

Bellthorpe Regional Park Management Statement

Park purpose

Bellthorpe Regional Park was formally part of Bellthorpe Forest Reserve 2 which was gazetted in 2000 under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. In 2010, 14ha of the forest reserve were gazetted to form Bellthorpe Conservation Park.

No park specific purpose was identified as part of the gazettal.

Park size	14ha
Bioregion	South East Queensland
Local government area	Moreton Bay Regional Council and Somerset Regional Council
State electorate	Glass House and Nanango
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, Bellthorpe Regional Park has been assessed as having a medium priority for management. The park 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 medium level means that it will receive a minimum of quarterly routine inspections with occasional planned visits where issues have been identified. The focus is largely expected to be on natural resource management involving a proactive management effort at a moderate level to understand or protect known natural values.

Cultural values will be managed proactively to protect those values known to the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, (QPWS). Ongoing consultation, collaboration and relationships with Traditional Owners and Indigenous stakeholders will be undertaken as required to support broader continuing park management programs. Bellthorpe Regional Park is within the Jinibara People's native title determination area. The park is subject to a Protected Area Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) between QPWS and the Jinibara People.

This park currently has relatively low levels of 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. A moderate level of infrastructure is provided to support safe and sustainable use by predominantly self-reliant visitors. General park information is provided off-site, primarily through the Departmental website.

Public consultation on park management will be undertaken through ongoing local consultations with community stakeholders to support broad continuing management programs.

Park assets are functional and robust and require limited maintenance to protect the natural and cultural values and management capacity. An Energex powerline is located within a cleared corridor that transects the park.

General park values, uses and management

Regional ecosystems

The park protects two regional ecosystems, both of which have a biodiversity status of no concern at present.

Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance recorded from this park include the vulnerable Richmond birdwing butterfly *Ornithoptera richmondia*, Table 1.

Cultural heritage

All protected areas are recognised as cultural landscapes and Aboriginal people see themselves as inextricably linked to country both spiritually and physically. Cultural records on physical artefacts and sites of spiritual significance are reasonably well documented for this area and all proposed activities need to meet duty of care requirements under the both the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. Non-indigenous historic places will be managed in accordance with the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

Visitors can drive to the Old Brandon's Sawmill Site where evidence of this past use remains visible and a number of buildings remain. No active management of the majority of infrastructure or buildings is envisaged. The cultural aspects of the landscape will be maintained as a cleared site and not actively regenerated. One building is subject to an authority for research purposes over the area.

Priorities for park management

The Richmond birdwing butterfly is the main environmental value of this park. The priorities for park management will be to mitigate any threat to this value 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 ecosystems 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 animal species of conservation significance.

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>Ornithoptera richmondia</i>	Richmond birdwing butterfly	Vulnerable	-	Critical