

Noosa Area

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



Resource Information

2022

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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.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) management planning process aligns with the Values-Based Management Framework (VBMF), an adaptive management cycle that incorporates planning, prioritising, doing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting into all areas of our business (Figure 1). Management plans and statements set the strategic management direction, guiding the next tier of planning and the development of thematic strategies, which in turn inform and prioritise our on-ground operations.

Resource information is a compendium of park information and a supporting document for management plans and management statements. It contains background information about a park’s purpose, values, resources, and legal and administrative framework.

Information about the VBMF is available on the Department of Environment and Science (DES) website at www.des.qld.gov.au.

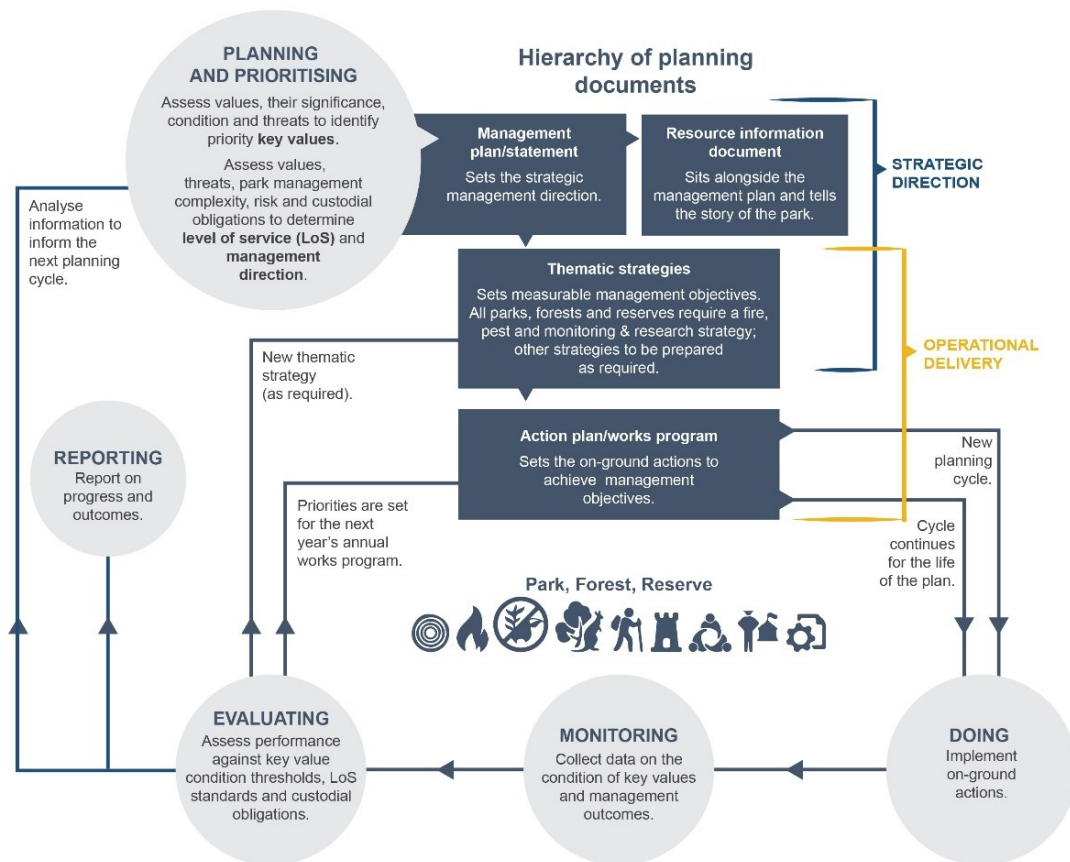


Figure 1. Phases of the VBMF cycle for planning and the hierarchy of planning documents

2. Noosa Area

The Noosa Area parks form a valuable natural asset that conserves a near-continuous belt of coastal vegetation communities along the Sunshine Coast, from Coolool in the south to Noosa Heads in the north. They preserve and protect a diverse range of native plant and animal species and a wide array of regional ecosystems.

The whole Noosa Area lies within the lands of the Kabi Kabi People. There is currently no Indigenous land use agreement covering the Noosa Area, but the Kabi Kabi People have a native title claim that covers the area.

Encroaching urbanisation on the coastal native vegetation and landscape highlights the parks' regional significance for protecting and conserving the remaining coastal ecosystems and cultural heritage.

The heathlands of these parks are among the few remaining coastal areas providing core habitat for the ground parrot *Pezoporus wallicus wallicus*. After the Coolool area, the heath of the Noosa and Coolool regions is the next most important in size and diversity on the Sunshine Coast. Coastal lowland vine forests, which are remnant and nationally critically endangered (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth)), are found in moist gullies and on sheltered slopes.

The Noosa Area is internationally recognised as one of South East Queensland's major centres of economic, social and recreational activity. One of the principal attractions within Noosa National Park is the iconic Noosa Headland, with its impressive coastal views, rocky headlands, sandy shorelines and recreational opportunities, drawing more than one million visitors a year. The walking tracks provide opportunities for scenic viewing and access to beaches and surfing, while offering a unique nature and culture combination.

Noosa National Park is a green space in a highly urbanised area, and has high aesthetic value and provides refuge for species. Its proximity to surrounding townships presents a valuable opportunity to display the intrinsic values of these natural coastal areas to the broader community and encourage a respect for, and a desire to conserve, the area in its natural state.

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

Keyser Island Conservation Park was formally gazetted as Keyser Island Environmental Park on 24 May 1986 under the *Land Act 1962*. At that time, there was a trustee agreement between the Noosa Shire Council and the Department of Primary Industries. In 1994, the environmental park was gazetted as Keyser Island Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

Weyba Creek Regional Park was formally gazetted as Weyba Creek Environmental Park on 3 December 1993 under the *Land Act 1962*. At that time, there was a trustee agreement between Noosa Shire Council and the Director-General of the Department of Primary Industries. In 1994, the environmental park was gazetted as Weyba Creek Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

The legislative framework for managing the parks, designations over the parks and management obligations are outlined further in **Appendix 1**.

Bioregion	Southeast Queensland		
Area	2883 ha		
Local government area	Noosa Shire Council and Sunshine Coast Regional Council	State electorate	Noosa, Maroochydore and Nicklin
Management obligations	Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA) China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA) Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA) Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) National recovery plan for <i>Acacia attenuata</i> National recovery plan for the Mt Emu she-oak <i>Allocasuarina emuina</i> National recovery plan for the black-breasted button-quail <i>Turnix melanogaster</i> National recovery plan for the black-throated finch southern subspecies (<i>Poephila cincta cincta</i>) Noosa Parks Association Inc. – manages the information/visitor centre at Noosa Headland under a formal agreement		

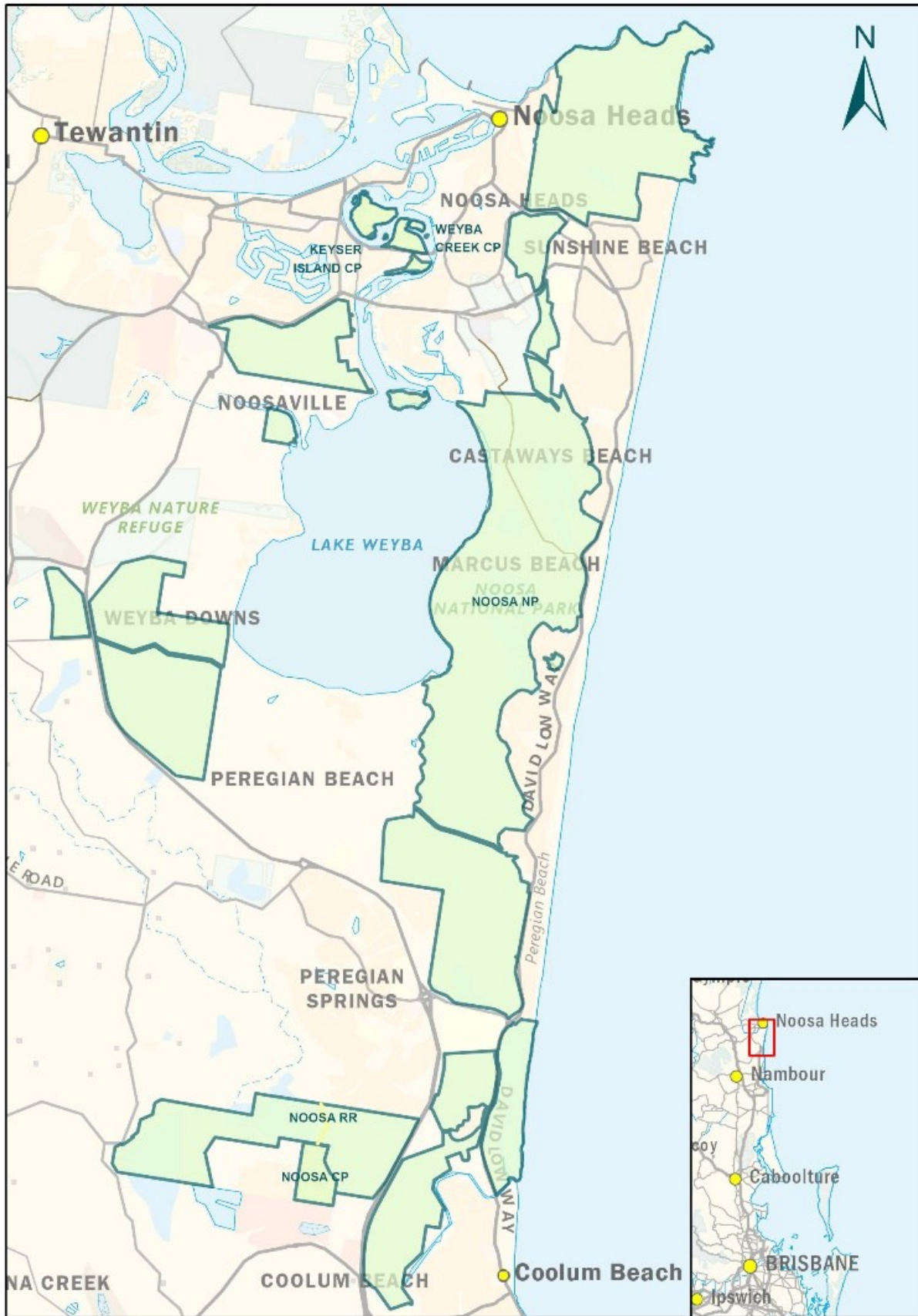


Figure 2. Locality map for Noosa Area.

2.1 Ecosystems and biodiversity

The various sections of Noosa National Park conserve 33 distinct regional ecosystems, which represent the range of communities described for the Sunshine Coast, three of which have endangered biodiversity status and 15 that are considered to have 'of concern' biodiversity status (refer to **Appendix 2**). All of these communities have either local, regional, conservation significance, or conserve species that are rare or threatened.

2.1.1 Closed forest

Coastal lowland warm subtropical rainforest growing on sand is conserved at Noosa Headland in patches along the western boundary and in sheltered gullies. This rainforest conserves the most southerly natural occurrence of the kauri pine *Agathis robusta* and several other plant species – the orchid *Bulbophyllum globuliforme*, a grass *Arthraxon hispidus*, and the rainforest trees *Cryptocarya foetida* and *Symplocos harroldii*. The only other significant areas conserving this rainforest type in the Southeast Queensland Bioregion are at Cooloola and Fraser Island.

2.1.2 *Eucalyptus racemosa* mid-high/tall open forest and woodland

These communities are represented on the Noosa Headland and West Weyba sections of the park. They have been extensively cleared south of Noosa and are of conservation concern.

2.1.3 *Melaleuca quinquenervia* mid-high/tall open forest and woodland

These communities occur in patches throughout Noosa National Park, where they provide protection for the *Phaius* orchids. On the southern mainland, many of these communities have been extensively cleared for coastal development. Samples present in the park represent a significant percentage of remaining Sunshine Coast communities.

2.1.4 *Callitris* mid-high/tall open forest

Areas of *Callitris* open forest occur on the East Weyba section and Noosa Headland. This community has limited distribution because of clearing for residential development. It is very sensitive to fire and therefore requires special management considerations.

2.1.5 *Banksia integrifolia*/ *Casuarina equisetifolia* low/mid-high open forest/woodland

These foredune/beach ridge communities play a fundamental role in foredune and headland stability. They are the most restricted of all coastal lowland habitats, with significant areas remaining only on Moreton and Bribie Islands in South East Queensland.

2.1.6 Open/closed heath (high dunes)

Small patches of high dune heath (*Banksia aemula* low closed heath and *Banksia aemula* low closed heath with *Allocasuarina littoralis* emergents) occur on the crests and exposed slopes of the oldest, largest Pleistocene dunes in East Weyba and at the southern end of Noosa Headland. It has been extensively cleared for urban development and is considered to be endangered.

2.1.7 Closed heath/sedgeland

Closed heath and sedgeland have high conservation value as they provide one of the few remaining coastal areas supporting a population of ground parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*. After the Cooloola area, the wallum heath of the Noosa and Coolool regions is the next most important (in size and diversity) of this plant community remaining on the Sunshine Coast. South of Noosa, these regional ecosystems are considered to be endangered.

2.1.8 Open heath (rocky hills)

This community occurs on Cainozoic igneous rocks, especially rhyolite at Emu Mountain and the rocky knoll on the West Weyba section. The community on Emu Mountain contains several plant species restricted to these rocky habitats.

2.1.9 *Cyperaceae* swamp

This community is identified as regional ecosystem 12.3.8 and is considered a sedge vegetated swamp. The composition of this swamp is heavily linked to hydrology, climate and soil types. With many sedge swamps being impacted by altered drainage, siltation and vegetation clearing for urban development, this remnant ecosystem holds high conservation value in the Noosa Area.

2.2 Species

2.2.1 Native animals

The diversity of vegetation communities within Noosa National Park provides a broad range of habitats that support a great diversity of invertebrate and vertebrate native animals, including species of conservation significance. Native animal surveys have been carried out for the East Weyba and West Weyba sections and Noosa Headland. More than 243 bird species have been recorded in the park and adjacent intertidal areas. The Noosa Headland area provides habitat for 44 birds of conservation significance, including 26 migratory birds covered under agreements between Australia and Japan (JAMBA), Australia and China (CAMBA) and Australia and the Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

Conservation significant fauna species recorded on the park (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999*) are listed in **Appendix 3**.

Species of local conservation significance recorded on the park include:

- koalas *Phascolarctos cinereus* inhabiting Noosa Headland and its surrounds
- a pair of visiting (possibly nesting) peregrine falcons *Falco peregrinus*, which have been seen occasionally around Noosa Headland
- the eastern grass owl *Tyto longimembris*, recorded from the East Weyba section in the wet heath/sedgeland or rank grassland areas
- the wallum sedge frog *Litoria olongburensis* inhabiting coastal heath communities
- local population of eastern grey kangaroos *Macropus giganteus* inhabiting the eastern and southern park sections around Lake Weyba. They are not commonly found in such coastal areas close to urban settlement
- skink *Ctenotus arcanus*, which has a patchy distribution in south-east Queensland and is unable to exist in urbanised areas
- freshwater crayfish *Cherax* sp. recorded in the ephemeral streams and gullies of the coastal lowland rainforest at Noosa Headland.

2.2.2 Native plants

In acquiring areas for national park on the Sunshine Coast, efforts have been made to conserve a representative sample of the diversity of vegetation communities and plant species present. The park supports a great diversity of native species, including species of conservation significance listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwith) (**Appendix 4**). More than 560 plant species have been recorded in the park and adjacent areas.

Conservation significant flora recorded on the park include:

- Mt Emu she-oak *Allocasuarina emuina*
- Mt Coolum she-oak *Allocasuarina thalassoscopica*
- swamp stringybark *Eucalyptus conglomerata*
- *Phaius australis*
- *Acacia attenuata*
- stinking cryptocarya *Cryptocarya foetida*
- *Bulbophyllum globuliforme*
- *Cryptostylis hunteriana*
- wallum leek orchid *Prasophyllum wallum*
- *Arthraxon hispidus*
- tiny wattle *Acacia baueri* subsp. *baueri*
- Christmas bells *Blandfordia grandiflora*.

2.3 Geophysical features

2.3.1 Geology

The Sunshine Coast, from Noosa to Coolum, is characterised by a mosaic of distinct coastal landforms, including coastal plains, high dunes, headlands, foredunes, hills and a tidal lake – Lake Weyba. Noosa National Park's soils are low in nutrients and the vegetation types reflect changes in soil-water relationships. Most of the park complex lies on either sandplains of Quaternary age (2 million years ago to present) or parabolic high dunes built up during the Pleistocene epoch (2 million to 10,000 years ago). Exceptions to these predominant geological forms include younger coastal beach sand ridges of Holocene age at the Peregian section, and the Myrtle Creek sandstones of Triassic–Jurassic age (248–144 million years ago) that underlie the North Weyba section and parts of Noosa Headland itself. Noosa Headland is the most geologically diverse section of the park, being formed mainly from Quaternary sand and sandstone with some igneous intrusions. The igneous intrusions are evident in the form of basaltic, granitic and andesitic dykes cutting through the sandstone. The intrusions and associated sandstone are more resistant to erosion and consequently have developed into rugged rocky points with sheltered beaches in between. The West Weyba section of the park has an unusual, partially vegetated, rhyolitic, rocky knoll of volcanic origin present on the most westerly boundary.

