

Vernon Regional Park Management Statement

Park purpose

Vernon Regional Park was formally gazetted as Vernon Environmental Park in 1990 under the *Land Act 1962*. At that time there was a Trustee Agreement with Hervey Bay City Council. In 1994 Vernon Environmental Park was gazetted to Vernon Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

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

Park size	684ha
Bioregion	South East Queensland
Local government area	Fraser Coast Regional Council
State electorate	Maryborough
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, Vernon 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 moderate 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 four regional ecosystems, two of which have of concern biodiversity status, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance that are recorded from this park include the plant species *Prasophyllum exilis*, 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 two of concern regional ecosystems and one plant 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 the regional ecosystems and plant species of conservation significance.

Appendix 1

Conservation values inventory

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.3.5	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> open forest on coastal alluvium.	Of concern
12.3.11	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus siderophloia</i> , <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest on alluvial plains usually near coast.	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>Prasophyllum exilis</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low