath and shrubland communities vary in species and structure depending on where they grow and how often they are burnt.

Heath and shrubland areas provide core habitat for the endemic Hinchinbrook Island nursery frog *Cophixalus hinchinbrookensis*, the rare herb *Tetramolopium* sp. and for the restricted plant species *Boronia jensziae*, *Comesperma praeclsum* and *Kunzea graniticola*. This community also supports threatened species such as *Acacia homaloclada* and sundew *Drosera adelae*.

Threats

Primary threat: Intense and large wildfires may reduce the extent, structure or health of heathland, and habitat for endemic or threatened flora and fauna. **Threat rating: Very high**

Secondary threat: Too frequent or infrequent planned burning may change the health of heathland and shrubland, including extent, structure, species diversity and habitat for endemic or threatened flora (*Banksia plagiocarpa*) and fauna (frogs). **Threat rating: Very high**

Desired outcome and strategic management directions

Desired outcome		
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
	The condition of heathland and shrubland communities has been maintained as 'good', by implementing appropriate fire regimes.	
Fire	Protect heathland, shrubland and cypress communities from wildfire by implementing appropriate planned burning within, and in surrounding, vegetation communities.	2
	Maintain the health of heathland communities, including maintaining species diversity and protecting rare and threatened plants (e.g. <i>Banksia plagiocarpa</i>), by implementing appropriate planned burning regimes within relevant communities.	2

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Ecosystems and biodiversity: Eucalypt forest and woodland communities

Description		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
Large areas of woodland and forest dominated by Eucalyptus and Corymbia species on the park's mid to lower slopes on coastal granite and rhyolite and poorly drained lowlands—these have been extensively cleared on the nearby mainland.	Condition and trend	2017 		2025
	Assessment confidence	Limited 	Limited 	

Value statement

Large areas of woodland and forest communities, dominated by Eucalyptus and Corymbia species, grow between the park's mid-slopes and wet lowlands or alluvial flats—mixing with melaleuca on swampier margins. The mix of species and forest height varies with geology, topography and aspect. Uncommon open forests of Gympie messmate *Eucalyptus cloeziana* are found in the island's north (from Hecate Point to Nina Bay) and are amongst the tallest eucalyptus forests in the park. Black sheoak *Allocasuarina littoralis* and Swamp box *Lophostemon suaveolens* are more common in open forests in poorly drained areas. Eucalypt forests and woodlands have been extensively cleared on the nearby mainland, making the park's stands important within the region. Without fire, such as that previously applied through traditional Aboriginal burning practices, some of these communities will gradually become rainforest, with dense shrubs and small trees moving in from surrounding rainforest, followed by the full range of vine forest plants.

Threats

Primary threat: A lack of fire regimes that are consistent with traditional Aboriginal burning practices is allowing rainforest to gradually invade some Eucalypt forest and woodland (RE 7.12.23 and 7.3.47), particularly along the western side of the island between Deluge Inlet and Scraggy Point. This is changing the make-up of these communities and displacing plants and animals, which rely on them for habitat. **Threat rating: Moderate**

Secondary threat: Intense, dry season wildfires can burn out large areas of some forest and woodlands (7.12.25), reducing fauna habitat trees and causing rill and gully erosion. **Threat rating: Moderate**

Other threat: Pest plants (e.g. Singapore daisy, Prickly pear, Parramatta grass) are invading some communities, changing ecosystems and displacing plants and animals. **Threat rating: Moderate**

Desired outcome and strategic management directions

Desired outcome		
	The condition of Eucalypt forests and woodlands has been improved to 'good with some concern' by 2025, by managing weeds, implementing appropriate fire regimes and improving biosecurity.	
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
Fire	Manage the health and extent of Eucalypt forest and woodland communities, through planned burning which prevents transition to rainforest where feasible.	2
Pests	Contain infestations of Prickly pear and Paramatta grass, and reduce the impacts of Singapore daisy, by collaborating with local agencies and organisations.	3
	Reduce the risk of visitors, commercial operators and park managers introducing or spreading pests or disease in the park, by improving biosecurity.	2



Ecosystems and biodiversity: Rainforest communities

World Heritage Criterion 7 and 10

Description		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
Rainforest types only found in the park, including thickets in protected gullies on the flanks of the southern granite mountains and mixed clumps of vine forest and other communities on the wind-formed sand dunes (e.g. behind Ramsay Bay).	Condition and trend	2017 		
	Assessment confidence	Inferred 	Inferred 	

Value statement

About ten percent of the park is rainforest, ranging from small pockets on the cloud covered peaks, down to the coastal lowlands. Several types of rainforest only grow in the park. Rainforest thickets, with hickory boxwood and northern brown pine (RE 7.12.49) occur in protected gullies which flank the southern granite mountains. A mosaic of clumps of rainforest, shrubland and open woodland occur on aeolian (wind-blown) sand dunes (RE 7.2.6, including the critically endangered subtype RE 7.2.6b), particularly on the large ‘dune field’ west of Ramsay Bay. Vast quantities of sand have been trapped and deposited here, building a series of up to 60m-high sand ridges and swales. Vegetation is a rare mix of communities, ranging from low closed forest in deep swales, open woodland and shrubland on top of dunes, and unvegetated sand blows—a reminder of the dynamic and fragile nature of this landscape.


Rainforest is core habitat for the endemic Hinchinbrook Island nursery frog *Cophixalus hinchinbrookensis* and near endemic plant *Boronia jensziae*. Rainforest also provides significant habitat for other endemic and threatened species, including *Acacia homaloclada*, *Buchanania mangoides*, Diadem leaf-nosed bat *Hipposideros diadema reginae*, Common mist frog *Litoria rheocola*, Tapping green-eyed frog *Litoria serrata* and Spectacled flying-fox *Pteropus conspicillatus*.

Threats

Primary threat: Intense wildfires, fuelled by dry conditions and thick grass cover in neighbouring vegetation communities, could damage some rainforest types. However, occasional hot fires may be needed in neighbouring communities to prevent rainforests encroaching into them. **Threat rating: Moderate**

Secondary threat: Lack of fire in parts of the dune-field ‘mosaic’ community (RE:7.2.6a and c) can result in rainforest pioneers rapidly colonising much of the area (‘thickening’), thus reducing habitat trees and the health and diversity of understorey plants. **Threat rating: Moderate**

Desired outcome and strategic management directions

Desired outcome		
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
 <p>The condition of rainforests has been maintained as 'good', by implementing appropriate fire regimes within, or in surrounding, vegetation communities.</p>		
Fire	Protect the dune-field rainforest mosaic behind Ramsay Bay (RE 7.2.6b) from wildfire, by implementing appropriate planned burning in the surrounding vegetation communities, and rehabilitate the fire-adapted components of the dune community (RE 7.2.6a and c) by targeted planned burning if required to maintain vegetation health.	3
	Protect other rainforest communities from wildfire by implementing appropriate fire regimes in surrounding vegetation communities, including reducing high biomass grasses.	2
	Protect habitat for the endemic Hinchinbrook Island nursery frog <i>Cophixalus hinchinbrookensis</i> from wildfire and feral pigs impacts.	4

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Ecosystems services: 'Remote and wild nature' experience

World Heritage Criterion 10

The park is internationally renowned, particularly amongst bushwalkers, for its 'wilderness' or 'remote and wild nature' experience. The isolated island provides world-class, spectacular and beautiful scenery where visitors enjoy a rare sense of solitude. Visitors experience the park's ambience by walking the Thorsborne Trail, taking a boat from the mainland to visit the park's beauty spots or camp on the coast, sea kayaking around the ever changing coastline, or chartering a scenic flight.

Scenic and aesthetic value

Description		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
World class, remote, wild island scenery of exceptional beauty—including rugged mountains and coastal landscapes, vast mangroves and hidden waterways and waterfalls.	Condition and trend	2017 		
	Assessment confidence	Limited 	Limited 	

Value statement

The park's exceptional scenic and aesthetic values include a distinctive backbone of rugged, often cloud-covered mountains, including the high peaks of Mt Diamantina (955m) and Mt Bowen (1,142m). Other scenic highlights include steep valleys and gorges, vast mangroves forests, lush rainforest gullies and palm forests, secluded beaches, small off-shore islands, rocky headlands, and hidden streams and waterfalls. The island is part of Queensland's most scenic 'passage' landscape, with mountains on the island and Cardwell Range rising more than 1,000m on either side of the narrow Hinchinbrook Channel.

Outside of the leased area at Cape Richards, the park has escaped the type of development now obvious on the nearby mainland, and is the longest stretch of largely undeveloped coastline between Ingham and Cooktown. The isolated island environment leaves visitors with feelings of solitude, wonder or connection with nature, heightened by the park's basic visitor facilities and low visitor numbers.

Threats

Primary threat: New buildings, visitor facilities (e.g. jetties), infrastructure, public utilities (e.g. communication towers) or other forms of development or use, could spoil the remote and wild experience of visitors—particularly if seen from popular areas or vantage points. **Threat rating: Low**

Secondary threat: Too many visitors or certain activities in the park, could reduce the wild and remote experience or cause impacts (i.e. noise, crowding, erosion, loss of vegetation) along the trail and in camping and visitor areas. **Threat rating: Low**

Other threat: Marine debris reduces visual quality at camping and day-use areas. **Threat rating: Low**

Desired outcome and strategic management directions

Desired outcome		
	The condition of scenic and aesthetic values has been maintained as 'good', by managing the impact of visitors and any associated development.	
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
Human impacts	Maintain the 'remote and wild nature' visitor experience by protecting the park's scenic and aesthetic values.	2



Recreational opportunities: 'Remote and wild nature' experience

Thorsborne Trail precinct

Description		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
Remote and wild island multi-day walk through spectacular coastal, mountain and tropical scenery.	Condition and trend	2017 		
	Assessment confidence	Limited 	Limited 	

Value statement

Visitors from around the world come to walk the Thorsborne Trail, Queensland's premier multi-day coastal bushwalk featuring some of Australia's most stunning island scenery. Most walkers take three or four days to complete the rough 32km trail along the island's east coast, stopping at beach and inland campsites that offer only basic facilities. Bushwalkers need to be reasonably self-sufficient, fit and agile to follow the rough bush route over ever-changing ground, which includes rough and rocky trails, areas of mud and swamp, beach and boulders, creek crossing and rocky climbs. The number of walkers on the trail is limited through a permit system, helping retain the sense of solitude for walkers. Walkers sometimes share camping areas with visitors arriving on boats or sea kayak trips, and occasionally cross paths with day visitors at popular beauty spots such as Zoe Bay, Zoe Falls and Mulligan Falls.

Threats

Primary threat: Feral pigs digging up and disturbing soil and vegetation, and weeds establishing along the trail and around camping and day-use areas are reducing visual quality. **Threat rating: Low**

Secondary threat: Some activities could reduce the remote and wild nature experience along the trail in the future, including too many walkers or day visitors, obtrusive or noisy activities near the trail or in surrounding marine areas, camping and walking in unauthorised areas and littering. **Threat rating: Low**

Desired outcome and strategic management directions

Desired outcome		
	The remote visitor experience provided by the Thorsborne Trail has been maintained as 'good', by managing pests, enhancing visitor opportunities and reducing potential visitor impacts.	
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
Pests	Reduce the visual impact of feral pigs and weeds on the Thorsborne Trail, nearby camping areas and other visitor areas.	3
Visitor impacts	Maintain and enhance visitors' experience of the Thorsborne Trail and nearby camping and visitor areas.	2
Visitor experience	Increase the opportunities for visitors to walk the Thorsborne Trail, by facilitating commercially guided bushwalks along the Trail, while maintaining the park's remote and wild nature experience.	2

*KEY: 1 – extremely urgent and extremely necessary (needed within 12 months), 2 – very necessary and very urgent (needed within one-two years), 3 - moderately necessary and moderately urgent (needed within next three years), 4 – somewhat necessary and somewhat urgent (needed within five years), 5 – optional and not urgent (addressed after other priorities).

Map 1: Hinchinbrook Island National Park Key Value



Levels of service

QPWS's *Levels of service* (LoS) is a planning tool for identifying and maintaining an acceptable management standard, or a level of service for resourcing and management, for each protected area based on its values, threats and the complexity of management. A management standard equates to a LoS rating and ranges from *acceptable* to *exceptional*. The assessment process allocates LoS ratings for each of the nine *park management elements* and this enables QPWS to manage its estate in a more consistent, accountable, effective and measurable way.

Figure 4: Levels of service icons

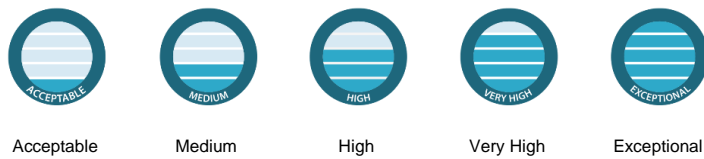


Figure 5: Management elements



The LoS assessment for Hinchinbrook Island National Park has identified a **medium** to **exceptional** LoS for most of its park management elements. For each park management element, the plan prescribes a current *LoS*, a *desired outcome statement*, and *strategic management directions*. QPWS continuously assesses the effectiveness of management actions, and the condition of each value, through a cycle of monitoring and evaluation.



Traditional Owner engagement and cultural heritage

Current level of service



Desired outcome and strategic management directions

Desired outcome



The partnership with Traditional Owners and the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation, and protecting their cultural heritage, is managed to a very high LoS, though improved knowledge, engagement and opportunities, to recognise their connection to Country and role in managing the park and its values.

Strategic management directions

Priority

Enhance local staff understanding of cultural heritage management and their capacity to work with Traditional Owners, through training, engaging with Traditional Owners, and making existing cultural heritage information more accessible to them (where appropriate).	2
Support Traditional Owners to improve management of cultural heritage places and values by helping them to access resources, enhance their cultural knowledge of the island, monitor sites, prepare resource management plans, and implement protocols for capturing new knowledge in the field.	3
Continue to partner with Girringun in managing the park, including improving how they participate in collaborative decision-making and on-ground management.	2
Continue to strengthen the relationship between Girringun, Traditional Owners and QPWS—including continuing formal forums and exploring new collaborative programs and partnerships.	2
Support Traditional Owners to explore new opportunities that may increase their economic well-being, including providing commercial services.	3

*KEY: M – maintain current priorities; 1 – extremely urgent and extremely necessary (needed within 12 months); 2 – very necessary and very urgent (needed within one-two years), 3 – moderately necessary and moderately urgent (needed within next three years); 4 – somewhat necessary and somewhat urgent (needed within five years); 5 – optional and not urgent (addressed after other priorities).



Fire

Current level of service



Desired outcome and strategic management directions

Desired outcome



Fire is managed to a high LoS, through improved knowledge of traditional burning practices and partnerships, to protect World Heritage and natural values, and reduce risks to life and property associated with the Thorsborne Trail and any future resort infrastructure at Cape Richards.

Strategic management directions

Priority

Improve understanding of the traditional Aboriginal burning practices and regimes, and integrate this into how fire is managed where appropriate.	3
Continuously improve operational staff knowledge and understanding of optimal fire regimes, by identifying knowledge gaps, making outcomes of existing research/monitoring more accessible, or guiding future research.	2
Improve how QPWS communicates with nearby mainland communities, including working with government agencies and local organisations, to promote the benefits of planned burning in maintaining ecosystem health and biodiversity.	2
Better target planned burning by improving monitoring and mapping of areas transitioning to rainforest but still able to carry fire (i.e. to minimise rainforest encroaching on neighbouring communities).	2

***KEY: M** – maintain current priorities; **1** – extremely urgent and extremely necessary (needed within 12 months); **2** – very necessary and very urgent (needed within one-two years), **3** – moderately necessary and moderately urgent (needed within next three years); **4** – somewhat necessary and somewhat urgent (needed within five years); **5** – optional and not urgent (addressed after other priorities).



Pests

Current level of service



Desired outcome and strategic management directions

Desired outcome



Pests are managed to a medium LoS, through increased knowledge and awareness and a more strategic approach to management, to protect World Heritage and natural values.

Strategic management directions

Priority

Increase knowledge of current and emerging pests (locations, extent, impacts and issues), by improving how pest data is recorded, managed and mapped, and targeted staff training (i.e. weeds identification).	3
Refocus priority on protecting key values (eg. Thorsborne Trail precinct), from pest threats and managing any new outbreaks of high-risk pests.	2
Increase capacity to undertake pest management, including partnering with Girringun, external organisations (i.e. regional Natural Resource Management groups and volunteers) to identify where they can best assist with resourcing pest management.	3
Improve park biosecurity, including communicating with visitors, engaging with commercial operators and enhancing quarantine and surveillance measures (e.g. at access points to the park).	2

*KEY: M – maintain current priorities; 1 – extremely urgent and extremely necessary (needed within 12 months); 2 – very necessary and very urgent (needed within one-two years), 3 – moderately necessary and moderately urgent (needed within next three years); 4 – somewhat necessary and somewhat urgent (needed within five years); 5 – optional and not urgent (addressed after other priorities).



Natural values

Current level of service



Desired outcome and strategic management directions

Desired outcome



Natural values are managed to a very high LoS, through increased knowledge and partnerships, to protect World Heritage natural values.

Strategic management directions

Priority

Improve knowledge of natural values, including better values mapping, fauna and flora distribution, trend and condition data (i.e. fauna), and make existing knowledge more accessible to operational staff.	3
Implement 'health checks' for key natural values, as well as strategic monitoring programs supported by specialist staff from the QPWS regional office.	1
Work with commercial operators to look at ways they can help manage and monitor natural values.	4
Collaborate more with other agencies and research organisations to prioritise, guide, and access resources to implement research and monitoring programs, and exchange existing information associated with World Heritage and other key values.	3
Increase partnerships with the Giringun Ranger Program to manage natural values, including pest and fire programs.	2

***KEY:** M – maintain current priorities; 1 – extremely urgent and extremely necessary (needed within 12 months); 2 – very necessary and very urgent (needed within one-two years); 3 – moderately necessary and moderately urgent (needed within next three years); 4 – somewhat necessary and somewhat urgent (needed within five years); 5 – optional and not urgent (addressed after other priorities).



Historic cultural heritage

Current level of service



Desired outcome and strategic management directions

Desired outcome



Historic cultural heritage is managed to a medium LoS, through increased knowledge and recognition, to protect heritage values of regional cultural significance.

Strategic management directions

Priority

Improve understanding of historic cultural values, by documenting and mapping the location, condition and significance of sites.	4
Improve staff knowledge by making cultural heritage information more accessible, by collating, standardising and better presenting existing information on heritage places.	4
Improve presentation of the park's historic cultural values, by including a basic 'story' about its heritage on the park's web page (or similar).	4

***KEY:** M – maintain current priorities; 1 – extremely urgent and extremely necessary (needed within 12 months); 2 – very necessary and very urgent (needed within one-two years), 3 – moderately necessary and moderately urgent (needed within next three years); 4 – somewhat necessary and somewhat urgent (needed within five years); 5 – optional and not urgent (addressed after other priorities).



Visitor

Current level of service



Desired outcome and strategic management directions

Desired outcome



Visitors are managed to an exceptional LoS, through improved knowledge and a more strategic approach to management, to ensure world-class visitor experiences and to protect park values.

Strategic management directions

Priority

Maintain the level of contact with visitors to the park, particularly to protect key values and maintain compliance with permits.	M
Increase the level of QPWS regional and central office specialist support over the short term, to manage new visitor opportunities while protecting the park's key values.	2
Give priority to maintaining or improving visitor experience at popular visitor sites, consistent with LoS site standards.	3
Review capacity and condition of all visitor sites, particularly the Thorsborne Trail precinct, to inform limits on visitor numbers and new visitor opportunities (day-use and camping).	1
Better inform park management by improving our understanding of visitors, including their expectations and experiences associated with the park's scenic, aesthetic and wild and remote qualities.	1
Improve presentation of the park to visitors, including its World Heritage values, by developing and implementing a communication strategy.	3
Work with the local tourism industry to explore new visitor opportunities (i.e. Thorsborne Trail), promote a coordinated approach to visitation, and promote key messages about the park.	1
Liaise within QPWS and with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to ensure visitor management in the adjacent marine park is consistent with managing the park's key visitor values.	M

***KEY:** **M** – maintain current priorities; **1** – extremely urgent and extremely necessary (needed within 12 months); **2** – very necessary and very urgent (needed within one-two years), **3** – moderately necessary and moderately urgent (needed within next three years); **4** – somewhat necessary and somewhat urgent (needed within five years); **5** – optional and not urgent (addressed after other priorities).



Community, partnerships and other interests

Current level of service



Desired outcome and strategic management directions

Desired outcome



Community, partnerships and other interests are managed to a high LoS through increased engagement and partnership, to recognise that local communities have a close relationship with the island and need to be engaged to ensure successful management.

Strategic management directions

Priority

Improve how QPWS communicates with the local community (i.e. councils, interest groups, volunteers), by preparing and implementing a communication and engagement strategy.	3
Foster partnerships with key stakeholders (e.g. volunteers and community groups), to help build capacity and to improve the exchange of information, which may assist in managing the park.	4
Work closely with QPWS Central office staff and relevant government departments to engage early with commercial interests associated with the Cape Richards resort lease.	M

***KEY:** M – maintain current priorities; 1 – extremely urgent and extremely necessary (needed within 12 months); 2 – very necessary and very urgent (needed within one-two years); 3 – moderately necessary and moderately urgent (needed within next three years); 4 – somewhat necessary and somewhat urgent (needed within five years); 5 – optional and not urgent (addressed after other priorities).



Field management capability

Current level of service



Desired outcome and strategic management directions

Desired outcome	
	Field management capability is managed to an exceptional LoS through a more strategic approach to managing resources, to enhance park management and protect values.
Strategic management directions	Priority
Refocus management activities, operational planning and programs, based on managing key values and meeting priority LoS.	2

***KEY:** M – maintain current priorities; 1 – extremely urgent and extremely necessary (needed within 12 months); 2 – very necessary and very urgent (needed within one-two years); 3 – moderately necessary and moderately urgent (needed within next three years); 4 – somewhat necessary and somewhat urgent (needed within five years); 5 – optional and not urgent (addressed after other priorities).



Operational planning and management support

Current level of service



Desired outcome and strategic management directions

Desired outcome



Operational planning and management support is managed to an exceptional LoS through increased awareness of resources, to enhance park management and protect values.

Strategic management directions

Priority





Maintain support from regional and central office experts around key management issues, including facilitating commercially guided walks on the Thorsborne Trail and working with Traditional Owners.




2

*KEY: M – maintain current priorities; 1 – extremely urgent and extremely necessary (needed within 12 months); 2 – very necessary and very urgent (needed within one-two years), 3 – moderately necessary and moderately urgent (needed within next three years); 4 – somewhat necessary and somewhat urgent (needed within five years); 5 – optional and not urgent (addressed after other priorities).

Summary of strategic management directions













Key Values










Value	Key value	Current	Desired	Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority (1-5) *
	Traditional Owner connection to country	●●●●	●●●●	Human impacts	Protect and present the park's Indigenous cultural heritage values, by partnering with the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation and Traditional Owners.	2
				Loss of connection to country	Support Traditional Owners to strengthen connection to country, including involving Traditional Owners in managing the park, facilitating access to country, and jointly seeking new opportunities that help sustain culture.	2
	Wetlands, estuaries and creeks	●●●	●●●●	Pests	Reduce the impacts of feral pigs on wetlands, estuaries and creeks.	2
					Contain infestations of Pond apple, Paramatta grass, Singapore daisy and other priority species, which are impacting on wetland and riparian areas.	2
					Reduce the risk of visitors, commercial operators and park managers introducing or spreading pests or disease in the park, by improving biosecurity.	2
				Climate change	Maintain and strengthen the ability of ecosystems to recover and adapt in response to climate change.	3
	Heathland, shrubland and cypress communities	●●●●	●●●●	Fire	Protect heathland, shrubland and cypress communities from wildfire by implementing appropriate planned burning within, and in surrounding, vegetation communities.	2
					Maintain the health of heathland communities, including maintaining species diversity and protecting rare and threatened plants (e.g. <i>Banksia plagiocarpa</i>), by implementing appropriate planned burning regimes within relevant communities.	2
	Eucalypt forest and woodland communities	●●	2025 ●●● ●●●●	Fire	Manage the health and extent of Eucalypt forest and woodland communities, through planned burning that prevents transition to rainforest where feasible.	2
					Pests	Contain infestations of Prickly pear and Paramatta grass, and reduce the impacts of Singapore daisy, by collaborating with local agencies and organisations.
						Reduce the risk of visitors, commercial operators and park managers introducing or spreading pests or disease in the park, by improving biosecurity.










Value	Key value	Current	Desired	Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority (1-5) *
	Rainforest communities	●●●●	●●●●	Fire	Maintain and improve the health of mosaic dune communities by implementing appropriate planned burning regimes (burning surrounding vegetation communities to protect 7.2.6b from wildfire) and burning within communities to rehabilitate fire adapted vegetation (i.e. RE 7.2.6a and 7.2.6c).	3
					Protect other rainforest communities from wildfire by implementing appropriate fire regimes in surrounding vegetation communities, including reducing high biomass grasses.	2
					Protect core habitat for the endemic Hinchinbrook Island nursery frog <i>Cophixalus hinchinbrookensis</i> from wildfire and feral pigs' impacts.	4
	'Remote and wild nature' experience: Scenic and aesthetic value	●●●●	●●●●	Human impacts	Maintain the 'remote and wild nature' visitor experience by protecting the park's scenic and aesthetic values.	2
	'Remote and wild nature' experience: Thorsborne Trail precinct	●●●●	●●●●	Pests	Reduce the visual impact of feral pigs and weeds on the Thorsborne Trail, nearby camping areas and other visitor areas.	3
				Visitor impacts	Maintain and enhance visitors' experience of the Thorsborne Trail and nearby camping and visitor areas.	2
				Visitor experience	Increase the opportunities for visitors to walk the Thorsborne Trail, by facilitating commercially guided bushwalks along the Trail, while maintaining the park's remote and wild nature experience.	2

*KEY: 1 – extremely urgent and extremely necessary (needed within 12 months), 2 – very necessary and very urgent (needed within one-two years), 3 - moderately necessary and moderately urgent (needed within next three years), 4 – somewhat necessary and somewhat urgent (needed within five years), 5 – optional and not urgent (addressed after other priorities).

Levels of service

LoS	Management element	Current	Desired	Strategic management directions	Priority (1-5) *
	Traditional Owner engagement and cultural heritage			Enhance local staff understanding of cultural heritage management and their capacity to work with Traditional Owners, through training, engaging with Traditional Owners, and making existing cultural heritage information more accessible to them (where appropriate).	2
				Support Traditional Owners to improve management of cultural heritage places and values by helping them to access resources, enhance their cultural knowledge of the island, monitor sites, prepare resource management plans, and implement protocols for capturing new knowledge in the field.	3
				Continue to partner with Giringun in managing the park, including improving how they participate in collaborative decision-making and on-ground management.	2
				Continue to strengthen the relationship between Giringun, Traditional Owners and QPWS, including continuing formal forums and exploring new collaborative programs and partnerships.	2
				Support Traditional Owners to explore new opportunities that may increase their economic well-being, including providing commercial services.	3
	Fire			Improve understanding of the traditional Aboriginal burning practices and regimes, and integrate into how fire is managed where appropriate.	3
				Continuously improve operational staff knowledge and understanding of optimal fire regimes, by identifying knowledge gaps, making outcomes of existing research/monitoring more accessible or guiding future research.	2
				Improve how QPWS communicates with nearby mainland communities, including working with government agencies and local organisations, to promote the benefits of planned burning in maintaining ecosystem health and biodiversity.	2
				Better target planned burning by improving monitoring and mapping of areas transitioning to rainforest but still able to carry fire (i.e. to minimise rainforest encroaching on neighbouring communities).	2
	Pests			Increase knowledge of current and emerging pests (locations, extent, impacts and issues), by improving how pest data is recorded, managed and mapped, and targeted staff training (i.e. weeds identification).	3
				Refocus priority on protecting key values (eg. Thorsborne Trail precinct), from pest threats and managing any new outbreaks of high-risk pests.	2
				Increase capacity to undertake pest management, including partnering with Giringun, external organisations (i.e. regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups and volunteers to identify where they can best assist with resourcing pest management.	3
				Improve park biosecurity, including communicating with visitors, engaging with commercial operators and enhancing quarantine and surveillance measures (e.g. at access points to the park).	2
	Natural values			Improve knowledge of natural values, including better values mapping, fauna and flora distribution, trend and condition data (i.e. fauna), and make existing knowledge more accessible to operational staff.	3

LoS	Management element	Current	Desired	Strategic management directions	Priority (1-5) *
	Natural values			Implement 'health checks' for key natural values, as well as strategic monitoring programs supported by specialist staff from the QPWS regional office.	1
				Work with commercial operators to look at ways they can help manage or monitor natural values.	4
				Collaborate more with other agencies and research organisations to prioritise, guide, and access resources to implement research and monitoring programs, and exchange existing information associated with World Heritage and other key values.	3
				Increase partnerships with the Giringun Ranger Program to manage natural values, including pest and fire programs.	2
	Historic cultural heritage			Improve understanding of historic cultural values, by documenting and mapping the location, condition and significance of sites.	4
				Improve staff knowledge by making cultural heritage information more accessible by collating, standardising and better presenting existing information on heritage places.	4
				Improve presentation of the park's historic cultural values, by including a basic 'story' about its heritage on the park's web page (or similar).	4
	Visitor			Maintain the level of contact with visitors to the park, particularly to protect key values and maintain compliance with permits.	M
				Increase the level of QPWS regional and central office specialist support over the short term, to manage new visitor opportunities while protecting the park's key values.	2
				Give priority to maintaining or improving visitor experience at popular visitor sites, consistent with LoS site standards.	3
				Review capacity and condition of all visitor sites, particularly Thorsborne Trail precinct, to inform limits on visitor numbers and new visitor opportunities (day-use and camping).	1
				Better inform park management by improving our understanding of visitors, including their expectations and experiences associated with the park's scenic, aesthetic and wild and remote qualities.	1
				Improve presentation of the park to visitors, including its World Heritage values, by developing and implementing a communication strategy.	3
				Work with the local tourism industry to explore new visitor opportunities (i.e. Thorsborne Trail), promote a coordinated approach to visitation and promote key messages about the park.	1
				Liaise within QPWS and with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to ensure visitor management in the adjacent marine park is consistent with managing the park's key visitor values.	M

LoS	Management element	Current	Desired	Strategic management directions	Priority (1-5) *
	Community, partnerships and other interests			Improve how QPWS communicates with the local community (i.e. councils, interest groups, volunteers) by preparing and implementing a communication and engagement strategy.	3
				Foster partnerships with key stakeholders (e.g. volunteers and community groups) to help build capacity and to improve exchanges of information that may help manage the park.	4
				Work closely with QPWS Central office staff and relevant government departments to engage early with commercial interests associated with the Cape Richards resort lease.	M
	Field management capability			Refocus management activities, operational planning and programs, based on managing key values and meeting priority LoS.	2
	Operational planning and management support			Maintain support from regional and central office experts around key management issues, including facilitating commercially guided walks on the Thorsborne Trail and working with Traditional Owners.	2

***KEY:** M – maintain current priorities; 1 – extremely urgent and extremely necessary (needed within 12 months); 2 – very necessary and very urgent (needed within one-two years); 3 – moderately necessary and moderately urgent (needed within next three years); 4 – somewhat necessary and somewhat urgent (needed within five years); 5 – optional and not urgent (addressed after other priorities).

Thematic strategies

In addition to this management plan, supporting thematic strategies guide management decisions and the allocation of resources. Thematic strategies present detailed objectives for implementing the plan, providing a link between the high-level strategies of the management plan/statement and the on-ground operations set out in detailed action plans.

Each protected area will require a fire strategy and pest strategy—the complexity of a park’s values, levels of service and other management considerations will determine the requirements for additional strategies.

Thematic strategies required for Hinchinbrook Island National Park:

Fire strategy

Assessment and monitoring strategy

Pest strategy

Indigenous: Traditional Owner engagement and cultural heritage strategy

Visitor strategy

Community and partnerships engagement strategy

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

QPWS applies a monitoring framework to evaluate whether Hinchinbrook Island National Park has been managed effectively. The results of such monitoring support an ‘adaptive’ approach to managing the park. This helps to set clear benchmarks for management, ensures the condition of key values is within acceptable thresholds, delivers transparent and accountable reporting, and continuously improves management.

Management effectiveness will be measured by evaluating:

- the condition and trend for key values
- whether levels of service standards have been achieved
- whether management actions have been implemented
- the outcomes of strategic management directions.

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