

Combo Regional Park 1 Management Statement

Park purpose

Combo Regional Park 1 was formally gazetted as Combo Conservation Park 1 on 8 December 1995 under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

The park specific purpose was declared due to the park's connection to the story of Waltzing Matilda and Banjo Patterson.

Park size	26.18ha
Bioregion	Mitchell Grass Downs
Local government area	Winton Shire
State electorate	Mount Isa
QPWS region	Central
Year prepared: 2015	Review date: 2025

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Combo Regional Park 1 has been assessed as having a basic level of priority for management and 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 basic level priority means it will receive annual routine inspections with occasional planned visits where issues have been identified. The focus is largely expected to be on natural and cultural management involving proactive management to understand and protect natural and cultural values.

Cultural values will be managed proactively to protect those values known to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, (QPWS). Informal ad-hoc local consultation, collaboration and relationships with Traditional Owners and Indigenous stakeholders will be undertaken as required to progress specific issues and programs.

This park currently has low levels of infrequent 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 and are primarily responsible for their own personal safety. General park information is mainly provided off-site through the Departmental website.

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

Park assets will consist of minimal robust infrastructure which is required for the protection of natural and cultural values and self-reliant use by the public.

General park values, uses and management

Regional ecosystems

Combo Regional Park 1 protects four regional ecosystems, one of which has of concern biodiversity status, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

There are currently no records of species of conservation significance on Queensland Government wildlife databases for this park.

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*.

Combo Waterhole is believed to be the setting for the story of Waltzing Matilda, or at least part of the inspiration for Banjo Patterson who visited the site in 1895 while travelling to Dagworth Station. The focus for management is to enable the public to connect with the Waltzing Matilda Story. The park is recognised as an important visitor site.

Priorities for park management

The cultural history and of concern regional ecosystem are the main values of this park. The priorities for park management will be to mitigate any threats to these 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 ecosystem 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 cultural values and regional ecosystem.

Appendix 1

Conservation values inventory

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
4.3.3	<i>Eucalyptus coolabah</i> , <i>E. camaldulensis</i> +/- <i>Lysiphyllum gilvum</i> open woodland on drainage lines.	Of concern