

Walter Hill Range Regional Park Management Statement

Park purpose

Walter Hill Range Regional Park formally consisted of Scenic Reserves R.786, R.906 and R.436. In 2000 these were all gazetted to Walter Hill Range Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

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

Park size	116ha
Bioregion	Wet Tropics
Local government area	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
State electorate	Tablelands
QPWS region	Northern
Year prepared: 2015	Review date: 2025

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Walter Hill Range 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 Queensland 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. Walter Hill Range Regional Park is partly subject to a determination of native title by the Djiru 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 offsite primarily through the Departmental website.

Public consultation on park management will be undertaken as required through 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.

General park values, uses and management

Regional ecosystems

The park protects five regional ecosystems, one of which has endangered biodiversity status and two have of concern 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*.

Priorities for park management

The three regional ecosystems are the main values of this park. The priorities for park management will be to mitigate any threats to these values 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 these regional ecosystems.

Appendix 1

Conservation values inventory

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.3.10a	Mesophyll vine forest. Moderately to poorly-drained alluvial plains, of moderate fertility.	Endangered
7.11.24a	Open areas in vine forests, dominated by sprawling vines, commonly <i>Merremia peltata</i> and a number of other vine species, presumed to mostly originate from cyclone damaged Generally foothills of metamorphic (excluding amphibolite) coastal ranges below 400 metres, often steep and exposed.	Of concern
7.11.24c	Areas of mesophyll to notophyll vine forest suffering from extreme wind damage where at least half the canopy has been destroyed. Foothills of coastal metamorphic ranges (excluding amphibolite), often steep and exposed.	Of concern