

Mount Spurgeon National Park

Management Statement

2013



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

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The Mount Spurgeon 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: | 1,194ha |
| Bioregion: | Wet Tropics |
| QPWS region: | Northern |
| Local government estate/area: | Tablelands Regional |
| State electorate: | Cook |

Legislative framework

| | |
|---|--|
| ✓ | <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i> |
| ✓ | Wet Tropics World Heritage Area |

Plans and agreements

| | |
|---|---|
| ✓ | Bonn Convention |
| ✓ | Draft recovery plan for the spotted-tail quoll (northern sub-species) <i>Dasyurus maculatus gracilis</i> 2011 |
| ✓ | Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement |
| ✓ | National recovery plan for the yellow-bellied glider (Wet Tropics) <i>Petaurus australis</i> unnamed subspecies |
| ✓ | Recovery Plan for the stream-dwelling rainforest frogs of the Wet Tropics biogeographic region of north-east Queensland 2000–2004 |
| ✓ | Recovery plan for the northern bettong, <i>Bettongia tropica</i> 2000–2004 |
| ✓ | Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005 |

Thematic strategies

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| ✓ | QPWS Wet Tropics Pest Strategy |
|---|--------------------------------|

Vision

Mount Spurgeon National Park is managed to conserve high altitude wilderness values and cultural values.

Conservation purpose

Mount Spurgeon National Park was gazetted on 1 August 2008. It was previously a State forest and has a significant shared-history cultural heritage.

The Mount Spurgeon National Park is located within the delineation of Windsor Wilderness Area. It has been identified as a 'premium wilderness area' and the most outstanding and most important wilderness in the area. The area is of national and international significance.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Mount Spurgeon National Park is located on the Mount Carbine Tableland, entirely above 1,000m. The primary landscape features on the park are Mount Spurgeon 1,322m, Roots Mount 1,331m and Mount Misery 1,246m. The drainage features that originate on the park include Spurgeon Creek, Cow Creek and Reedy Creek—all of which join the McLeod River.

At around 900m altitude, forests harvest water directly from clouds, fog, mist and rain. They are believed to be of great importance to the maintenance of stream flows throughout the dry season. Cloud forests only cover a small area of the Wet Tropics but are of worldwide ecological importance. If the altitude of the cloud base rose in the Wet Tropics, this would result in a predicted loss of about 75% (70,000ha) of Queensland's cloud forests.

The geology of the area consists almost entirely of coarse biotite granite. Up to the time of World Heritage listing, the area surrounding Mount Spurgeon had been mined for tin. This activity was confined to minor alluvial workings, mostly along Sandy Creek.

Threats to landscape values include erosion of vehicle tracks and of the areas of where wash mining occurred.

Regional ecosystems

Five regional ecosystems have been recorded from Mount Spurgeon National Park. Two of these are endangered communities, and one is of concern (Table 1).

Native plants and animals

Mount Spurgeon National Park is known to protect plant and animal species of conservation significance (Table 2). Bird species recorded in international agreements are listed in Table 3.

The near threatened Mount Spurgeon black pine *Prumnopitys ladei*, is advertised widely as nursery stock for hedging.

The only currently known population of the endangered little waterfall frog *Litoria lorica* is in Mount Lewis National Park, which is downstream of and in the immediate vicinity of Mount Spurgeon National Park.

Aboriginal culture

The Western Yalanji people are the Traditional Owners for the area.

The Eastern Yalanji people's Indigenous Land Use Agreement areas (QI2007/007; QI2007/026) border the eastern boundary of the park.

Shared-history culture

Mount Spurgeon National Park conserves old mining relics including a significant mining race and tin-miner's hut.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

Gazetted roads cross the park. Four-wheel-drive clubs, horse riders and trail bikers use these roads; and may seek to use Mount Spurgeon National Park.

Potential exists for the establishment of long distance walks in the area, which include Mount Spurgeon National Park. Dieback *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, a fungal disease that thrives in wet soil and poses a significant threat to many plant species, is present on the park; and needs to be factored into any decisions made.

Other key issues and responses

Fire management

Mount Spurgeon National Park does not have a current fire management strategy.

Pest management

Areas of rose gum *Eucalyptus grandis* within Mount Spurgeon National Park have been affected by dieback *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Access to Mount Spurgeon National Park is not encouraged, especially during the wet season, to limit the spread of this serious disease.

Mount Spurgeon National Park does not have a pest management strategy.

Other management issues

A mining claim (MC1150) currently exists over 1ha of Mount Spurgeon National Park.

Management directions

| Desired outcomes | Actions and guidelines |
|---|--|
| <p>Landscape Landscape and natural values are maintained and enhanced.</p> | Assess all old mining and forestry tracks within the park for erosion risk and mitigate threats and degradation where possible. |
| <p>Regional ecosystems Of concern and endangered regional ecosystems are protected.</p> | Implement fire regimes which promote the regeneration of rose gum <i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> and red mahogany <i>E. resinifera</i> . |
| <p>Native plants and animals There is comprehensive knowledge of native plant and animal species, associated communities and their ecological requirements. The geographical extent and integrity of native plant communities is maintained.</p> | <p>Undertake plant and animal surveys to provide information to support and improve decisions on species management.</p> <p>Monitor habitat and significant species populations to ensure their long-term survival.</p> |
| <p>Aboriginal culture Traditional Owners are involved in management of the park.</p> | <p>Identify and record places of cultural significance in a culturally-appropriate manner.</p> <p>Traditional owners are consulted with respect to the conservation, protection and appropriate interpretation of their cultural heritage.</p> |
| <p>Shared-history culture Sites and places of shared history culture heritage significance are conserved, protected and presented where appropriate.</p> | Identify and record the mining history of the park. |
| <p>Tourism and visitor opportunities Visitor opportunities and experiences are consistent with the natural, cultural and World Heritage values of the area.</p> | Investigate long-distance walking opportunities, giving consideration to the potential for disease spread |
| <p>Fire management Fire management protects species diversity, life, property and infrastructure.</p> | Develop and implement a fire management strategy or incorporate the park into the Daintree South Fire Management Strategy. |
| <p>Pest management The threats posed by pest plants and animals are identified and managed.</p> | <p>Work cooperatively with the Tablelands Regional Council to control pests along gazetted roads adjacent to the park to reduce the spread of pest plants into unaffected areas.</p> <p>Develop and implement a Level 2 Pest Management Strategy or incorporate the park into the Daintree South Pest Management Strategy.</p> |
| <p>Other management issues The management principles are aligned across other tenures within the park boundary.</p> | Investigate the appropriate tenure for the current mining claim area. |

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

| Regional ecosystem number | Description | Biodiversity status |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 7.12.20 | Simple microphyll vine-fern thicket of cloudy wet and moist windswept high exposed peaks on granite. | Of concern |
| 7.12.21 | <i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> open forest to woodland, or <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> , <i>E. pellita</i> , and <i>E. grandis</i> , open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on granites and rhyolites. | Endangered |
| 7.12.22 | <i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> +/- <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> 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 |

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 | | | | |
| <i>Aceratium ferrugineum</i> | rusty carabeen | Near threatened | | Low |
| <i>Aglaia brassii</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Austrobuxus megacarpus</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Bubbia queenslandiana</i> subsp. <i>queenslandiana</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Calochlaena villosa</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Cyathea baileyana</i> | wig tree fern | Near threatened until 26/7/2012, now least concern | - | Low |
| <i>Diospyros</i> sp. (Mount Spurgeon C.T. White 10677) | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Endressia wardellii</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Garcinia brassii</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Glochidion pungens</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Gossia lewisensis</i> | - | Near threatened until 26/7/2012, now least concern | - | Low |
| <i>Helicia recurva</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Hypserpa smilacifolia</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Lenbrassia australiana</i> var. <i>glabrescens</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Lindsaea terrae-reginae</i> | - | Vulnerable | - | Low |
| <i>Linospadix microcaryus</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Medicosma glandulosa</i> | - | Near threatened | | Low |
| <i>Oenotrichia dissecta</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Data deficient |
| <i>Plectranthus spectabilis</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Polysma rigidiuscula</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Prumnopitys ladei</i> | Mount Spurgeon black pine | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Pteridoblechnum acuminatum</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Sarcopteryx montana</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Symplocos ampulliformis</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Symplocos wooroonooran</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Wendlandia connata</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| Animals | | | | |
| <i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i> | grey goshawk | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Bettongia tropica</i> | northern bettong | Endangered | Endangered | Critical |
| <i>Cophixalus aenigma</i> | tapping nurseryfrog | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma</i> | Macleay's fig-parrot | Vulnerable | - | Low |

| | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|------------|----------|
| <i>macleayana</i> | | | | |
| <i>Dasyurus maculatus gracilis</i> | spotted-tailed quoll (northern subspecies) | Endangered | Endangered | Critical |
| <i>Hipposideros diadema reginae</i> | diadem leaf-nosed bat | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Kerivoula papuensis</i> | golden-tipped bat | Near threatened | - | Medium |
| <i>Litoria nannotis</i> | waterfall frog | Endangered | Endangered | Low |
| <i>Litoria rheocola</i> | common mistfrog | Endangered | Endangered | Low |
| <i>Litoria serrata</i> | tapping green eyed frog | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Murina florium</i> | tube-nosed insectivorous bat | Vulnerable | - | High |
| <i>Nyctimystes dayi</i> | Australian laceid | Endangered | Endangered | Low |
| <i>Petaurus australis</i> unnamed subsp. | yellow-bellied glider (northern subspecies) | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | Critical |
| <i>Pseudochirulus cinereus</i> | Daintree River ringtail possum | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Taudactylus acutirostris</i> | sharp snouted dayfrog | Endangered | Extinct | Low |
| <i>Taudactylus rheophilus</i> | northern tinkersfrog | Endangered | Endangered | Low |

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

| Scientific name | Common name | BONN | CAMBA | JAMBA | ROKAMBA |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|------|-------|-------|---------|
| <i>Coracina tenuirostris</i> | cicadabird | - | - | ✓ | - |
| <i>Merops ornatus</i> | rainbow bee-eater | - | - | ✓ | - |
| <i>Monarcha melanopsis</i> | black-faced monarch | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i> | 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