Department of Environment, Science and Innovation

Mount Lewis National Park

Management Statement

2013

Queensland Government

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

The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation acknowledges Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land. We recognise their connection to land, sea and community, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

The department is committed to respecting, protecting, and promoting human rights, and our obligations under the Human Rights Act 2019.

This management statement does not intend to affect, diminish, or extinguish native title or associated rights.

Disclaimer

All due diligence and care has been taken in the preparation of this document based on the information in the 2013 management statement. The department holds no responsibility for any errors or omissions within this document. Any decisions made by other parties based on this document are solely the responsibility of those parties.

The Mount Lewis 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:	27,540ha
Bioregion:	Wet Tropics Einasleigh Uplands
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Tablelands Regional Cairns Regional
State electorate:	Cook

Legislative framework

✔	*Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*
✔	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth)
✔	*Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth)
✔	*Nature Conservation Act 1992*
✔	*Wet Tropics World Heritage Management and Protection Act 1993*

Plans and agreements

✔	Draft recovery plan for the spotted-tail quoll (northern sub-species) *Dasyurus maculatus gracilis* 2011
✔	National recovery plan for the southern cassowary *Casuarius casuarius johnsonii* 2007
✔	Recovery plan for the stream-dwelling rainforest frogs of the Wet Tropics biogeography region of north-east Queensland 2000–2004.
✔	Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005

Thematic strategies

✔	Draft QPWS Wet Tropics Region Pest Strategy 2009
✔	Level 2 Fire Management Strategy
✔	Level 2 Pest Management Strategy

Vision

Mount Lewis National Park is protected to the highest possible degree because of its unique and ancient composition and values. Visitors recognise the need for sensitive behaviour and make minimal impact upon the park to ensure it retains a true Wet Tropics ambiance.

Conservation purpose

Mount Lewis National Park was gazetted on 11 December 2009. It is an amalgamation of the former Heights of Victory, Riflemead 1 and Riflemead 2, Mount Lewis and Round Mountain forest reserves.

Mount Lewis National Park and the adjoining Mount Spurgeon and Daintree national parks are important in providing habitat and refuge for species where habitat may be modified by future changes in climate.

The upland rainforest dates back to the evolution of flowering plants on earth. Some flowers are indicative of Australia's link with the ancient landmass of Gondwana.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

The soils throughout most of the park are derived from granites, while at the very start of the Mount Lewis Road they are derived from the older metamorphics of the Hodgkinson Basin. The 28km Mount Lewis Road winds through rainforest-clad ridges and spurs, as it climbs to over 1,200m before following the contours around the chain of peaks that form the watershed of the Mossman and Mitchell rivers.

With the exception of the Mount Lewis Road, the park remains in a most natural, unfragmented state.

The McLeod River is the largest river with headwaters on the park.

Regional ecosystems

Forty-seven regional ecosystems are mapped within Mount Lewis National park. These include 27 with a significant biodiversity status (Table 1).

Native plants and animals

Mount Lewis National Park is known to protect plant and animal species of conservation significance (Table 2) And birds listed under other international agreements (Table 3).

Isolated patches of bunya pine *Araucaria bidwillii* growing along the western perimeter of Mount Lewis National Park are of particular botanical interest.

Specialist invertebrates found on the park include the Mount Lewis spiny crayfish *Euastacus fleckeri*. It is only found above 800m. One the largest earthworms in the world, *Terriswalkerius terrareginae,* has been found at Mount Lewis. It is reported to grow up to 2 m long.

Aboriginal culture

Sites of material Aboriginal culture have been recorded on Mount Lewis National Park. This area is recognised as Western Yalanji Country and a native title application (#6 QC01/039) has been registered over a small section of the park north of the Mount Spurgeon Road.

An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (QI2005/007) Area Agreement between the Western Yalanji and former Mareeba Shire Council overlaps a small section of the park north of the Mount Spurgeon Road.

Shared-history culture

Tin, wolfram (tungsten) and manganese were mined in the Mount Lewis area for over 100 years. Pack teams were used to bring in stores and carry out the minerals along a track that zigzagged up the side of the mountain. A settlement of tin shacks was established and the area was grassed to supply feed for horses and stock. Other shacks dotted the mountain slopes as claims were established.

In 1963, a tin mine was started on Mount Lewis. Races were built with water for the mine coming from dams, gravity-fed for hundreds of metres along the trenches. Obstructed access to the tin eventually forced mining operations to move to Bethels Crossing on the Mitchell River at Mount Carbine in 1966.

Ad hoc timber harvesting of red cedar and kauri pine occurred on the lower slopes of Mount Lewis. The timber was cut by hand and taken by bullock teams to Mount Molloy for milling.

The first part of the Mount Lewis Road was put in during the late 1940s or early 1950s for contractors to access timber higher up the slopes. Many contractors worked the Mount Lewis slopes over the years. Initially all the timber was consigned to the Mount Molloy Mill, but when the Rankine family took over, they sent the timber far and wide.

The road was extended over the years and harvesting continued on the upper slopes until 1978. On the lower slopes the wet sclerophyll areas were harvested until the declaration of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area in 1988.

In July 1967 bad weather caused a light plane to crash on the slopes of Mount Lewis but it was not until 12 months later that the crash site was located, quite close to the existing road.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The Mount Lewis Road is the only vehicle access on the park. A Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) permit is required for driving on this road. It is proposed to replace the need for a permit with a road management agreement between WTMA and the land managers.

A section of the Mount Lewis Road passes through Brooklyn Sanctuary which is protected as a nature refuge.

Education and science

Mount Lewis Road is an important access road for university groups and the scientific community when they conduct studies in the vicinity. The area, including the forestry hut to the north of the old Riflemead 1 State Forest, is used for scientific research.

Partnerships

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) is responsible for the day-to-day management of the national park. The WTMA 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.

QPWS and the adjacent land owners, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy cooperatively manage pests and fire management in the area.

Traditional Owners are involved in cooperative park management.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Pests are managed through the Daintree South Level 2 pest management strategy.

Fire management

Fire is managed under the Daintree South Level 2 fire management strategy.

Other management issues

The Bicentennial National Trail crosses the park along the power line corridor near Lyons Lookout.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
Management issues Ecological and cultural values are protected.	QPWS permits must take into account the privately-owned section on the Mount Lewis Road.
Aboriginal culture Traditional Owners are involved in cooperative park management.	Support the involvement of the Traditional Owners in park management.

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.3.14	*Eucalyptus leptophleba* +/- *Corymbia clarksoniana* +/- *Melaleuca dealbata* woodland to open forest, on alluvium, in low rainfall areas of the west and north	Of concern
7.3.26	*Casuarina cunninghamiana* 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
7.3.43	*Eucalyptus tereticornis* open forest to woodland, on uplands on well drained alluvium	Endangered
7.3.49	Notophyll vine forest on rubble terraces of streams	Of concern
7.11.33	*Eucalyptus reducta* open forest to woodland on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.35	*Acacia mangium* and/or *A. celsa* and/or *A. polystachya* closed forest on alluvial plains	Endangered
7.11.44	*Eucalyptus tereticornis* open forest to woodland of coastal metamorphic foothills	Of concern
7.12.9	*Acacia celsa* open to closed forest on granites and rhyolites	Of concern
7.12.20	Simple microphyll vine-fern thicket of cloudy wet and moist windswept high exposed peaks on granite	Of concern
7.12.21	*Eucalyptus grandis* open forest to woodland, or *Corymbia intermedia*, *E. pellita*, and *E. grandis*, open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on granites and rhyolites	Endangered
7.12.22	*Eucalyptus resinifera* +/- *Eucalyptus portuensis* +/- *Syncarpia glomulifera* 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 *Allocasuarina* 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
7.12.48	Wind-sheared notophyll vine forest of exposed granite and rhyolite ridge-crests and steep slopes	Of concern
7.12.55	*Eucalyptus leptophleba* woodland to open forest of dry foothills and uplands on granite and rhyolite	Of concern
7.12.57	Shrubland and low woodland mosaic with *Syncarpia glomulifera*, *Corymbia abergiana*, *Eucalyptus portuensis*, *Allocasuarina littoralis*, and *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*, on moist and dry uplands and highlands on granite and rhyolite	Of concern
7.12.58	*Eucalyptus reducta*, *E. granitica*, *Corymbia dimorpha*, *C. citriodora* and *Syncarpia glomulifera* woodland, on granite and rhyolite	Of concern
7.12.60	*Melaleuca viridiflora* +/- *Corymbia clarksoniana* +/- *Eucalyptus platyphylla* woodland to open forest, on granite and rhyolite	Endangered
7.12.61	*Eucalyptus tereticornis* +/- *E. granitica* woodland to open forest of moist and dry foothills and uplands on granite and rhyolite	Of concern
7.12.62	*Eucalyptus* spp. (any ironbark species) and/or *Corymbia stockeri*, +/- *C. hylandii* +/- *Syncarpia glomulifera* +/- *E. portuensis* 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 southern areas, often with shrublands to closed forests of *Acacia* spp. and/or *Lophostemon suaveolens* and/or *Allocasuarina littoralis* and/or *Eucalyptus lockyeri* subsp. *exuta*	Of concern
7.12.66	Exposed rocky slopes on granite and rhyolite, with *Lophostemon confertus* low shrubland or low to medium closed forest	Of concern
7.12.69	*Eucalyptus drepanophylla* and/or *E. granitica* +/- *Corymbia clarksoniana* +/- *C. erythrophloia*	Of concern

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
	woodland, or dry uplands on granite and rhyolite	
9.3.3	Mixed woodland dominated by *Corymbia* spp. and *Eucalyptus* spp. on alluvial flats, levees and plains	Of concern
9.3.14	*Melaleuca* spp. +/- *Acacia* spp. +/- *Syzygium* spp. +/- *Leptospermum* spp. fringing woodland on channels and levees	Of concern
9.3.12	River beds and associated waterholes	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				
Accipiter novaehollandiae	grey goshawk	Near threatened	-	Low
Aerodramus terraereginae	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened	-	Low
Bettongia tropica	northern bettong	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
Casuarius casuarius johnsonii (southern population)	southern cassowary (southern population)	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
Cophixalus aenigma	tapping nurseryfrog	Near threatened	-	Low
Cophixalus monticola	mountain nurseryfrog	Vulnerable	-	Low
Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana	Macleay's fig-parrot	Vulnerable	-	Low
Dasyurus hallucatus	northern quoll	Least concern	Endangered	Medium
Dasyurus maculatus gracilis	spotted-tailed quoll (northern subspecies)	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
Dendrolagus lumholtzi	Lumholtz's tree-kangaroo	Near threatened	-	Low
Erythrotriorchis radiatus	red goshawk	Endangered	Vulnerable	High
Erythrura trichroa	blue-faced parrot-finch	Near threatened	-	Low
Eulamprus tigrinus		Near threatened	-	Low
Hemibelideus lemuroides	lemuroid ringtail possum	Near threatened	-	Low
Hipposideros diadema reginae	diadem leaf-nosed bat	Near threatened	-	Low
Kerivoula papuensis	golden-tipped bat	Near threatened	-	Medium
Lampropholis robertsi		Near threatened	-	Low
Litoria lorica	little waterfall frog	Endangered	Critically endangered	Low
Litoria nannotis	waterfall frog	Endangered	Endangered	Low
Litoria nyakalensis	mountain mistfrog	Endangered	Critically endangered	Low
Litoria rheocola	common mistfrog	Endangered	Endangered	Low
Litoria serrata	tapping green eyed frog	Near threatened	-	Low
Melithreotus gularis laetior	golden-backed honeyeater	Near threatened	-	Low
Murina florium	tube-nosed insectivorous bat	Vulnerable	-	High
Ninox rufa queenslandica	rufous owl (southern subspecies)	Vulnerable	-	Low
Nyctimystes dayi	Australian lacelid	Endangered	Endangered	Low
Petaurus australis unnamed subsp.	yellow-bellied glider (northern subspecies)	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical
Pseudochirops archeri	green ringtail possum	Near threatened	-	Low
Pseudochirulus cinereus	Daintree River ringtail possum	Near threatened	-	Low
Rhinolophus philippinensis	greater large-eared horseshoe bat	Endangered	Endangered	High
Taudactylus acutirostris	sharp snouted dayfrog	Endangered	Extinct	Low

Scientific name	Common name	*Nature Conservation Act 1992* status	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* status	Back on Track status
Taudactylus rheophilus	northern tinkerfrog	Endangered	Endangered	Low
Animals				
Callerya pilipes	northern wisteria	Near threatened	-	Low
Cyathea baileyana	wig tree fern	Near threatened	-	Low
Dendrobium bigibbum	-	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High
Elaphoglossum callifolium	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Dinghoua globularis	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Linospadix microcaryus	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Linospadix palmeriana	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Lysiana filifolia	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Medicosma glandulosa	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Phlegmariurus tetrastichoides	-	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High
Polyosma rigidiuscula	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Randia audasii	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Stenocarpus davallioides	fern-leaved stenocarpus	Vulnerable	-	Low
Xanthophyllum fragrans	-	Near threatened	-	Low

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	BONN	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
Ardea ibis	cattle egret	-	✓	✓	-
Coracina tenuirostris	cicadabird	-	-	✓	-
Cuculus optatus	oriental cuckoo	-	✓	✓	✓
Hirundapus caudacutus	white-throated needletail	-	✓	✓	✓
Merops ornatus	rainbow bee-eater	-	-	✓	-
Monarcha melanopsis	black-faced monarch	✓	-	-	-
Motacilla cincerea	grey wagtail	-	✓	-	✓
Myiagra cyanoleuca	satin flycatcher	✓	-	-	-
Rhipidura rufifrons	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-
Symposiarchus trivirgatus	spectacled monarch	✓	-	-	-

BONN – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement