Department of Environment, Science and Innovation

Hann Tableland 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 Hann Tableland 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.

If you need to access this document in a language other than English, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to telephone Library Services on +61 7 3170 5470.

This publication can be made available in an alternative format (e.g. large print or audiotape) on request for people with vision impairment; phone +61 7 3170 5470 or email library@des.qld.gov.au.

Park size:	10,820ha
Bioregion:	Wet Tropics
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Tablelands Regional Council
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*

Plans and agreements

✔	Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✔	National recovery plan for the northern quoll *Dasyurus hallucatus*

Thematic strategies

✔	Level 2 Fire Strategy
✔	Level 2 Pest Strategy

Vision

Hann Tableland National Park is protected as an undeveloped wilderness, providing a mountainous backdrop to the northern tablelands.

The natural integrity and ecosystem functions of the park are maintained through active management of fire and invasive plants.

Conservation purpose

The northern portion of the park was gazetted in 1989 to conserve forests of the Hann Tableland mountain range. The southern half of the park was acquired from pastoralists in 2004, nearly doubling the size of the estate and included areas of conservation significance along Boyle Creek.

Hann Tableland National Park contains the pristine headwaters of the Hodgkinson and Little Mitchell rivers and pockets of wet tropical forests, surrounded by the drier vegetation of the Einsleigh Uplands.

Located at the western edge of the Wet Tropics bioregion, the park contains outlier vegetation communities that are more commonly found elsewhere in the Wet Tropics.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Hann Tableland National Park is located at the western extremity of the Wet Tropics bioregion. The park rises to about 1000m above sea level and forms the headwaters of the Hodgkinson and Little Mitchell rivers. Surrounded by agriculture and grazing, it provides a rugged mountainous backdrop to the Mareeba and Dimbulah areas.

The park is an undeveloped wilderness. With the exception of the Bicentennial National Trail traversing the park near the northern boundary, there is virtually no formed public access and no visitor infrastructure.

Hann Tableland provides an elevated area of natural vegetation. The area is exposed to weather influences from east and west.

Regional ecosystems

The 11 regional ecosystems on Hann Tableland National Park vary from open woodlands, vine forests and montane rock pavement communities (Table 1).

Management of fire and invasive plants are the most significant issues with maintaining the natural integrity of the park.

Native plants and animals

Seven plant species of conservation significance have been recorded from the national park (Table 2). These primarily occur on rock pavements in the ephemeral herb/sedgelands.

Several animal species of conservation significance have been recorded from the park (Table 2). Birds of international conservation significance are listed in Table 3.

Aboriginal culture

The Hann Tableland also forms the eastern boundary of the Kuku Djungan area.

A native title claim has been lodged by the Muluridji people (claim no. QC98/038) over the northern portion of the park.

Shared-history culture

Discovery of gold in the Hodgkinson River led to the establishment of mines and settlements in the area.

The road from this goldfield to the coast, known as The Bump Road, once traversed the saddle between the Hann Tableland and Bakers Blue Mountain. Sections of stone pitching remain from the historic road. The Bicentennial National Trail follows the original gazetted alignment.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The Bicentennial National Trail is the only gazetted access to the park, and is intended for use by non-motorised traffic only. The park is visited infrequently by small groups of bushwalkers and naturalists.

Education and science

Sections of the park present outliers of mesic vegetation communities that are more commonly found in the wet tropics and, as such, may be of some interest to researchers. Difficulty in accessing much of the park is likely to limit research opportunities.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

High biomass grasses such as gamba grass *Andropogon gayanus* are considered to be significant threats to native communities. Lantana *Lantana camara* has significant impacts at the northern end of the park, where it grows in large dense thickets, displacing native species and altering fire behaviour. Giant rat's tail grass *Sporobolus pyramidalis* has invaded much of the park, including large areas of rock pavement in the central and southern parts of the park. Praxelis *Praxelis clematidea* is found throughout the park, but has its most significant impacts in the ephemeral herb/sedgelands on rock pavements.

Feral animals such as pigs *Sus scrofa* and cattle *Bos* spp. also occur on the park, and are generally concentrated in wetter areas such as the vine forest areas and around watercourses. Impacts from feral pigs are concentrated along watercourses and in vine forest communities. Mustering activities by park neighbours has reduced the number of cattle on the park. As fencing is problematic to install, it is likely that cattle will persist on the park in low numbers.

Pest management is undertaken with the cooperation of park neighbours.

Fire management

The park contains a mosaic of open forest and vine forest communities. Fire is also utilised as part of the integrated program to control pest plant species.

Hann Tableland National Park has had a history of periodic late season wildfires from the north-west. The most recent was in January 2006. Prescribed burning carried out since then has successfully prevented late season wildfires.

Fire management is undertaken with the cooperation of park neighbours and local rural fire brigade.

References

Forster, P.I.,Thomas, M.B. and Mathieson, M.T. 2010 Vascular Flora of Hann Tableland National Park, Queensland Herbarium, Department of Environment and Resource Management, Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Toowong Queensland 4066.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
Landscape Landscape and natural values including water quality, are maintained and enhanced.	Retain the area as an undeveloped wilderness in the absence of park infrastructure. Continue to actively manage fire and pests plants in order to maintain the integrity and structural complexity of vegetation communities within the park.

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.12.61	*Eucalyptus tereticornis* +/- *E. granitica* woodland to open forest of moist and dry foothills and uplands on granite and rhyolite	Of concern
7.12.65	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

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				
Corybas abellianus	nodding helmet orchid	Near threatened		Low
Endressia wardellii		Near threatened		Low
Goodenia heteroptera		Near threatened		Low
Homoranthus sp.nov.aff *porteri*		Least concern		
Huperzia phlegmaria	coarse tassel fern	Near threatened		High
Plectranthus spectabilis		Near threatened		Low
Rhamphicarpa australiensis		Near threatened		Low
Animals				
Dasyurus hallucatus	northern quoll	Least concern	Endangered	Medium
Erythrotriorchis radiatus	red goshawk	Endangered	Vulnerable	High
Turnix olivii	buff-breasted button-quail	Vulnerable	Endangered	Data deficient

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	BONN	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
Merops ornatus	rainbow bee-eater	-	-	✓	-

BONN – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement