

# Dinden National Park

## Management Statement

2013



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

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The Dinden 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:	Dinden National Park 20,650ha Dinden National Park (Recovery) 374ha
Bioregion:	Wet Tropics
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Tablelands Regional Council Cairns Regional Council
State electorate:	Cook Barron River Mulgrave

### Legislative framework

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

### Plans and agreements

✓	Bonn Agreement
✓	China—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Japan—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	National recovery plan for the southern cassowary <i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> 2007
✓	National recovery plan for the spectacled flying fox <i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>
✓	Recovery plan for the endangered cave-dwelling bats, <i>Rhinolophus philippinensis</i> , <i>Hipposideros semoni</i> and <i>Taphozous troughtoni</i> 2001–2005
✓	Recovery plan for the northern bettong, <i>Bettongia tropica</i> 2000–2004
✓	Recovery plan for the stream-dwelling rainforest frogs of the Wet Tropics biogeography region of north-east Queensland 2000–2004
✓	Republic of Korea—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005

### Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 Fire Management Strategy
✓	Level 2 Pest Management Strategy

## Vision

Dinden National Park continues to conserve habitats and species of conservation significance. Visitor use is promoted at key sites.

## Conservation purpose

The 20,650 hectares (ha) of Dinden National Park was gazetted in December 2005 following a conservation assessment as part of the Wet Tropics Forest Transfer program. The park conserves habitat for the endangered northern bettong *Bettongia tropica* and upland frogs.

Previously the park was Dinden Forest Reserve. The park lies adjacent to Little Mulgrave, Danbulla, Barron Gorge, Davies Creek national parks, and Danbulla 2 State Forest and Bare Hill Conservation Park. Dinden State Forest was gazetted as Dinden (West) Forest Reserve on 18 May 2011. The 950ha Dinden National Park (Recovery) will be incorporated into Dinden National Park as soon as practicable.

## Protecting and presenting the park's values

### Landscape

Most of Dinden National Park is located in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The geology of Dinden National Park is largely derived from Tinaroo granite, which intruded into the overlying metamorphic Hodgkinson formation during the early Permian period 260-270 million years ago. Weathering and erosion of the metamorphic rocks have given rise to the rugged granitic landscapes that characterise the park. The highest point on the park is Kahlpahlim Rock at 1306 metres (m) on Lamb Range, from which visitors can enjoy spectacular views to the Coral Sea.

The vegetation on Dinden National Park represents a gradational pattern of vegetation between the biogeographic regions of the Wet Tropics and Einasleigh Uplands. While rainforest dominates the wetter, eastern side of the range, eucalypt woodland dominates the drier, rain-shadowed areas on the western slopes. These contrasting vegetation types are separated by a strip of wet sclerophyll forest—a near threatened forest type.

### Regional ecosystems

Dinden National Park contains 53 mapped regional ecosystems. Forty regional ecosystems within the park are endangered or of concern (Table 1).

The park is a mosaic of tropical rainforest, tall eucalypt forest with flooded gum and turpentine, dry open forest and casuarinas forest remnants. Many large rainforest trees remain on the park, including kauri pine, red cedar and Queensland maple. Tall, moist gallery vine forest grows along some creek banks and primitive plants such as cycads *Cycas* spp. may be seen throughout the drier forests.

### Native plants and animals

The diverse vegetation is mirrored by the wide variety of wildlife recorded in, and immediately adjoining, the park. Sixteen species of conservation significance are listed in Table 2. The eastern curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* and four other bird species are listed in international agreements (Table 3).

Dinden National Park is recognised as one of the best remaining strongholds for the endangered northern bettong *Bettongia tropica*. There appears to be a correlation between a thickening mid-strata of pioneer rainforest and she-oak, such as that observed in Dinden National Park, and the disappearance or decline in observations of northern bettongs. Feral pigs *Sus scrofa* are known to graze on truffles and may compete with the northern bettong for limited food resources. Grazing may also damage habitat of the northern bettong via selective browsing. Other possible threats to northern bettong populations include wild or hunting dogs *Canis* spp., feral cats *Felis catus* and foxes *Vulpes vulpes* (Dennis 2002).

The common mistfrog *Litoria rheocola* has disappeared from most sites above 400m. The Australian lacelid *Nyctimystes dayi* is now absent from most localities above 300m.

### Aboriginal culture

Aboriginal cultural sites including paintings, pathways, scar trees, artefact scatters, story places, contact places and cultural places have been recorded in Dinden National Park. Aboriginal people are known to have collected and hunted food from the area and developed ways of treating the highly toxic cycad seeds for use as a staple source of food.

A native title claim (QC04/010) is registered over a small section at the southern end of the park.

Parts of the park have been traditionally used for ceremonies, painting and tool making.

## Shared-history culture

Since non-Aboriginal people arrived, part of the area has been subject to farming, mining and timber harvesting. In 1876, John Atherton, the first European to sight the area, established a home for his family and 1,500 head of cattle near what is now known as the town of Mareeba.

Gold was discovered in Davies Creek in the early 1900s and timber harvesting in the area also began around this time, continuing intermittently until the 1980s. Historic pack routes, used to transport supplies between the coast and the Atherton Tableland, pass through sections of Dinden National Park.

## Tourism and visitor opportunities

Dinden National Park offers excellent opportunities for viewing wildlife, walking, bush-camping, mountain biking, swimming and picnicking.

Commercial tour operators run tours to Lake Morris, the Clohesy Fig-tree walk and Kahlpahlim Rock. These tours include various activities such as bushwalking, scenic drives, mountain biking and spotlighting.

Bush-camping is provided along Davies Creek Road. Access by four-wheel drive is advisable and can be limited during the wet season (November-March).

Various walking tracks are provided within the park and receive intermittent use. Views over Lake Morris, Cairns and Davies Creek are a major attraction from Kahlpahlim Rock. The Clohesy Fig-tree walk is wheelchair accessible but toilets and picnic areas are not provided. A boardwalk encircles the Clohesy fig tree. Signs along the walk interpret the local rainforest environment.

Mountain bikes can be used in some areas of the park. Some tracks are steep and difficult and suited to use by the extreme mountain bikers.

Lookouts on Dinden National Park, off the Lake Morris Road, provide spectacular views across Cairns and Trinity Inlet.

## Education and science

Relationships between fire and pest management and the ongoing population health of the northern bettong remain the focus of management.

## Partnerships

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) is legislatively responsible for the day-to-day management of the national park. The Wet Tropics Management Authority 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.

## Other key issues and responses

### Pest management

A Draft Wet Tropics Region Pest Strategy includes the Tablelands area.

Cane toads *Rhinella marina*, wild dogs *Canis lupus familiaris*, cats *Felis catus*, rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* and possibly foxes *Vulpes vulpes* are threats to native animals.

Chytrid fungus is reported to have negatively impacted the native upland frog populations including areas within Dinden National Park.

### Fire management

The fire history of Dinden National Park has been well documented. An assessment of fire impacts on the preferred habitat of the northern bettong has been undertaken. Wildfire suppression is necessary to protect northern bettong populations and cycads. Fire is essential to maintain native plants and specific habitats such as those that produce the truffle and cockatoo grass, favoured by the northern bettong.

Significant cultural values, infrastructure and fire sensitive communities on Dinden National Park need to be protected from fire.

## **Other management issues**

Organised groups such as Reserve cadets and the Boy Scouts undertake camping, hiking and navigational exercises within the park.

Two communication towers and a helipad exist on Dinden National Park. A powerline is located on an easement issued to Powerlink Queensland.

## Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p><b>Native plants and animals</b> Endangered species and their habitats are protected in the long-term.</p>	<p>Protect habitat of the endangered northern bettong through active fire and pest management.</p>
<p><b>Aboriginal culture</b> Traditional Owners are involved in cooperative park management.</p>	<p>Support the involvement of the Traditional Owners in park management.</p>
<p><b>Tourism and visitor opportunities</b> Tourism and recreation experiences are safe, sustainable and appropriate to the landscape character of the park.</p>	<p>Continue to provide a variety of recreation opportunities within the park, including mountain biking and bush camping in a natural setting.</p> <p>Develop a visitor strategy for the park.</p>
<p><b>Science</b> Research and monitoring programs have increased knowledge and management responses for the park's natural and cultural values.</p>	<p>Identify critical knowledge gaps requiring research, monitoring and assessment, especially in relation to the conservation of significant species (e.g. northern bettong and cycads) and ecosystems recorded from the park.</p>

## Tables – Conservation values management

**Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems**

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.3.14	<i>Eucalyptus leptophleba</i> +/- <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> +/- <i>Melaleuca dealbata</i> woodland to open forest, on alluvium, in low rainfall areas of the west and north	Of concern
7.3.19	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> or <i>C. tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on well drained alluvium	Of concern
7.3.19	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> or <i>C. tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on well drained alluvium	Of concern
7.3.20	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> , or <i>C. intermedia</i> and <i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> , or <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> and <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp., or <i>E. cloeziana</i> , or <i>C. torelliana</i> open forests (or vine forests with these species as emergents), on alluvial fans at the base of ranges	Of concern
7.3.25	<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> +/- vine forest species, open to closed forest, on alluvium fringing streams	Of concern
7.3.26	<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> 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
7.3.38	Complex notophyll vine forest with emergent <i>Agathis robusta</i> , on alluvial fans	Of concern
7.3.43	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest to woodland, on uplands on well drained alluvium	Endangered
7.3.49	Notophyll vine forest on rubble terraces of streams	Of concern
7.11.6	<i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> and <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest to woodland, on wet and moist metamorphics of foothills and uplands	Endangered
7.11.10	<i>Acacia celsa</i> open to closed forest on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.13	<i>Corymbia torelliana</i> open forest usually with a vine forest element, on metamorphics	Endangered
7.11.14	<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 metamorphics	Endangered
7.11.18	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and/or <i>C. tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> medium to tall open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on coastal metamorphic headlands and near-coastal foothills	Of concern
7.11.19	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and/or <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest to woodland of uplands, on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.23	Complex mesophyll vine forest on fertile, well drained metamorphics of very wet and wet footslopes	Of concern
7.11.24	Closed vineland of wind disturbed vine forest, on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.27	Simple microphyll vine-fern forest or microphyll vine-sedge forest of wet metamorphic uplands and highlands	Of concern
7.11.28	Wind-sheared notophyll vine forest of exposed metamorphic ridge crests and steep slopes	Of concern
7.11.30	Simple notophyll vine forest of <i>Blepharocarya involucrigera</i> on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.31	<i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> +/- <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.32	<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> and/or <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp. +/- healthy understorey, medium to tall woodland to open forest (or vine forest with these species as emergents), of steep rocky metamorphic slopes with shallow soils	Of concern
7.11.35	<i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> +/- <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> woodland to open forest, on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.37	<i>Eucalyptus drepanophylla</i> and <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> woodland to open forest, of dry uplands on metamorphics, between Tolga and Mount Molloy	Of concern
7.11.38	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i> low woodland to low closed forest +/- <i>Acacia celsa</i> , <i>Syncarpia</i>	Of concern



Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
	<i>glomulifera</i> and <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp. on steep metamorphic slopes	
7.11.44	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest to woodland of coastal metamorphic foothills	Of concern
7.11.50	<i>Eucalyptus platyphylla</i> +/- <i>E. drepanophylla</i> +/- <i>Corymbia</i> spp. open woodland to open forest on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.51	<i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> and/or <i>Eucalyptus drepanophylla</i> open forest to woodland on metamorphics	Of concern
7.12.4	<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> open forest of granites and rhyolites, on deep soils	Endangered
7.12.9	<i>Acacia celsa</i> open to closed forest on granites and rhyolites	Of concern
7.12.17	<i>Corymbia torelliana</i> open forest usually with a well-developed simple notophyll vine forest element, on granites and rhyolites	Endangered
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
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 <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp. shrublands and/or sedgeland	Of concern
7.12.48	Wind-sheared notophyll vine forest of exposed granite and rhyolite ridge-crests and steep slopes	Of concern
7.12.61	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> +/- <i>E. granitica</i> 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 <i>Acacia</i> spp. and/or <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> and/or <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> and/or <i>Eucalyptus lockyeri</i> subsp. <i>exuta</i>	Of concern
7.12.66	Exposed rocky slopes on granite and rhyolite, with <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> low shrubland or low to medium closed forest	Of concern
7.12.69	<i>Eucalyptus drepanophylla</i> and/or <i>E. granitica</i> +/- <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> +/- <i>C. erythrophloia</i> woodland, or dry uplands on granite and rhyolite	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
<b>Plants</b>				
<i>Agathis microstachya</i>	bull kauri	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Alectryon semicinereus</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Antrophyum subfalcatum</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Austromuellera trinervia</i>	Mueller's silky oak	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Asplenium athertonense</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Cleistanthus discolor</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Endressia wardellii</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Huperzia phlegmaria</i>	coarse tassel fern	Near threatened	-	High
<i>Lastreopsis tinaroensis</i>	-	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Lastreopsis grayi</i>	-	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Peperomia bellendenkerensis</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Polyphlebium endlicherianum</i>	-	Vulnerable	-	-
<i>Pseuduvaria mulgraveana</i> var. <i>glabrescens</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Randia audasii</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Rourea brachyandra</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Sarcopteryx acuminata</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Schizomeria whitei</i>	white birch	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Solanum hamulosum</i>	-	Endangered	-	Medium
<i>Wetria australiensis</i>	-	Vulnerable	-	Medium
<i>Wendlandia basistaminea</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<b>Animals</b>				
<i>Bettongia tropica</i>	northern bettong	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
<i>Murina florium</i>	tube-nosed insectivorous bat	Vulnerable	-	High
<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>Nyctimystes dayi</i>	Australian lacelid	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Taudactylus acutirostris</i>	sharp snouted dayfrog	Endangered	Extinct	Low
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	grey goshawk	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> (southern population)	southern cassowary (southern population)	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana</i>	Macleay's fig-parrot	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	black-necked stork	Near threatened	-	Low

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
<i>Erythrura trichroa</i>	blue-faced parrot-finch	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	square-tailed kite	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Melithreptus gularis</i>	black-chinned honeyeater	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	cotton pygmy goose	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	Near threatened	-	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>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i>	spectacled monarch	✓	-	-	-
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	✓	✓	✓	✓

Bonn: Bonn Convention

CAMBA: China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA: Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement