

# Noosa Area

**Incorporates: Noosa National Park, Noosa Conservation Park, Weyba Creek Conservation Park, Keyser Island Conservation Park and Noosa Resources Reserve**



## Management Plan

2022

This management plan has been prepared and co-designed by the Kabi Kabi People and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Department of Environment and Science

© State of Queensland, 2022

October 2022

Front cover photo: Noosa National Park © Queensland Government

*This management plan does not intend to affect, diminish or extinguish native title or associated rights.*

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this document may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs and printed material that some people may find distressing.*

The Queensland Government supports and encourages the dissemination and exchange of its information. The copyright in this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY) licence.



Under this licence you are free, without having to seek our permission, to use this publication in accordance with the licence terms.

You must keep intact the copyright notice and attribute the State of Queensland as the source of the publication, and the Kabi Kabi People as the copyright owner in relation to traditional cultural knowledge sections of the publication, as well as acknowledging the Kabi Kabi People as the source of that traditional cultural knowledge and site identification information contained in the publication.

For more information on this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/deed.en>

#### Disclaimer

This document has been prepared with all due diligence and care, based on the best available information at the time of publication. The department holds no responsibility for any errors or omissions within this document. Any decisions made by other parties based on this document are solely the responsibility of those parties.

If you need to access this document in a language other than English, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to telephone Library Services on +61 7 3170 5470.

This publication can be made available in an alternative format (e.g. large print or audiotape) on request for people with vision impairment; phone +61 7 3170 5470 or email <[library@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:library@des.qld.gov.au)>.

# Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	<b>2</b>
1.1 Approach to best practice management.....	2
1.2 Management planning .....	3
<b>2. Kabi Kabi First Nation</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Noosa Area</b> .....	<b>7</b>
3.1 Management plan and thematic strategies .....	7
3.2 Park overview .....	7
3.3 Key management considerations .....	8
<b>4. Key values</b> .....	<b>9</b>
4.1 Coastal heath (ground parrot <i>Pezoporus wallicus wallicus</i> habitat).....	11
4.2 <i>Cyperaceae</i> swamp.....	13
4.3 Coastal woodlands .....	14
4.4 Vine forest communities .....	15
4.5 Rocky headlands .....	16
4.6 Noosa Headland experience .....	17
<b>5. Management direction</b> .....	<b>19</b>
5.1 Fire management .....	20
5.2 Pest management .....	21
5.3 Natural values management.....	22
5.4 Post-contact cultural heritage management.....	23
5.5 Visitor management.....	24
5.6 Community, partnerships and other interests.....	25
5.7 Field management capability.....	26
5.8 Operational planning and management support .....	27
<b>6. References</b> .....	<b>28</b>
<b>Appendix 1. Glossary</b> .....	<b>29</b>

# 1. Introduction

The Department of Environment and Science recognises, respects and values First Nations peoples and cultures. We recognise First Nations rights and interests in the Country on which we walk, work and live. We are committed to progressing self-determination by working in genuine partnerships with First Nations peoples to incorporate their priorities and perspectives across our decision-making and operations. The *Gurra Gurra Framework 2020–2026* prioritises and accelerates this commitment, guiding the agency to embed Country and people at the centre of all that we do.

## 1.1 Approach to best practice management

Queensland’s parks, forests and reserves are places we want to protect for future enjoyment and wellbeing. What makes these places special are the presence and diversity of natural, cultural, social and economic values. These areas experience natural cycles – they live and breathe – and therefore our management needs to be dynamic too. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), within the Department of Environment and Science (DES), applies a contemporary management process that is based on international best practice and focuses management towards the most important features of each park – their **key values**.

The **Values-Based Management Framework** (VBMF) is an **adaptive management** cycle that incorporates planning, prioritising, doing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting into all areas of our business. This enables the agency to be more flexible and proactive and to improve management effectiveness over time. We want to keep our parks, forests and reserves healthy by:

- managing and protecting the things that matter most – our key values
- strategically directing management effort towards priorities
- delivering our custodial obligations as a land manager
- setting a **level of service** (LoS) for all parks, forests and reserves
- building systems that support decision-making for adaptive management
- building support for what we do through accountability and transparency
- striving for improvement through structured learning and doing.

As a land manager, QPWS has a **custodial obligation** to ensure our estate is managed to provide appropriate and safe access, protect life and property, be a good neighbour and work cooperatively with partners across the landscape. The agency does this as part of setting a level of service for each park. LoS is a management standard that considers an area’s values, **threatening processes**, custodial obligations, risks and overall management complexity.

By assessing an area’s key values and LoS, QPWS can prioritise management efforts, balancing the importance of values and **threats** with our custodial obligations. Each year, we track work programs, monitor the condition of values and evaluate our performance across all aspects of management. The evaluation process documents how efficiently and effectively we are working toward achieving the objectives we set for managing parks, forests and reserves, and how the condition of key values is changing in response to our management efforts. This evaluation supports transparent and accountable reporting, enabling us to continuously improve park management and demonstrate outcomes to the community.

Figure 1 illustrates phases of the VBMF cycle for management planning. A glossary of the key concepts (in **bold**) used throughout the document is listed in Appendix 1.

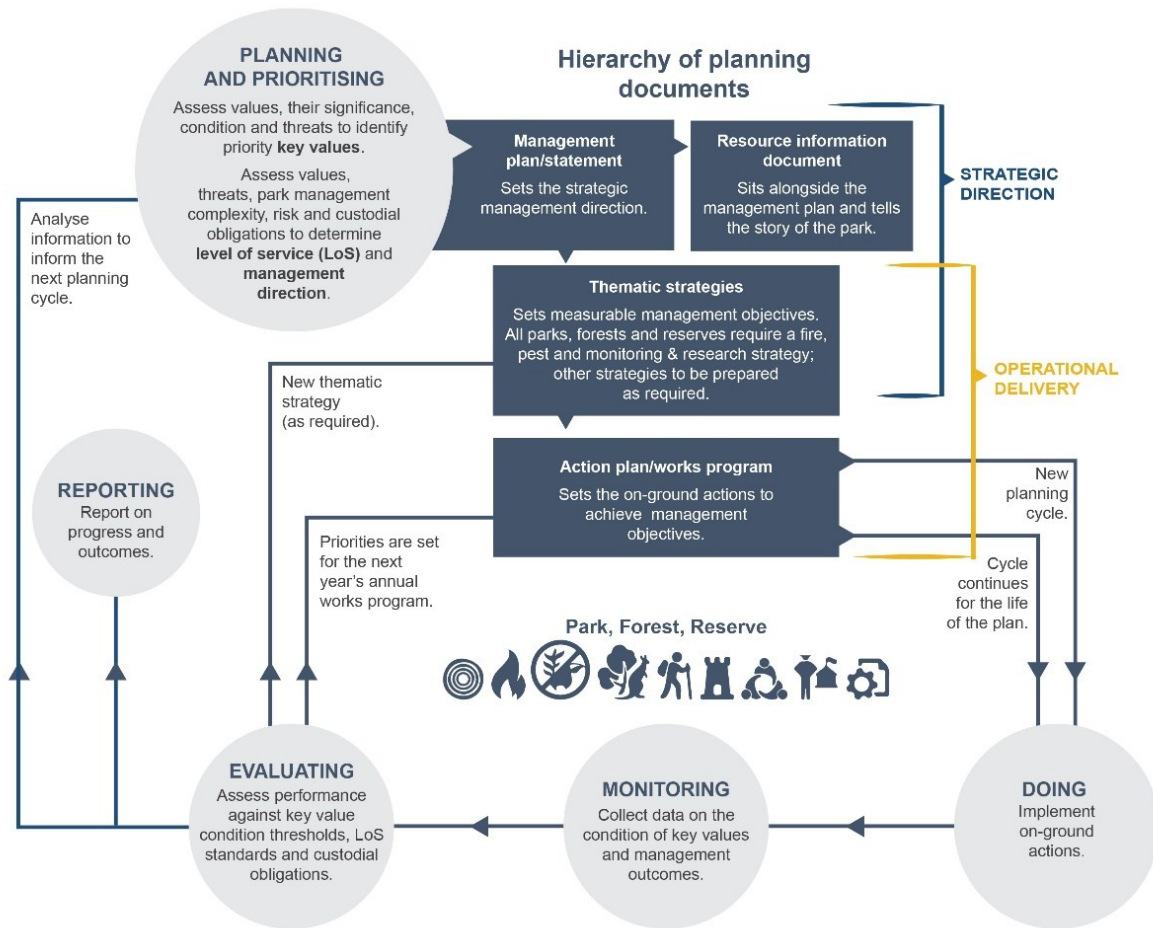


Figure 1. Phases of the VBMF cycle for planning and the hierarchy of planning documents

## 1.2 Management planning

This management plan has been developed through a process of research, assessment and consultation to establish priorities and set **strategic management direction** for the planning area. It is a legislative requirement under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) (NCA). The plan is prepared in keeping with the NCA's management principles, supporting regulations, government policies and procedures, and international agreements. QPWS's planning for protected areas is brought together and communicated through a hierarchy of planning documents:

- Management plans/statements provide the high-level strategic direction for managing an area's key values, levels of service and custodial obligations. They are statutory documents and are generally reviewed every 10 years.
- Resource information documents support management plans and statements and provide a compendium of park information that tells the story of the park. These documents accompany management plans and management statements, providing contextual information. They support information provided in the plan but do not provide management direction.
- Thematic strategies provide specific objectives to achieve the strategic management directions identified in the management plan. While all parks and forests require a fire strategy, pest strategy and a monitoring and research strategy, others are developed based on a protected area's management requirements and priorities. Thematic strategies are generally reviewed every three to five years to enable adaptive management.
- Action plans outline the work program for delivering on-ground actions.

Further information on the VBMF, copies of management plans/statements and resource information documents are available on the department's website at [www.des.qld.gov.au](http://www.des.qld.gov.au).

## 2. Kabi Kabi First Nation

### Connection to Country statement

The Noosa Area lies within the lands and waters of the Kabi Kabi First Nation.

*As Traditional Owners, we advocate a means of representing the Kabi Kabi People's interests in the claim area. Our task is to ensure we are no longer invisible on our own estate. We must develop spheres of influence across the political, business, community and non-government sectors to put our interests at the forefront. Engagement means working with our own Kabi Kabi People, so they have the knowledge they need to act as responsible modern stewards of our estate. It is not only about free, prior and informed consent for decision-making – it is about encouraging maximum participation and enjoyment of our rights and interests, whether we live on Country or elsewhere (Kabi Kabi People).*

QPWS and the Kabi Kabi People are working towards the co-stewardship of all protected areas within Kabi Kabi Country, to meet our shared obligation to care for Country. This genuine partnership will ensure that Kabi Kabi priorities and perspectives guide park management decision-making within the Noosa Area. This collaboration will build the Kabi Kabi People's profile within the broader community, and QPWS and Kabi Kabi People will together consider and respond to community perspectives concerning management of the Noosa Area. The Kabi Kabi People's expertise and cultural knowledge are critical to the success of planning and managing the Noosa Area and building our shared knowledge and respect for the Noosa Area's cultural landscape.

Management activities are also conducted in keeping with the legislative requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld) and *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth).

#### Desired outcome and strategic management direction

Desired outcome		
<p><b>The relationship with the Kabi Kabi People and the protection of their cultural heritage will be managed through improved knowledge and partnership, recognising their connection to Country and role in managing and protecting the park's natural and cultural heritage values.</b></p>		
Consideration	Strategic management direction	Priority
<b>Socio-economic</b>	Support the Kabi Kabi People to explore new opportunities that are consistent with the overall management objective, to increase their socio-economic wellbeing, including providing commercial services (such as cultural tours).	<b>1</b>
<b>Traditional place</b>	Minimise visitor impacts to places of cultural significance.	<b>1</b>
<b>Fire</b>	Improve knowledge of traditional practices such as burning.	<b>1</b>
<b>Respect and culture</b>	The cultural significance of Noosa National Park is communicated to the local community and visitors through a range of media (including signage, internet, tours and events), with a focus on the role of fire in the landscape, needed to maintain healthy Country.	<b>1</b>
<b>Loss of connection to Country</b>	Provide opportunities for the Kabi Kabi People to get back on Country across the Noosa planning area.	<b>1</b>

## **WANTIMA and COOLOOLI**

### **The Legend of Noosa Heads and Cooloola Sandpatch**

(Provided by the Kabi Kabi People)

*Long ago in the Dreamtime, before all of the land had been made the way it is now, there was a man called Coolooli and he had a son called Wantima. They were lucky to live in a land where there were plenty of trees and flowers for the bees, plenty of fish for the pelicans, and plenty of seeds and blossoms for the parrots. At that time, the people of Coolooli's tribe ate only the food that they took from plants. However, nobody ever went hungry because there were plenty of yams, bungwal (fern roots), sweet midjim berries, geebung fruit and the tips of pikki palm trees.*

*One day, Wantima saw a pelican catching a fish. He thought to himself that the fish would be good for him to eat as well. He went to the edge of Coong Winwar (Lake Cootharaba) where they were camping and caught a little fish. But when he put it into his mouth and tried to swallow it as the pelican had done, the fins and scales stuck into his throat and hurt him. Coolooli saw what Wantima had done and sternly told him he must never again eat a living animal or he would be punished. It was the law of the tribe and there were plenty of fruits and plants to eat.*

*Wantima had a friend who was a boy of his own age. They used to talk about the clouds and the sky, and often wondered about the place where the sun came up each morning. Unfortunately, they could not get any closer to examine it because the big lake, Coong Winwar, lay between them and the sunrise. And to make matters worse, Coolooli had told Wantima never to cross the lake. Early one morning, the boy who was Wantima's friend came to him and told him of a big log floating near the edge of the lake. It took little persuasion before they had both jumped on the log and paddled to the other side of the lake to see where the sun jumped up. When they landed on the other side, they walked through the forest and climbed up a big sand bank.*

*Wantima and his friend looked across the sand and could not believe their eyes. There on the other side of the sand dune was more water than they had ever seen in their lives. It went for as far as they could see and disappeared into the horizon. The two boys ran down to the beach and were very happy when the waves ran up on to the beach and then ran back again, as if they wanted to play. Before long, the two boys were splashing each other and playing in the waves.*

*The reason Coolooli had told Wantima not to cross the lake was because he knew there was great danger in the ocean. It was the home of Thugine, a large serpent who was always looking for children who had wandered away from their tribe. When the serpent saw the two boys on the beach, he swam in on a big wave and grabbed them in his mouth. Diving under the water, he swallowed Wantima's friend, but changed Wantima into stone and spat him out back onto land where he became a rocky headland known today as Noosa Heads.*

*Coolooli returned to camp, and finding that Wantima and his friend were missing, followed their tracks to the edge of the lake. The marks left by the end of the log on the sand told a clear story of what had happened. With the other men of the tribe, in their bark canoes, Coolooli paddled across the lake and found the boy's tracks leading off towards the sea and into the forest on the other side. Coolooli was very sad when he saw the two boys' tracks leading into the sea and not returning. Nobody doubted what had happened. The men walked up and down the beach in case the serpent's tracks could be found, but there were none. On a sand dune nearby, Coolooli saw a large snake. "This must be one of the serpent's children. Let's kill it," he said, "so the serpent can also feel a father's grief."*

*He hit the snake with his nulla-nulla and made a fire to get rid of it. When the snake was lying on the hot coals, a delicious aroma reached Coolooli's nose; it smelt better than anything he had ever smelt before. Eventually, Coolooli could resist no longer and pulled the snake from the fire. The skin had shrivelled in the heat revealing the cooked flesh beneath.*

*"The Tribal Laws say we must not eat any living creature," said Coolooli to the rest of the men who had gathered around, "but this young serpent is not living now. See, it is quite dead. And it smells so good that I can no longer resist tasting it." Coolooli ate a small portion of the cooked flesh of the serpent. It was so delicious that he shared it with the other men. After that, they learned to cook other kinds of food – birds, fish, wallabies and lizards.*

*But Thugine, out in the ocean, had seen what Coolooli had done, and one day when Coolooli was on the beach fishing, the serpent came riding in on a big wave and grabbed Coolooli, taking him out to sea. Coolooli found himself helpless in the serpent's mouth, so he turned himself into a tree, and the serpent was so displeased with the taste that he spat Coolooli out on to a sand dune. Coolooli grows there still, and whenever the wind blows in from the sea, you can hear him sighing, thinking of his long lost son.*

*Coolooli's new children were cypress trees (*Callitris arenosa*), and they spread over many parts of the land, and that is how the name Cooloola came to be attached to this land. However, no trees grew near where Coolooli himself stood on the sand hill because from there they would have been able to see Wantima, and that would have made them sad. The Cooloola Sandpatch has remained without trees ever since.*



## 3. Noosa Area

### 3.1 Management plan and thematic strategies

The Noosa Area Management Plan provides the strategic management direction for managing the Noosa Area's key values (section 4) and meeting our custodial obligations across eight core management elements (section 5). The plan is supported by the *Noosa Area Resource Information* document, a compendium of park information that tells the story of the park. The strategic management directions set out in this management plan link to a set of thematic strategies that detail management objectives, providing the link between high-level strategies and on-ground operations. The Noosa Area incorporates Noosa National Park, Noosa Conservation Park, Weyba Creek Conservation Park, Keyser Island Conservation Park and Noosa Resources Reserve. The complexity of the area's values and custodial obligations determine the requirements for specific strategies. Noosa Area's thematic strategies are:

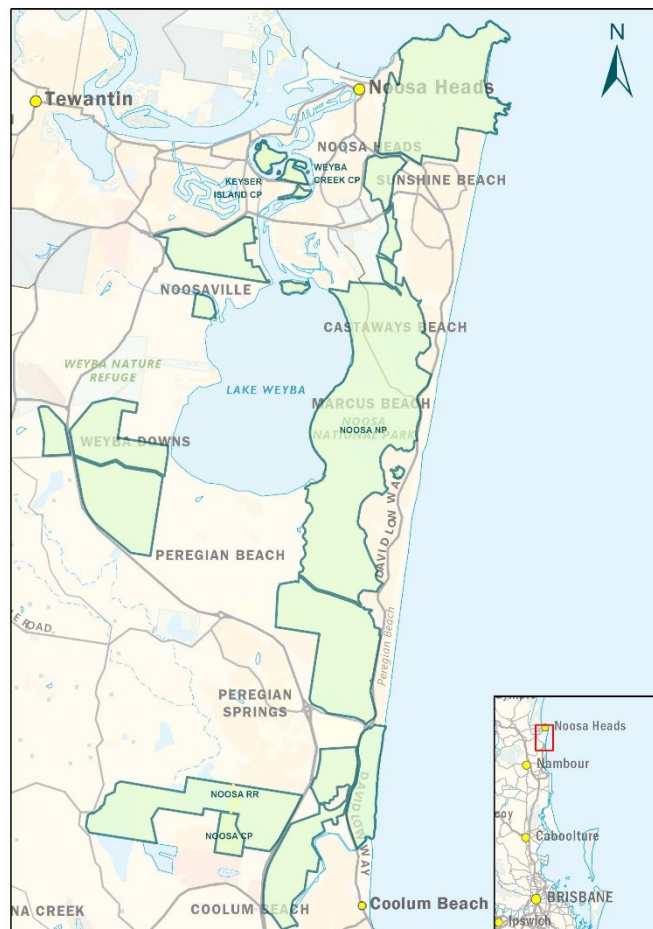
- Fire strategy
- Pest strategy
- Monitoring and research strategy
- Visitor strategy.

### 3.2 Park overview

Noosa is internationally recognised as one of South East Queensland's major economic, social, tourism and recreation activity hubs (Map 1). The Noosa Headland within Noosa National Park is one of the main attractions of the Sunshine Coast, with more than one million people visiting each year to enjoy its impressive coastal views, rocky headlands, sandy shorelines and recreational opportunities. The significant visitor experiences provided by the Noosa Area are therefore a key priority for operations, specifically the management of high visitation pressures.

The Noosa Area's reserves protect a diverse range of native plant and animal species, and a wide array of vegetation communities, some threatened by urban development in the wider region. The coastal heathlands provide impressive wildflower displays and habitat for the vulnerable ground parrot *Pezoporus wallicus wallicus*. Critically endangered, remnant, coastal lowland vine forests are found in the planning area's moist gullies and on sheltered slopes.

The Noosa Area's reserves are surrounded by urban development, including many residents, providing a valuable opportunity to present the special values of the national park to the broader community.



Map 1. Locality map for Noosa Area

The Noosa Headland is a high priority for visitor management. Coastal walking tracks provide an opportunity for visitors to experience the planning area's natural beauty, scenic views and stunning beaches. With iconic point breaks, the Noosa Headland has a rich surfing heritage.

Keyser Island Conservation Park and Weyba Creek Conservation Park are included in the Noosa Area; however, these areas hold different values to Noosa National Park. These parks are included in the Noosa River declared Fish Habitat Area (FHA) management area, which constrains any development occurring that may adversely impact the FHA. Both parks subsequently have few, relatively undeveloped, visitor sites. Visitors to these parks are expected to have a high level of self-sufficiency.

### 3.3 Key management considerations

In September 2007, Noosa was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (approximately 150,000 hectares of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems), with a significant portion of Noosa National Park falling within the reserve's boundary. This declaration recognises the relationship between Noosa's special environment and its community.

The Noosa Area, excluding the headland section of Noosa National Park, falls into two nationally significant wetland listings that are classed as an aggregation because of their proximity and overlap. The two wetland listings are:

- Lake Weyba: QLD133
- Coolum Creek and Lower Maroochy River: QLD185.

The wetlands are characterised by low coastal marshes, swamps, estuary and subcoastal tributaries. They are significant for their representativeness, high value to wildlife and ecosystems, provision of refuge habitat, and very high cultural significance, especially for education and recreation.

The Noosa Area is also an integral part of the Noosa River catchment. The catchment provides significant environmental, economic, social and cultural values to the area. The majority of the catchment's natural areas are conserved as designated protected areas. The river values are rated among the healthiest in Queensland. The protection of vegetation, specifically the prevention of clearing and management of erosion, within the Noosa Area is considered critical for the ongoing protection of the Noosa River catchment.

In addition to the protection of significant wetland and river systems, the Noosa Area also contributes to the protection of coastal habitat recognised by Sunshine Coast Council as the Maroochy-Noosa Wallum Corridor (MNWC). The MNWC is approximately 7,000 ha of coastal vegetation communities that provide important habitat for a number of iconic plant and animal species. The Noosa Area provides important connectivity for these species, which is somewhat rare in the coastal areas of the Southeast Queensland Bioregion.

In November 2017, surf breaks from Sunshine Beach to the Noosa River were dedicated as the Noosa National Surfing Reserve. While the national park is not part of the surfing reserve, many surfers traverse the national park to access the renowned surf breaks. The surfing reserve dedication is a voluntary covenant with no legal status, similar to the Noosa Biosphere Reserve.

QPWS has an agreement with the Noosa Parks Association for it to operate the visitor information centre in Noosa Headland until 2024.

Noosa National Park is recognised as a koala refuge, as it contains areas of core habitat for a small koala population.

Noosa Resources Reserve is a small strip of land (0.22 ha) in the West Coolum section of the planning area and includes a water and sewage pipe that runs adjacent to Ridges Boulevard.

## 4. Key values

All parks, forests and reserves have an array of natural, cultural, social or economic values that are important, and contribute to the state’s comprehensive and representative protected area and forest estate. The VBMF supports a process for identifying and protecting the most important values, the key values, and this directs the allocation of resources.

In this section, a **key value statement** is provided for each key value, identifying the current **condition and trend**, and a desired condition. The main threatening processes are identified and rated from high to low. A strategic management direction provides a broad strategy to address the threatening process to achieve the **desired outcome** over time. Each strategic management direction is prioritised according to the need for action to prevent further decline, stabilise current condition, or restore and enhance the value (refer to **priority rating** in Appendix 1). The condition of all key values is (or will be) assessed through regular **health checks** or other monitoring. The monitoring and research strategy outlines opportunities and needs for scientific monitoring and research programs that will enhance our knowledge. Any change to a key value’s condition will be identified through health checks or monitoring, enabling QPWS to act quickly, applying best practice adaptive management.

### Summary of key values

A summary of the key values for the Noosa Area is detailed below. The location of each key value is shown in Map 2. Figure 2 provides a key to interpreting the condition and trend icons used in this section.

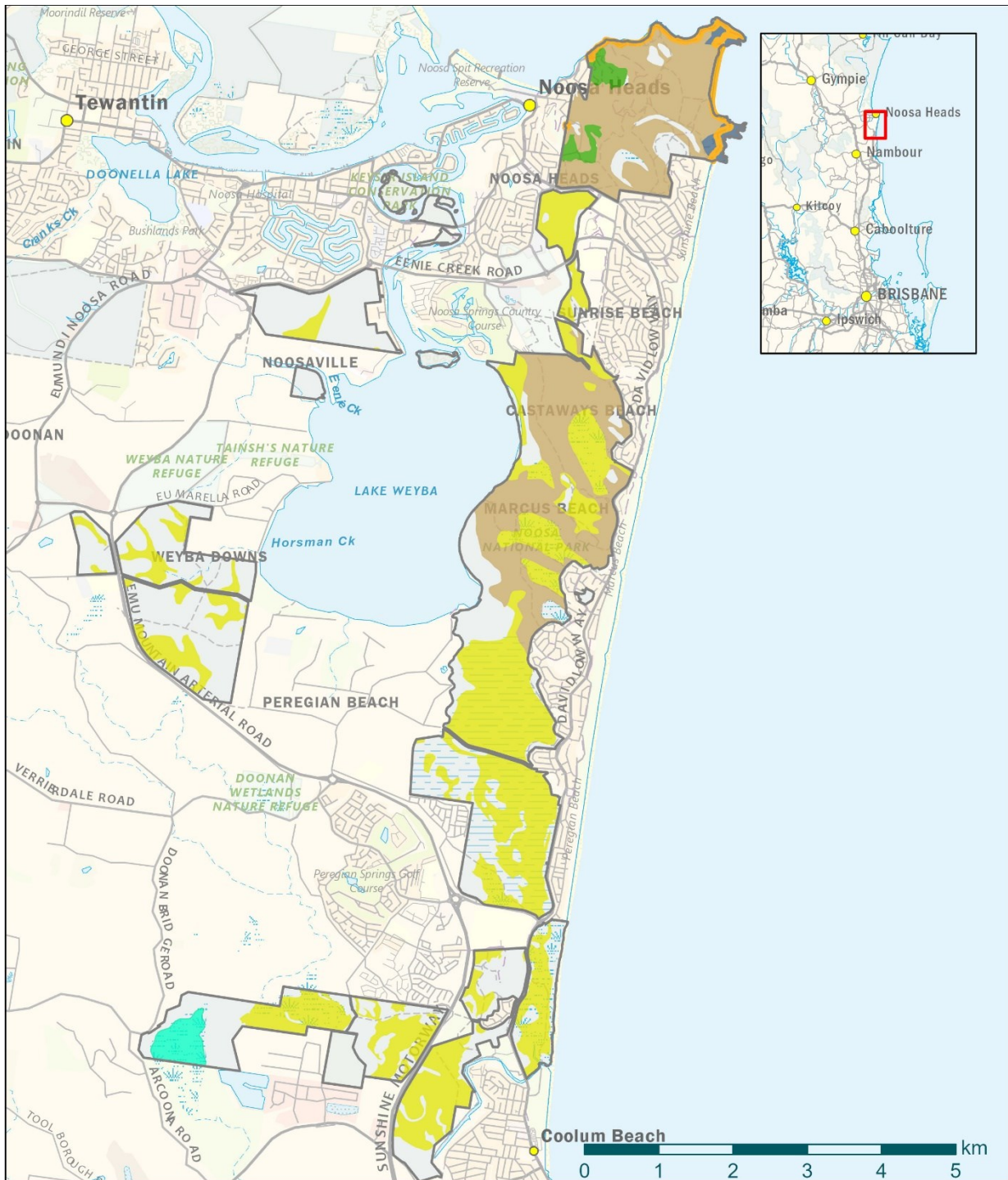
	Current condition	Confidence in condition assessment	Current trend	Confidence in trend assessment	Desired condition
4.1 Coastal heath (ground parrot <i>Pezoporus wallicus wallicus</i> habitat)		Limited		Limited	
4.2 Cyperaceae swamp		Inferred		Inferred	
4.3 Coastal woodlands		Limited		Limited	
4.4 Vine forest communities		Inferred		Inferred	
4.5 Rocky headlands		Limited		Limited	
4.6 Noosa Headland experience		Limited		Limited	

Condition of key value	<b>Good</b>  The value is in good condition and is likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, provided that current measures are maintained	<b>Good with some concern</b>  The value is likely to be maintained over the long term with minor additional conservation measures to address existing concerns	<b>Significant concern</b>  The value is threatened by a number of current and/or potential threats. Significant additional conservation measures are required to preserve the value over the medium to long term	<b>Critical</b>  The value is severely threatened. Urgent additional large-scale conservation measures are required or the value may be lost
Trend rating of condition	<b>Improving</b> 	<b>Stable</b> 	<b>Deteriorating</b> 	<b>No consistent trend</b> 
Confidence in assessment	<b>Inferred</b> 	<b>Limited</b> 	<b>Adequate</b> 	

Figure 2: Key to condition, trend and confidence icons

# Noosa Area key values



	<b>NOOSA AREA</b>	<b>QPWS Key Values</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #ffff00; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Coastal heath (Ground Parrot <i>Pezoporus wallicus</i> habitat)</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #d2691e; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Coastal woodlands</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #00ffcc; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Cyperaceae swamp</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #4682b4; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Rocky Headlands</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #32cd32; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Vine forest communities</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #ffa500; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Noosa Headland experience</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Noosa Planning Area</li> </ul>	
			<p><b>Queensland Government</b> Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment and Science.</p> <p>© State of Queensland (DES) 2022</p> <p><small>Disclaimer This map has been prepared with all due diligence and care, based on the best available information at the time of publication. Any decisions made by other parties based on this map are solely the responsibility of those parties. Information contained in this map is from a number of sources and, as such, does not necessarily represent government or departmental policy. The representation of any road or track on this map is not necessarily evidence of public right of way. Persons using private roads do so at their own risk. Owner's permission should be obtained.</small></p> <p><small>Accuracy Statement While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this data, the State of Queensland makes no representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and all liability (without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damages) and costs which you might incur as a result of the data being inaccurate or incomplete in any way and for any reason.</small></p>

Map 2: The Noosa Area's key values

## 4.1 Coastal heath (ground parrot *Pezoporus wallicus wallicus* habitat)

### Key value statement

Description		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
Coastal heath communities are some of the few remaining coastal habitats for the vulnerable ground parrot	Condition and trend	2020 ●●●	↑	●●●●
	Assessment confidence	Limited Ⓚ	Limited Ⓚ	

The Lake Weyba nationally significant wetland (QLD 133) stretches across the main coastal sections of Noosa National Park just north of Emu Mountain in the south, encompassing all of Lake Weyba, up to the southern boundary of the headland section. The coastal heath communities dominate this wetland and include the 'endangered' regional ecosystem 'open or dry heath on dunes and beaches' (RE 12.2.13), 'closed heathland on seasonally waterlogged alluvial plains usually near coast' (RE 12.3.13), and 'closed heath on seasonally waterlogged sand plains' (RE 12.2.12). These heath communities represent about 19 per cent of all remaining open or dry heath in Queensland, increasing the importance of their size and diversity on the Sunshine Coast.



Figure 3. The vulnerable ground parrot *Pezoporus wallicus wallicus* © Dave McFarland

The planning area contains approximately 7 per cent of all the 'closed heath on seasonally waterlogged sand plains' regional ecosystem (RE 12.3.13) in Queensland, and is one of few remaining coastal areas supporting the ground parrot *Pezoporus wallicus wallicus* (Figure 3). This regional ecosystem is found south of Noosa and is at risk due to land clearing and its restricted extent, increasing its high conservation significance within the planning area.

Emu Swamp supports ground parrots within the closed/open heath communities and is the largest suitable habitat south of the Noosa River. Mount Coolum National Park, and possibly land near Maroochy Airport, are the only other known areas for ground parrots in this area. This includes regional ecosystem 'Gahnia sieberiana, Empodisma minus, Gleichenia spp. closed sedgeland in coastal swamp' (RE 12.2.15).

These coastal heath communities also provide habitat for the nationally endangered Mt Emu she-oak *Allocasuarina emuina*, Mt Coolum she-oak *Allocasuarina thalassoscopica* and swamp stringybark *Eucalyptus conglomerata*, and nationally vulnerable wallum sedge frog *Litoria olongburensis*.

**Threats**

**Primary threat:** Difficulty in managing appropriate fire regimes (due to challenges of implementing planned burns and managing bushfires next to urban areas) is causing changes to the structure and composition of plant species, and the ecosystem’s age-class structure. **Threat rating: High**


**Secondary threat:** Foxes and cats have the potential to reduce ground parrot numbers by predated on eggs and chicks during the breeding season. **Threat rating: Low**

**Other threat:** Invasive grasses, such as whiskey grass, molasses grass, giant rat’s tail grass and Paramatta grass, alter fire intensity and have the potential to invade along roads and public utility corridors. **Threat rating: Low**

**Other threat:** Increased recreation, including mountain bike riding and bushwalking, throughout coastal heath has the potential to disturb wildlife or act as a vector for invasive species. **Threat rating: Low**

**Other threat:** Woody thickening (melaleucas) moving in from the wetter margins (drainage areas) into the coastal heath may start to alter the ground parrot habitat characteristics. **Threat rating: Low**

**Desired outcome and strategic management direction**

Desired outcome		
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
 <p>The condition of the coastal heath will be improved to <i>good</i> by implementing appropriate fire regimes and coordinated pest programs, and by containing pest plant infestations to improve habitat for the ground parrot.</p>		
<b>Fire</b>	Improve knowledge of traditional practices such as burning.	<b>1</b>
	Facilitate optimum ground parrot habitat and refuge by providing structural and age-class variation across their habitat through the targeted application of fire.	<b>2</b>
<b>Pest animal</b>	Reduce impacts of foxes and cats on ground parrots.	<b>2</b>
<b>Pest plant</b>	Prevent spread of invasive grasses, such as whiskey grass, molasses grass, giant rat’s tail grass and Paramatta grass, in coastal heath communities.	<b>3</b>
	Reduce impacts of woody thickening (melaleucas) on coastal heath with a priority on ground parrot habitat.	<b>2</b>
<b>Visitor impact</b>	Minimise visitor impacts caused by recreation in the East Weyba and Emu Swamp section of coastal heath key value.	<b>3</b>

See Appendix 1. Glossary for priority rating definitions.

## 4.2 *Cyperaceae* swamp

### Key value statement

Description		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
<i>Cyperaceae</i> swamp in the Noosa Area represents a large portion of this community in protected areas and provides habitat for water birds	Condition and trend	2020 		
	Assessment confidence	Inferred 	Inferred 	

The West Coolum section of Noosa National Park contains *Cyperaceae* swamp (RE 12.3.8), and represents a significant percentage (about 30 per cent) of this 'of concern' regional ecosystem protected in Queensland's parks. In 2013, approximately 10,000 ha of this ecosystem remained in Queensland, less than 30 per cent of the pre-clearing extent, increasing its conservation significance in the Noosa region. This ecosystem is important habitat for water birds, freshwater invertebrates and vertebrates.

The *Cyperaceae* swamp adjoins the swamp paperbark *Melaleuca quinquenervia* vegetated swamp regional ecosystem (RE 12.3.5), which is known habitat for threatened flora species, including the swamp orchid *Phaius australis*, and threatened fauna such as the wallum froglet *Crinia tinnula*.

This area of sedge- and tree-vegetated swamp is included in the Coolum Creek and Maroochy River nationally significant wetland listing (QLD185).

### Threats

**Primary threat:** During dry periods, bushfires can burn peat soil layers causing long-term damage to this ecosystem. **Threat rating: High**

**Secondary threat:** Woody thickening (melaleucas) in the fringing swamp margins can change vegetation structure. **Threat rating: Low**

**Other threat:** Excess nutrient runoff from surrounding residential, industrial and agricultural areas can cause pollution, changes in chemistry or silting of the ecosystem. May also cause changes to the ground water table that could impact on the health of the swamp. **Threat rating: Low**

**Other threat:** Pest plants along the edges of the swamp may start to encroach into the swamp. **Threat rating: Low**

### Desired outcome and strategic management direction

Desired outcome		
	The condition of the <i>Cyperaceae</i> swamp will be improved to <i>good</i> by implementing appropriate fire regimes, containing pest plant infestations and monitoring in-flows from surrounding area.	
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
Fire	Maintain the <i>Cyperaceae</i> swamp by providing structural and age-class variation across the landscape through the targeted application of fire.	3
Pest plant	Prevent the spread of invasive plants into the <i>Cyperaceae</i> swamp.	3
	Reduce the impacts of woody thickening (melaleucas) on <i>Cyperaceae</i> swamp.	2
Water pollution	Monitor the major water in-flows from surrounding areas to <i>Cyperaceae</i> swamp in the West Coolum section.	4

See Appendix 1. Glossary for priority rating definitions.

## 4.3 Coastal woodlands

### Key value statement

Description		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
Coastal woodlands dominate the Noosa Area's north-eastern landscape and provide habitat for species such as the koala and <i>Phaius</i> orchid	Condition and trend	2020 		
	Assessment confidence	Limited 	Limited 	

The Noosa Area's coastal woodlands primarily consist of an 'of concern' open forest regional ecosystem (RE 12.2.5) that dominates the north-eastern landscape. This key value covers the area that occurs at the Noosa Headland section, where it provides important habitat for many species, including hard corkwood *Endiandra sieberi*, swamp paperbark *Melaleuca quinquenervia* and coastal cypress *Callitris columellaris*, and is greatly impacted by several threats including pest plant infestation, inappropriate fire regimes and indirect visitor impacts. These communities also contain core habitat for a small population of the vulnerable koala *Phascolarctos cinereus* and protects the nationally endangered *Phaius* orchids.


The coastal woodlands protected within the planning area represent a significant percentage of the total area of this community type remaining on the Sunshine Coast, as much has been cleared due to extensive farming and residential clearing.

### Threats

**Primary threat:** Difficulty in managing appropriate fire regimes (due to challenges of implementing planned burns and managing bushfires next to urban areas), resulting in changes to species structure and composition, and age-class structure of the ecosystem. **Threat rating: High**

**Secondary threat:** Invasive weeds such as asparagus fern, Singapore daisy, lantana and bitou bush. **Threat rating: Medium**

### Desired outcome and strategic management direction

Desired outcome		
	The condition of coastal woodlands will be improved to <i>good</i> by implementing appropriate fire regimes and containing pest plant infestations.	
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
Fire	Maintain coastal woodland communities by providing structural and age-class variation across the landscape through the targeted application of fire.	3
Pest plant	Eradicate bitou bush in the coastal woodlands.	1
	Prevent further spread of invasive plants into the coastal woodlands.	3

See Appendix 1. Glossary for priority rating definitions.



## 4.4 Vine forest communities

### Key value statement

Description		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
The Noosa Headland vine forest communities are important as they have limited distribution and remnant patches are small	Condition and trend	2020 		
	Assessment confidence	Inferred 	Inferred 	

Patches of coastal lowland warm subtropical rainforest growing on sand (RE 12.2.3) are conserved along the western boundary and in sheltered gullies on the Noosa Headland. These rainforest areas are a priority for protection because of their extremely limited distribution in the coastal areas of the Sunshine and Fraser Coasts, and the small size of the remnant patches at Noosa. Cooloola and Fraser Island are the only other significant areas conserving this vine forest in the 'Southeast Queensland' biogeographic region. This rainforest supports several rare or threatened plant species such as the orchid *Bulbophyllum globuliforme*, a grass *Arthraxon hispidus*, the rainforest trees *Cryptocarya foetida* and *Symplocos harroldii*, and the black-breasted button-quail *Turnix melanogaster*.

The Noosa Area also contains a small area of the lowland rainforest community (which includes RE 12.9-10.16), nationally 'critically endangered' under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC).


### Threats

**Primary threat:** High intensity fires during drought periods may impact the edges of the vine forest communities, reducing the extent of this ecosystem. **Threat rating: Low**

**Secondary threat:** Visitor impacts, such as track widening and walking off track, may disturb vegetation. **Threat rating: Low**

**Other threat:** Infestations of weeds, such as corky passionflower, Mickey Mouse bush, Easter cassia, asparagus fern and umbrella fern, within vine forest communities may modify regional ecosystems. **Threat rating: Low**

### Desired outcome and strategic management direction

Desired outcome		
	The condition of vine forest communities will be maintained as <i>good</i> by implementing appropriate fire regimes, reducing impacts of visitors and containing pest plant infestations.	
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
Fire	Protect the vine forests by managing fuel loads in adjacent woodland communities to limit their ability to carry high intensity fire.	1
Visitor impacts	Minimise visitor impacts on the vine forests caused by track widening and short cutting.	2
Pest plant	Prevent the spread of invasive plants beyond the margins of vine forest communities.	1
	Reduce the impacts of invasive plants on the margins of vine forest communities.	2

See Appendix 1. Glossary for priority rating definitions.

## 4.5 Rocky headlands

### Key value statement

Description		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
Rocky headlands protect the <i>Themeda triandra</i> grassland and provide high scenic values and views for visitors	Condition and trend	2020 		
	Assessment confidence	Limited 	Limited 	

Rocky headlands (RE 12.12.19) are an ‘of concern’ vegetation complex, and occur in the Noosa Headland section of the planning area around Dolphin Point, Paradise Cove, Hells Gates and Devils Kitchen. The rocky headlands vegetation community has limited distribution along the south-east Queensland coast, and has been subjected to clearing and disturbances, making the Noosa Area’s distribution special. The complex protects *Themeda triandra* grassland, wind-sheared shrubland and woodland, and is habitat for the vulnerable black-breasted button-quail *Turnix melanogaster*. This community includes the iconic pandanus trees.

### Threats


**Primary threat:** Iconic stands of pandanus are suffering dieback from infestations of North Queensland leafhopper *Jamella australiae*. **Threat rating: High**

**Secondary threat:** Trampling of vegetation by increasing numbers of visitors walking off tracks to gain scenic views. **Threat rating: Medium**

**Other threat:** Lack of fire in the rocky headland communities due to difficulties in conducting planned burning in these locations. **Threat rating: High**

**Other threat:** Invasive plants such as asparagus fern, prickly pear, glory lily and bitou bush. **Threat rating: High**

### Desired outcome and strategic management direction

Desired outcome		
	The condition of the rocky headlands will be improved to <i>good</i> by reducing visitor impacts and containing pest plant infestations.	
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
<b>Pest plant</b>	Eradicate bitou bush in the rocky headlands.	1
	Prevent further spread of the current extent of pest plants in the rocky headlands.	2
<b>Pest animal</b>	Reduce impacts of North Queensland leafhopper on stands of pandanus within Noosa National Park.	1
<b>Fire</b>	Maintain rocky headland communities by providing structural and age-class variation across the landscape through the targeted application of fire.	1
<b>Visitor impacts</b>	Minimise visitor impacts on rocky headland sites, caused by visitors creating informal access tracks to gain views.	2

See Appendix 1. Glossary for priority rating definitions.

## 4.6 Noosa Headland experience

### Key value statement

Description		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
Noosa Headland is one of Queensland's most visited sites with its scenic coastal track, beaches and surf attracting tourists to Noosa	Condition and trend	2020 ●●●●	↑	●●●●
	Assessment confidence	Limited D	Limited D	



Figure 4. Noosa Headland Day-use Area © Omar Bakhach, DES

The Noosa Area is a valuable natural asset in a highly urbanised landscape, providing green space for nature-based recreation of high aesthetic value. The Noosa Headland (Figure 4) is a significant feature, with impressive coastal views, rocky headlands and sandy shorelines.

The Noosa Headland is an iconic destination, and Noosa National Park is one of the most visited parks in Queensland – more than one million people visit each year from Australia and overseas. The headland is the ‘centrepiece’ of the Noosa ecotourism experience, with most tourists enjoying the coastal track (to Dolphin Point), which provides a unique and diverse coastal experience that combines natural and cultural values. The attractions include significant scenic viewpoints along the coastal track, koala spotting, whale watching and some of Australia’s top point break surfing. Visitor types are diverse and include families, surfers, runners and large groups, as well as visitors with prams or wheelchairs.

Investment in maintaining the coastal walk, and visitor infrastructure at key sites, has helped mitigate visitor impacts, but will need to be maintained.

## Threats


**Primary threat:** Conflict between different user groups (e.g. runners and walkers) can impact on the visitor experience and safety throughout sections of the coastal track. **Threat rating: Medium**

**Secondary threat:** Overcrowding is intensive during peak periods (such as school holidays) throughout the headland section, with use from free and independent travellers and commercial operators. This increasing visitor use has the potential to impact on the current iconic visitor experience. The high levels of visitation and overcrowding can also result in track widening, diverting, short cutting and trampling of the vegetation throughout the headland section. **Threat rating: Medium**

**Other threat:** Visitors promoting inappropriate activities or experiences on social media, including publicising sites that are sensitive to visitor impacts and creating informal access tracks, impact on sensitive environments and visual quality. **Threat rating: Medium**

**Other threat:** Visitors utilising the coastal walk for activities that do not align with nature-based recreation are impacting on the natural experience for other users. Inappropriate behaviours include playing of music, stacking of rocks, graffiti, and other culturally and environmentally inappropriate conduct. **Threat rating: Low**

### Desired outcome and strategic management direction

Desired outcome		
	The condition of the Noosa Head’s ecotourism and recreational experience will be maintained as <i>good</i> by enhancing the coastal track (including signage), managing visitor impacts to enhance site aesthetics, and maintaining visitor safety.	
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
Impact on visitor experience	Minimise social impacts in Noosa Headland section by sustainably managing visitor numbers to the park.	3
	Minimise social impacts in the Noosa Headland experience caused by incompatible user groups through promotion of appropriate trails for specific users.	4
	Minimise social impacts caused by inappropriate visitor behaviours by educating visitors through pre-trip information.	3
Visitor impacts	Minimise visitor impacts to ecologically sensitive sites at rock pools and rocky headlands by restricting access and educating visitors and tourism bodies.	4

See Appendix 1. Glossary for priority rating definitions.

# 5. Management direction

QPWS manages protected areas and forests to preserve their values and deliver our custodial obligations as a land manager. LoS assessment allows QPWS to consider the management of each park in a state-wide context and determine desired levels of management effort for each park in a consistent and equitable way. LoS assessment lets QPWS staff and the public know what type or level of management activity to expect on each park, forest and reserve. There are five LoS ratings ranging from 'acceptable' to 'exceptional': an acceptable rating is the minimum standard required to deliver good management and meet our legislative and custodial obligations.

The key areas for management in the Noosa Area are supporting the aspirations of the Kabi Kabi People to manage their traditional Country, as well as fire, visitor and community interests. This section provides a **management direction statement** for each management theme, identifying its current LoS, desired LoS and the strategic management direction.

## Summary of management direction

A summary of the current and desired LoS for the Noosa Area is shown below; Figure 5 provides a key to the LoS icons.
















	Current LoS	Desired LoS
1. Fire management	 Very high	 Exceptional
2. Pest management	 Medium	 Very high
3. Natural values management	 High	 Very high
4. Post-contact cultural heritage management	 Medium	 Medium
5. Visitor management	 High	 Exceptional
6. Community, partnerships and other interests	 High	 Very high
7. Field management capability	 High	 Very high
8. Operational planning and management support	 High	 Very high



Figure 5. Key to condition, trend and confidence icons

## 5.1 Fire management

### Management direction statement


Description	Current level of service
Fire management for the Noosa Area	

Fire management is core business for QPWS to protect life and property, mitigate bushfires and maintain natural diversity in accordance with the NCA and the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* (Qld) to control and prevent fires. QPWS works cooperatively with First Nations peoples, state and local government agencies, rural fire brigades, adjoining landholders and local communities to manage fire across the landscape.

The strategic management directions in this management plan, combined with the Kabi Kabi People’s knowledge of traditional burning practices and the Queensland Government’s *Planned Burn Guidelines: Southeast Queensland Bioregion of Queensland*, will guide the formation of the *Noosa Area Fire Strategy*.

The strategy details QPWS’s custodial obligations for protecting life and property, and fire management objectives for maintaining key values through the use of fire management zones.

### Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Fire will be managed to an <i>exceptional</i> level of service through improved knowledge, data collection, urban interface management and community education.

Strategic management directions	Priority
<b>Custodial obligations</b>	
Protect to the highest extent possible neighbouring properties, including houses and industrial areas, from the impacts of bushfire.	1
Mitigate the potential severity and impacts of bushfire on neighbouring residential properties.	1
Support the re-establishment of traditional practices by incorporating them into park management.	1
Improve knowledge of traditional practices such as burning.	1
<b>Level of service</b>	
Improve management and maintenance of urban interface areas (interface between park and urban development) to maximise community protection.	1
Improve community understanding of fire management in protected areas.	2
Improve park neighbours’ understanding of their fire mitigation and management responsibilities.	2
Improve knowledge of how fire management affects natural values through post-fire monitoring and research.	3

\*KEY: **Priority ratings:** Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

## 5.2 Pest management


### Management direction statement

Description	Current level of service
Pest management for the Noosa Area	

Pest management is core business for QPWS to mitigate the threats to biodiversity in accordance with the NCA. QPWS has a responsibility under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Qld) to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with plant and animal pests on lands under our control. Recognising that effective management of pests across the landscape is a shared responsibility, QPWS works cooperatively with First Nations peoples, other state and local government agencies, landholders and natural resource management groups.

The strategic management directions in this management plan will guide the formation of the *Noosa Area Pest Strategy*. The strategy details pest management objectives for preventing and mitigating pest impacts on key values, and QPWS’s custodial obligations for managing pests and priority pest species.

### Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Pests will be managed to a <i>very high</i> level of service through increased knowledge of pest impacts, increased engagement with Kabi Kabi People and increased capacity to deliver pest programs.

Strategic management directions	Priority
<b>Custodial obligations</b>	
Meet custodial obligations under the Noosa and Sunshine Coast Council Biosecurity Plans.	1
Increase support and provide opportunities for Kabi Kabi People to get back on to Country at Noosa National Park.	1
<b>Level of service</b>	
Engage with Kabi Kabi People on pest management programs.	1
Improve knowledge of current and emerging pests (locations, extent, impacts and issues).	2
Improve the coordination of cross-landscape pest management programs through the formation of biosecurity groups with relevant stakeholders, including prioritising programs that target protecting key values.	2
Increase the priority for pest management on park to mitigate infestations in key value areas.	2
Improve engagement with Queensland Electricity Supply Industry representatives on pest management along power line corridors.	3

\*KEY: Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

## 5.3 Natural values management

### Management direction statement

Description	Current level of service
Natural values management for the Noosa Area	

QPWS manages natural values in accordance with the NCA, EPBC and *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld), and relevant international agreement guidelines.


The Noosa Area has significant values including endangered regional ecosystems, threatened species and species listed in international agreements. Of note are:

- national recovery plan for *Acacia attenuata*
- national recovery plan for the Mt Emu she-oak *Allocasuarina emuina*
- national recovery plan for the black-breasted button-quail *Turnix melanogaster*
- national recovery plan for the wallum sedge frog and other wallum-dependent frog species
- national recovery plan for the black-throated finch southern subspecies (*Poephila cincta cincta*)
- draft national recovery plan for the koala *Phascolarctos cinereus* (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory).
- glossy black cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*
- ground parrot *Pezoporus wallicus wallicus*.

The condition of natural values will be monitored through implementing the *Noosa Area Monitoring and Research Strategy*.

Threatening processes will be managed through implementing the *Noosa Area Fire Strategy*, *Noosa Area Pest Strategy* and *Noosa Area Visitor Strategy*.

### Desired level of service and strategic management direction


Desired level of service	
	Natural values will be managed to a <i>very high</i> level of service through improved cooperative research, improved knowledge and increased focus on management of key natural values.
Strategic management directions	
Priority	
Level of service	
Increase the management effort, including greater planning support, to improve the condition of key park values.	2
Expand knowledge of potential impact and distribution of introduced plants on the vine forests.	3
Improve understanding of freshwater <i>Cyperaceae</i> swamp.	3
Improve partnerships with universities to facilitate monitoring programs and fill knowledge gaps.	5
Improve engagement with neighbouring landholders to identify suitable acquisitions or other protection measures that enhance the connectivity and resilience of the Noosa Area and other surrounding protected areas.	2
Increase engagement with Sunshine Coast Council to identify best approach to management of impacts associated with water pollution and stormwater-run off across the Noosa Area.	3
Health check monitoring	
Monitor the condition of natural key values through health check monitoring.	1

\*KEY: Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).



## 5.4 Post-contact cultural heritage management


### Management direction statement

Description	Current level of service
Post-contact cultural heritage management for the Noosa Area	

QPWS manages post-contact historic sites in accordance with the NCA, *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (Qld) and *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976* (Cwlth).

The Noosa Area is located in an area that was settled by Europeans in the 1800s. The area has no sites significant to European occupation listed on the Queensland Heritage Register or Australian National Heritage List.

### Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Post-contact cultural heritage will be managed to a <i>medium</i> level of service through continued knowledge transfer on historic sites, values and stories.

Strategic management directions	Priority
<p><b>Level of service</b></p> <p>Maintain understanding and mapping of post-contact heritage sites.</p>	5

\*KEY: **Priority ratings:** Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

## 5.5 Visitor management

### Management direction statement

Description	Current level of service
Visitor management for the Noosa Area	


Queensland's parks, forests and reserves provide local communities and visitors from around the world with opportunities to experience our rich natural and cultural heritage, as well as a diverse range of recreational and ecotourism opportunities. QPWS seeks a responsible balance between visitor needs and sensitive park resources in accordance with the NCA, *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* (Qld), and government policies and procedures. Permitted commercial tour activities, agreements and events are administered in accordance with the NCA and other relevant legislation. QPWS will identify, assess and manage hazards to visitor safety in accordance with relevant safety obligations.

QPWS continually works to promote and improve access to parks, forests and reserves for everyone, including visitors with mobility and vision impairment (Department of Environment and Science *Disability Services Plan 2017–2020*).

The strategic management directions in this management plan will guide the formation of the *Noosa Area Visitor Strategy*. The strategy details management objectives for key values and the desired management outcomes for visitor sites through zoning. Zoning and visitor site management objectives consider the physical, social and managerial impacts of visitor experiences and the sustainability of the sites. Visitor strategies state the desired site capacity to provide a diversity of experiences for visitors and achieve site sustainability. The strategy also explores visitor opportunities that complement other experiences in the landscape and region.

The condition of, and visitor satisfaction with, visitor experiences will be monitored through the implementation of the *Noosa Area Monitoring and Research Strategy*.


### Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Visitors will be managed to an <i>exceptional</i> level of service through increased asset management effort, increased knowledge of use, trends and impacts, and continued engagement with tourism and recreation peak bodies.
Strategic management directions	Priority
<b>Custodial obligations</b>	
Maintain access to Noosa Area key visitor sites, such as Dolphin Point and Laguna Lookout, for visitors with mobility and vision impairment.	1
<b>Level of service</b>	
Improve knowledge of how visitor numbers impact on the natural environment and visitor experience at Noosa Headland.	2
Improve the presentation of QPWS visitor facilities and walking tracks, especially in Noosa Headland section.	2
Improve overall approach to visitor management by identifying new setting-appropriate opportunities, improving quality of sites, improving compliance and increasing ranger presence.	2
Improve engagement with commercial operators, and tourism and recreation peak bodies.	3
<b>Health check monitoring</b>	
Monitor the condition of visitor key values through health check monitoring.	1

\*KEY: **Priority ratings:** Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

## 5.6 Community, partnerships and other interests


### Management direction statement

Description	Current level of service
Community, partnerships and other interests associated with the Noosa Area	

Queensland’s parks, forests and reserves provide sustainable environmental, economic and social benefits. The agency is committed to working with the community and its partners to ensure activities and infrastructure are ecologically sustainable and continue to benefit Queensland’s economic and social wellbeing, as outlined in Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service’s Master Plan (QPWS 2014). Permitted activities are administered in accordance with the requirements of the NCA and other relevant legislation.

The Noosa Area is significant for tourism and neighbouring residents, and is well supported by local community groups, recreational associations and the Noosa and Sunshine Coast Councils.

### Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Community, partnerships and other interests will be managed to a <i>very high</i> level of service by developing formalised community engagement programs and continuing to collaborate with council and other government agencies.

Strategic management directions	Priority
<b>Level of service</b>	
Improve car park management and safety at Noosa Headland and Peregian Beach through collaboration with police and local council.	3
Improve engagement with community organisations through developing more formalised programs.	4
Maintain current approach to community collaboration, including support of Noosa Council to develop a council-led community involvement program across the Noosa Area.	2

\*KEY: Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).


## 5.7 Field management capability

### Management direction statement

Description	Current level of service
Field management capability for the Noosa Area	

Managing natural and cultural areas has varying degrees of complexity. Field management capability is a measure of this complexity and considers the significance of the planning area’s values, potential threats, intensity of visitor use and community expectations. It considers the required proximity, frequency and intensity of on-ground management that is needed to manage key values and meet custodial obligations. The rating provides QPWS with a means for gauging resource requirements and staff training needs.

### Desired level of service and strategic management direction


Desired level of service	
	Field management capability will be managed to a <i>very high</i> level of service through enhanced on-ground capability and additional support from technical and state-wide teams, volunteers and other stakeholders.

Strategic management directions	Priority
<b>Level of service</b>	
Increase regional technical and planning support for the planning area.	2
Improve capacity and skills of staff to manage the planning area effectively.	3

\*KEY: Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).


## 5.8 Operational planning and management support

### Management direction statement

Description	Current level of service
Operational planning and management support for the Noosa Area	

Operational planning and management support covers all aspects of management direction, including information, assessments, systems, tools and monitoring. As with field management capability, the area’s values, potential threats, intensity of visitor use and community expectations are considered when determining the appropriate LoS.

### Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Operational planning and management support will be managed to a <i>very high</i> level of service through increased regional support for planning and service delivery.

Strategic management directions	Priority
<b>Level of service</b>	
Increase support for natural resource management activities to improve key values.	2
Increase support for coordinating cross-tenure management associated with the planning area.	3
Increase support provided in a planning context to operational teams by technical support to address visitor management demands.	1

\*KEY: Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

## 6. References

- The State of Queensland, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. 1999. *Noosa National Park Management Plan*
- Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing. 2015. *Keyser Island Regional Park Management Statement*
- Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing. 2015. *Weyba Creek Regional Park Management Statement*
- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. 2020. Directory of Important Wetlands – Information Sheet Lake Weyba – Qld133, Australia
- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. 2020. Directory of Important Wetlands – Information Sheet Coolum Creek and Lower Maroochy River – QLD185, Australia
- Department of Environment and Energy (Cwlth). 2007. *Species profile and threats database*
- Department of Environment and Energy (Cwlth). 2006. *Species profile and threats database*
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Biosecurity Queensland). 2018. *Weeds, pest animals and ants*
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council. 2017. *Sunshine Coast Regional Council Biosecurity Plan 2017*
- Noosa Council. 2015. Noosa Council Biosecurity Plan (Pest Management Plan)
- Noosa biosphere reserve. 2016
- Save The Waves Coalition. 2015. Noosa surfing reserve declaration
- Additional database sources:
- Wildlife Online
  - Regional Ecosystem Description Database – REDD
  - Wetland Info and Wetland Maps
- National Native Title Tribunal - NNTT

# Appendix 1. Glossary

## Interpreting key values-based management framework concepts

<b>Adaptive management</b>	The process of adjusting and improving how we manage parks, forests and reserves after assessing the outcomes of previous strategies and on-ground actions.
<b>Condition and trend</b>	The condition of a key value is assessed as either good, good with some concern, significant concern or critical. Trend describes what is happening to the condition: is it improving, stable or deteriorating. A key value's current condition is determined during the planning process. A desired condition is a realistic goal for the future condition of the key value. The ongoing condition of key values is assessed with regular health checks, monitoring and scientific assessment.
<b>Custodial obligations</b>	The requirements in legislation and government policies that we, as the land management agency, have to ensure QPWS's parks, forests and reserves are lawfully managed and good neighbours. Management provides for the protection of life and property, biosecurity and positive relationships with adjacent communities and landholders, as well as enhancing and protecting our values.
<b>Desired outcome</b>	A statement in the key value and management direction statements about moving from the current status (condition or LoS) to a desired status. The goal for management.
<b>Health check</b>	Basic form of monitoring that uses indicators and visual assessments to regularly evaluate the condition of key values. Regular health checks ensure QPWS can respond quickly to adverse change and redirect management priorities.
<b>Key value</b>	A natural, cultural or social value that is of most significance to that area. It is what makes the area special, and if lost, would diminish what makes the area distinct from others.
<b>Key value statement</b>	A statement in the management plan/statement that is developed for each key value. It describes the key value, current condition, desired condition, current threats and threat ratings, strategic management direction and priorities for further thematic strategy planning and on-ground management action.
<b>Level of service (LoS)</b>	A planning tool used to identify the acceptable management standard or level of resourcing that is required to maintain an area based on its values, threats and the complexity of management. There are five LoS ratings ranging from 'acceptable' to 'exceptional', noting that an acceptable rating is the minimum standard required to deliver good management and meet our custodial obligations under law as a land manager. A 'current' LoS rating is the level at the time of planning, the 'desired' LoS is where we want to be.
<b>Management direction</b>	How we manage each management theme to protect and enhance our key values and meet our custodial management obligations.
<b>Management direction statement</b>	A statement in the management plan/statement, developed for each management theme, that describes the current LoS, desired LoS, custodial obligations, strategic management direction and priorities for further thematic strategy planning and on-ground management action.
<b>Management theme</b>	QPWS has identified a number of management themes that are common to most of the parks, forests and reserves in our estate: fire management; pest management; natural values management; post-contact cultural heritage; visitor management; community, partnerships and other interests; field management capability; and operational planning and management support.
<b>Priority rating (key value SMDs)</b>	<p>A rating given to a strategic management direction according to the need for action to prevent further decline, stabilise current condition, or restore and enhance values, with consideration given to legislative obligations, cost, and social, economic and political factors.</p> <p>Critical (1) – Loss or very significant decline in the condition of key value/s is highly likely if action not taken OR significant improvement in the condition of key value/s is highly likely if action is taken.</p> <p>Very high (2) – Significant decline in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is not taken OR significant improvement in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is taken.</p> <p>High (3) – Decline in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is not taken OR improvement in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is taken.</p> <p>Moderate (4) – Some decline in the condition of key value/s is possible if action is not taken OR some improvement in the condition of key value/s is possible if action is taken.</p> <p>Desirable (5) – While decline in the condition of key value/s is not likely in the short term, the action, if taken, would help build long-term resilience of key value/s.</p>
<b>Priority rating (LoS SMDs)</b>	A rating given to an LoS or custodial obligation strategic management direction. A scale from 1 (extremely urgent) to 5 (not urgent or optional) is assigned, with consideration given to legislative obligations, cost, and social, economic and political factors.
<b>Strategic management direction (SMD)</b>	A broad strategy aimed at mitigating or removing a threat to a key value and maintaining or improving the condition of a park's value; or addressing the gap between the current LoS and desired LoS for a management theme.
<b>Threat or threatening process and threat rating</b>	Based on IUCN's (International Union for Conservation of Nature) classifications, QPWS has identified threatening processes that have the potential to affect Queensland's values (e.g. natural systems modifications, invasive species). Current threats to key values are identified and given a threat rating based on a combination of the extent of the impact, the severity of the impact, and the urgency of action.