

# Mount Whitfield Regional Park Management Statement

## Park purpose

Mount Whitfield Regional Park was formally gazetted as an environmental park in 1989. The property became a conservation park in 1994 under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

The purpose of the park is to protect a significant example of intact rainforest and significant Cycas woodland adjacent to an urban environment.

Under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, Cairns Regional Council is trustee of the park.

Park size	329ha
Bioregion	Wet Tropics
Local government area	Cairns Regional Council
State electorate	Barron River
QPWS region	Northern
Year prepared: 2015	Review date: 2025

## Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Mount Whitfield Regional Park has been assessed as having a high 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 published information. The high level means that it will receive a minimum of monthly routine inspections with occasional planned visits to deliver prepared work programs and to respond to issues. The focus is largely expected to be on natural resource and visitor management involving a proactive management effort at a high 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). Continuing engagement, consultation, collaboration and relationships with Traditional Owners and Indigenous stakeholders will be undertaken.

This park currently has high levels of visitor use and is used extensively for fitness training and walking. The public may opportunistically have contact with maintenance staff that are likely to be on site undertaking a range of protection or presentation tasks. A high level of infrastructure is provided by Cairns Regional Council including a network of walking tracks, comprising of steps, bridges, shelter sheds, lookouts and extensive interpretation material to support safe and sustainable use by predominantly self-reliant visitors.

Public consultation on park management and development will be undertaken through continuing engagement and involvement in management with community stakeholders.

Park assets include the red and blue arrow walking tracks which are functional and robust and require annual maintenance to protect the natural and cultural values and management capacity. Potential for expansion of the trail network exists and will be investigated. A 22 kV power-line crosses this regional park.

The area is zoned as conservation under the CairnsPlan.

## General park values, uses and management

### Regional ecosystems

The park protects eight regional ecosystems two of which have endangered biodiversity status and four are of concern, Table 1.

## Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance that are recorded from this park include seven bird and two bat 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. Cultural records on physical artefacts and sites of spiritual significance are 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 six regional ecosystems and nine 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
7.3.25a	Riverine wetland or fringing riverine wetland. <i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> open forest and woodland. Stream levees and prior streams on well-drained sandy clay loam alluvial soils.	Of concern
7.11.10a	<i>Acacia celsa</i> open forest to closed forest. Foothills and uplands on metamorphics (excluding amphibolites). Very wet and wet rainfall zone.	Of concern
7.11.13	<i>Corymbia torelliana</i> (cadaghi) open forest, usually with a vine forest element. Metamorphics.	Endangered
7.11.16a	<i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> , <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> , <i>E. drepanophylla</i> , <i>E. platyphylla</i> , <i>E. tereticornis</i> , <i>C. tessellaris</i> , <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> , <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> open forest to woodland. Foothills on metamorphics, of the wet and moist rainfall zones.	Endangered
7.11.44	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest to woodland on coastal metamorphic foothills	Of concern
7.11.49	<i>Eucalyptus leptophleba</i> , <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> and <i>E. platyphylla</i> open forest to woodland on metamorphic foothills	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
Animals				
<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i> <sup>3</sup>	cicadabird	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Cyclopsitta diopthalma macleayana</i>	Macleay's fig-parrot	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> <sup>2</sup>	white-bellied sea-eagle	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Hipposideros diadema</i>	diadem leaf-nosed bat	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i> <sup>1</sup>	black-faced monarch	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Merops ornatus</i> <sup>3</sup>	rainbow bee-eater	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>	spectacled flying-fox	least concern	Vulnerable	High
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i> <sup>1</sup>	rufous fantail	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i> <sup>1</sup>	spectacled monarch	Special least concern	-	Low

<sup>1</sup>Bonn: Bonn Convention<sup>3</sup>JAMBA: Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement<sup>2</sup>CAMBA: China-Australia Migratory Agreement<sup>4</sup>ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement