

Ex-HMAS Brisbane Regional Park Management Statement

Park purpose

Ex-HMAS Brisbane Regional Park was formally gazetted as a conservation park in 2005.

The park was gazetted around the scuttled HMAS Brisbane to protect and manage this structure as a world class dive site and artificial reef. The ship was scuttled as a regional economic development project to provide significant tourism, economic and industry development opportunities for the Sunshine Coast and Queensland.

Park size	35.3ha
Bioregion	Tweed-Moreton (Marine)
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, Ex-HMAS Brisbane Regional Park has been assessed as having a basic level of priority for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, (QPWS) management and will be managed according to this rating. The base level means it will receive annual routine inspections with occasional planned visits where issues have been identified. The focus is largely expected to be on visitor management through permits and approvals to enable visitors to explore the site's abundant marine life. A restricted access area is in place to protect and maintain the wreck as a high quality dive site.

Park management will be based on the best available local knowledge, professional judgement and anecdotal information.

This park currently has high levels of visitor use, with access largely provided by commercial dive operators. Visitors are unlikely to encounter a QPWS ranger on site during their visit. Park information is provided off-site, primarily through the Departmental website and commercial dive operators.

Informal ad-hoc consultation with community stakeholders will be undertaken on specific issues of park management as they arise.

Park assets will consist of infrastructure to support diving to explore the former warship wreck and the artificial reef. Mooring infrastructure is provided to support sustainable anchoring by visitors.

General park values, uses and management

Species of conservation significance

There are currently no formal records of species of conservation significance listed for this park except the critically endangered grey nurse shark, which is known to use the wreck as a feeding site, Table 1.

Many species of marine life rely on the establishing reef for food and shelter, and the composition of species will evolve over time.

Cultural heritage

The HMAS Brisbane was a Charles F Adams class Guided Missile Destroyer which served 34 years in the Royal Australian Navy, including deployments to both the Vietnam and Gulf wars. It was the last steam-powered ship in the Australian Navy and the wreck's resting place and associated mainland lookout, which includes a portion of the ship's mast, are places of significance to former ship's crew and the Navy.

Priorities for park management

Keys values of this park are the world class scuba diving experience and opportunities for research studies on a developing artificial reef.

Priorities for park management will be to manage site access through the declared restricted access area to ensure high quality scuba diving experiences and sustainable use through the careful management of visitor numbers and exclusion of fishing and general boating from the area.

Site management and use does not compromise endangered grey nurse shark feeding behaviours.

Any emergent pest threats will be managed to conserve or maintain the condition of the developing reef.

Appendix 1

Conservation values inventory

Table 1: Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> status	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> status	Back on Track status
Animals				
<i>Carcharias taurus</i>	grey nurse shark	Endangered	Critically endangered	High