2.3.2 Noosa River catchment

The Noosa River catchment comprises 10 large and small sub-catchment areas, one falls within the protected areas included in the Noosa Area management plan. This sub-catchment is referred to as the Lake Weyba sub-catchment. Within this sub-catchment, there are two distinct areas, namely the southern and northern parts. Southern Lake Weyba area is characterised by high rainfall, with unconsolidated sediments and hard geologies. These features provide for groundwater recharge as well as high water runoff. Northern Lake Weyba area also receives high rainfall tallies, and is made up of unconsolidated sediments with hard geologies and man-made fill. Outside the boundaries of the park, much of the sub-catchment has been cleared for rural and urban development, therefore, the protected areas provide significant protection for the vegetation cover and create buffers between developed areas and the river and lake systems. Lake Weyba itself is included in this part of the catchment also.

2.4 Recreational opportunities

2.4.1 Noosa Headland section

The main entry point to the national park is at Noosa Headland via Park Road. This area includes vehicle parking for visitors, an access point for walking tracks, a picnic area and an information centre. Many visitors come here to go walking, picnicking and surfing. Access to Noosa Headland also occurs via Viewland Drive to Laguna Lookout. Pedestrian access is available at a number of points around the perimeter of the headland, with the Park Road boardwalk being the most commonly used.

Day-use facilities at Noosa Headland include a picnic area with tables, toilets, bins and electric barbecues. Existing public contact facilities include a small information centre with interpretive and educational material, an outdoor amphitheatre, a 12-sided shelter display stand, some orientation signs, a visitor information sheet and a self-guided walking track.

Access to Tea Tree Bay is provided for disabled persons via the Coast track. Water taps are located at Laguna Bay and near Tea Tree Bay, and there are showers located at Laguna Bay only.

2.4.2 Lake Weyba park sections

Access to this section of the park is from David Low Way, at Marcus Beach, 2.5 km north of Peregian Beach. Uncontrolled access and illegal camping are occurring in the park areas surrounding Lake Weyba, resulting in littering and degradation of the vegetation. Camping is inappropriate on any section of the park, and particularly on the Weyba sections, due to:

- poor drainage and susceptibility to inundation precluding the establishment of any developed camping facilities
- the presence of ecologically sensitive areas such as the paperbark vegetation with rainforest understorey and the swamp orchid *Phaius tancarvilleae* areas
- the degradation of the scenic value of the lake foreshores
- the availability of private camping facilities nearby.

Much of the East Weyba and Peregian sections of the park was previously used as a military artillery range. These areas contain dangerous unexploded ordnance (UXO) such as artillery and mortar shells, and have been designated contaminated land. Due to this, Lot 2 – Plan

SP177651, Lot 11 – Plan SP161940 and Lot 147 – Plan NPW889 are areas of land categorised by the Commonwealth Department of Defence as having a 'substantial' potential to be affected by residual UXO.

The presence of UXO necessitates restrictions on public access for safety reasons. Restrictions on access may also occur due to the area's cultural values, and liaison with Aboriginal groups is essential before any access decisions are made. Only those tracks cleared for UXO will be used for walking tracks.

Both the Peregian and Mount Emu sections are accessed from David Low Way, north of Coolum Beach.

2.5 Ecotourism

The Sunshine Coast is a destination for both Australian and international visitors. The area is one of South East Queensland's major centres of economic, social and recreational activity. One of the principal attractions is Noosa Headland. It is the most heavily used national park in South East Queensland, with estimates of use exceeding one million visitors per year. As a major tourist destination, Noosa National Park has significant economic value for the Sunshine Coast. Surrounding facilities such as holiday apartments and lodges, campgrounds, restaurants and kiosks gain economically from tourism.

Visitors to Noosa National Park have a variety of opportunities, ranging from bushwalking through coastal rainforest, wallum heath, open forest and grasslands, to family picnics, and observing animals, plants, and the ocean life and processes. The park provides a peaceful and scenic backdrop for coastal activities such as surfing and fishing. There are also whale watching opportunities between July and October.

The southern sections of the park remain in a relatively natural state. Opportunities and facilities for larger numbers of people and groups, including commercial operations, are focused in the Noosa Headland area. Tour activity is concentrated at Laguna Lookout and the main park entrance at Noosa Headland.

Some operators are offering aircraft or helicopter flights over the park, especially the Noosa Headland area. The use of aircraft to view the spectacular coastline can disturb some native animals and park users who have come to the area for quiet relaxation. Airservices Australia regulations impose a 500 ft (152 m) minimum height restriction on all aircraft.

The Sunshine Coast, its hinterland and the Cooloola region are recognised as major recreational areas for Brisbane and associated coastal regions. Noosa National Park's diversity of native plants and animals, high dunes, rocky headlands and lowland swamps, and the tranquil setting, of Lake Weyba attract visitors.

Scenic viewpoints on the rocky headlands, knolls or high parabolic dunes provide excellent panoramic views of the Sunshine Coast and hinterland. The park's natural setting provides an attractive contrast to local urban development and emphasises to both residents and visitors the importance of continued conservation of natural habitats.

2.6 Post-contact cultural heritage

The remains of a large mechanical winch on the shore at Winch Cove (formerly called Machinery Bay) near Noosa Headland provides evidence of European settlement in the early 20th century. The winch was either used by early loggers to haul sawn hoop pines *Araucaria cunninghamii* to the shore for transport by ship to Brisbane, or was salvaged from a foundering vessel.

During World War II (1939–45), trenches were dug on Noosa Hill as part of a series of fortifications for the Sunshine Coast. Slight dips and piles of stones can still be seen today. During this period, the military used the eastern side of Lake Weyba as a firing range. This land was later declared state forest and some limited logging occurred.

The Noosa Area's places of historic value are listed in **Appendix 5**.

2.7 Partnerships

2.7.1 Local councils

QPWS works collaboratively with Noosa Shire Council and Sunshine Coast Regional Council on cross-landscape fire and pest initiatives and recreational opportunities (primarily focused in the inter-urban break).

In September 2007, Noosa (approximately 150,000 hectares of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems) was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, which includes a significant portion of Noosa National Park within its boundary. This declaration recognises the relationship between Noosa's special environment and its community. Noosa Council is a director and founding member of the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Public Trust. QPWS engages and collaborates with the Public Trust and Noosa Council on Biosphere Reserve management initiatives. QPWS and Noosa Council have established agreement for council officers to manage parking at several sites within the Noosa planning area.

In the southern section of the Noosa Area, there are a number of Sunshine Coast Council managed reserves that provide important connectivity for a number of iconic flora and fauna species. These reserves include the Doonan Creek Environment Reserve and the Arcoona Road Bushland Conservation Reserve. Cross-landscape management between council and QPWS is critical in these areas to ensure the preservation of shared values, including the Maroochy–Noosa Wallum Corridor.

2.7.2 Noosa Parks Association

In January 2009 QPWS granted the Noosa Parks Association the right to operate the visitor information centre at Noosa Headland.

2.8 Scientific research

Research and monitoring projects completed since 1992 include a scientific survey conducted in 1993 in some of the park areas to establish the population size of the endangered *Allocasuarina emuina*. More recent work on this species in 1997 determined its viability in populations around Coolumb. In 1995, researchers surveyed the population of the endangered swamp stringybark *Eucalyptus conglomerata* and developed a conservation research statement and proposed recovery plan. A fire monitoring project was set up for the Noosa Headland section in the 1980s.

Recent research carried out on the park has included:

- classification and phylogeny of the genus *Dianella* by The University of Melbourne
- fungal recording by the Queensland Mycological Society
- genetics and ecology of endangered swamp orchids *Phaius australis* and *Phaius bernaysii* by the University of the Sunshine Coast
- humpback whales and the impact of noise: controlled exposure experiments by The University of Queensland
- humpback whales and the impact of seismic exploration noise by The University of Queensland
- the effects of fire and fragmentation on two co-occurring, rare, coastal heath species, by the University of the Sunshine Coast.

The *Noosa Area Monitoring and Research Strategy* has identified a number of key monitoring projects with QPWS, the responsible party, as well as a number of opportunities for external monitoring and research. These opportunities are grouped into one of the below objectives:

- assessing/monitoring condition of value
- measuring and managing threats to value
- filling gaps in knowledge of value
- building knowledge to improve management
- solving management challenges
- guiding future management.

QPWS utilises projects within monitoring and research strategies to populate the state-wide Research Prospectus. The Research Prospectus is used as a tool for engaging with various universities to encourage research on protected areas that seeks to directly inform QPWS management.

2.9 Education

The park provides an ideal natural resource for formal and informal education. Tertiary institutions, school groups, local residents and interest groups can use the park system to study the diversity of ecosystems within small areas, and interactive components such as the geology and native plants and animals. Public appreciation of the area's natural values can be increased by reference to the conspicuous impacts of development on the coastal wallum and associated natural communities.

Noosa National Park is mainly used by school groups within the Noosa Shire for day excursions to examine intertidal marine environments, native vegetation communities and geological processes. The Coolum section is conveniently situated for natural resource excursions from the nearby Coolum State High School. Off-park interpretation occurs at schools from Caboolture to Gympie, and park-based talks are given to community groups.

All aspects of the park environment, from the biological, geological and cultural components to the social and recreational components, present opportunities for research.

2.10 Fire

Many of the communities that occur within the park complex (that is, sedgeland-grassland [wet heath], dry heath and high dune heath, low scrub and woodland, and open eucalypt forest) have some dependency on fire for their continued existence and exhibit adaptations for survival in a fire-prone environment. Prescribed burns stimulate seed dispersal, aid germination and retain structural and floristic diversity within the communities. They also provide tree hollows that are habitat for native animals.

The Noosa Area protects a band of native vegetation that is surrounded by, and interspersed with, urban areas. The sections of Noosa National Park vary in their degree of urban interface. The headland section is abutted by urban development on its southern and western boundaries, as is the Mount Coolum section. Other sections have less urban contact. The Peregian section is bounded by urban development and David Low Way to its east and by lower density small acreages and the Sunshine Motorway to the west, while the West Weyba section only has Emu Mountain Road to its west and Lake Weyba to its east.

The Noosa Area comprises numerous sections that are relatively small in area, and generally have a narrow, lineal shape and a mainly north-south alignment. The proximity of houses to the fire-prone vegetation of the park, and the aforementioned shape, size and alignment of the various sections, means that the general focus of fire management in the past has been on fuel reduction burns to reduce the impact and severity of wildfires on the urban interface.

Fire prevention and management between the urban development and natural areas will be undertaken cooperatively with the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (urban and rural brigades).

The Noosa Area parks fall across both Noosa and Sunshine Coast Council areas, and these councils are also major landholders of the natural areas adjoining the estate.

The fire management complexity of Noosa National Park is further exacerbated by the diversity of land tenures and uses. Areas around the Link, West Weyba, East Weyba and Emu Mountain sections have parcels of protected areas, unallocated state land, council land and freehold land with no accessible or easily identifiable boundaries. Consequently, management of these areas is reliant on a cooperative effort between various government agencies and private landholders.

The usual wildfire season in South East Queensland is at its worst over spring, but can extend well into summer during drought years with the failure of early spring and summer rains. The rainfall aggregate in the six months leading up to the fire season peak during November is critical in gauging the likely severity of a fire.

Planned burning is usually carried out in the autumn–winter period (March–August) following sufficient curing of the forest fuel after the summer wet season.

2.11 Pests

2.11.1 Pest plants

The Noosa Area has environmental weeds that have the potential to impact on the values of the park. These include asparagus fern *A.densiflorus*, *A.aethiopicus*, *A.africanus*, *A.plumosus*, broad-leaved pepper tree *Schinus terebinthifolia*, groundsel bush *Baccharis halimifolia*, lantana *Lantana camara*, giant rat's tail *Sporobolus pyramidalis*, prickly pear *Opuntia stricta*, Singapore daisy *Sphagneticola trilobata* and bitou bush *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *Rotundata*, which are classified as 'restricted invasive plants' under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Refer to **Appendix 6** for other pest plants.

Asparagus fern has been recorded in all sections of Noosa National Park and is considered a threat to the vine forest communities, rocky headlands and coastal woodlands. This could potentially dominate ground-level strata and change the ecosystem structure by displacing native flora.

Lantana infestations have been recorded in all sections of Noosa, with most occurring within coastal woodland communities. Lantana is capable of changing ecosystem structure by domination of ground and lower strata.

Singapore daisy has been sighted in all sections of Noosa, though primarily in the coastal woodlands, and is considered a major threat. It invades disturbed areas, increasing along edges of rainforests and roadsides. It has the ability to colonise large areas of ground space and potentially change ecosystem diversity.

The broad-leaved pepper tree is an invasive plant with high potential to displace native species and compromise the integrity of natural ecosystems within the Noosa Area.

Groundsel bush has been identified in all sections of Noosa National Park and is potentially capable of changing ecosystem structure through competition within lower strata. Regional Ecosystem 12.1.1 *Casuarina glauca* woodland on the margins of marine clay plains is susceptible to invasion by *B. halimifolia*. Groundsel bush and broad-leaved pepper trees are potential threats to the *Cyperaceae* swamp.

Prickly pear has been recorded in the headland section of Noosa in the rocky headland community. This has the potential to change natural ecosystems through domination of ground space and high survival rate during drought periods.

Bitou bush is considered a significant threat to natural systems and has high potential of changing ecosystem structure by total domination of dune areas on Noosa Headland, which could impact endangered Regional Ecosystem 12.2.13 Open or dry heath on dunes and beaches.

Invasive grasses such as whiskey grass, giant rat's tail grass, molasses grass and Paramatta grass have infested areas of coastal heath, montane heath and coastal woodlands. These grasses can quickly dominate areas, especially following soil disturbance. They are potentially capable of changing ecosystem structure through rapid propagation and exclusion of native species. Infestations can increase fire intensity and frequency due to increase of biomass and seasonal drying off.

2.11.2 Pest animals

Foxes *Vulpes vulpes*, wild dogs *Canis lupus familiaris* and cats *Felis catus* are present in the Noosa Area. These species are listed as 'restricted invasive animals' under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Black rats *Rattus rattus*, brown hares *Lepus capensis*, cane toads *Rhinella marina*, Asian house geckos *Hemidactylus frenatus*, house mice *Mus mouse* and Indian mynas *Acridotheres tristis* are also present in the park.

Foxes pose a significant threat to ground dwelling threatened species such as the ground parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*. Foxes have been sighted in all sections of Noosa National Park, particularly in the Peregrian East and West Weyba sections.

Appendices

Appendix 1. Legal, policy and management commitments

Gazettal details

- Noosa National Park was gazetted in 1994
- Keyser Island Conservation Park was gazetted in 1994
- Weyba Creek Conservation Park was gazetted in 1994

Applicable Acts and statutory powers

- *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld)
- *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth)
- *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Qld)
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld)
- *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (Qld)
- *Fisheries Act 1994* (Qld)

Recovery plans and guides

- 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 black-throated finch southern subspecies (*Poephila cincta cincta*)
- National recovery plan for wallum sedge frog and other wallum-dependent frog species

Other management commitments

- CMS – Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

Appendix 2. Regional ecosystems of significance

Regional ecosystem	Description	Biodiversity status*
12.5.3	<i>Eucalyptus racemosa</i> woodland on remnant Tertiary surfaces	Endangered
12.2.13	Open or dry heath on dunes and beaches	Endangered
12.5.6	<i>Eucalyptus siderophloia</i> , <i>E. propinqua</i> , <i>E. microcorys</i> and/or <i>E. pilularis</i> open forest on remnant Tertiary surfaces. Usually deep red soils	Endangered
12.9-10.16	Araucarian microphyll to notophyll vine forest on Cainozoic and Mesozoic sediments	Of concern
12.1.1	<i>Casuarina glauca</i> woodland on margins of marine clay plains	Of concern
12.2.5	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> ± <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> ± <i>Banksia</i> spp. ± <i>Callitris columellaris</i> open forest on beach ridges, usually in southern half of bioregion	Of concern
12.3.4	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> , <i>Eucalyptus robusta</i> woodland on coastal alluvium	Of concern
12.8.20	Shrubby woodland with <i>Eucalyptus racemosa</i> or <i>E. dura</i> on Cainozoic igneous rocks	Of concern
12.9-10.1	Tall open forest often with <i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i> , <i>E. grandis</i> , <i>E. robusta</i> , <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> on sedimentary rocks. Coastal	Of concern
12.3.8	Swamps with <i>Cyperus</i> spp., <i>Schoenoplectus</i> spp. and <i>Eleocharis</i> spp.	Of concern
12.12.19	Vegetation complex of rocky headlands on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	Of concern
12.8.19	Heath and rock pavement with scattered shrubs or open woodland on Cainozoic igneous hills and mountains	Of concern
12.2.3	Araucarian vine forest on parabolic high dunes	Of concern
12.5.9	Sedgeland to heathland in low lying areas on complex of remnant Tertiary surface and Tertiary sedimentary rocks	Of concern
12.12.12	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> , <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> , <i>E. crebra</i> ± <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> woodland on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	Of concern
12.3.14	<i>Banksia aemula</i> low woodland on alluvial plains usually near coast	Of concern
12.12.14	<i>Eucalyptus racemosa</i> subsp. <i>racemosa</i> ± <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> , <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> , <i>Eucalyptus acmenoides</i> woodland usually on rocky near coastal areas on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	Of concern
12.9-10.22	Closed sedgeland/shrubland on sedimentary rocks. Coastal parts	Of concern
12.2.12	Closed heath on seasonally waterlogged sand plains	Of concern
12.12.16	Notophyll vine forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	No concern at present
12.1.2	Saltpan vegetation including grassland, herbland and sedgeland on marine clay plains	No concern at present
12.2.7	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> or rarely <i>M. dealbata</i> open forest on sand plains	No concern at present
12.3.5	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> open forest on coastal alluvium	No concern at present
12.3.13	Closed heathland on seasonally waterlogged alluvial plains usually near coast	No concern at present
12.2.15	<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i> , <i>Empodisma minus</i> , <i>Gleichenia</i> spp. closed sedgeland in coastal swamps	No concern at present
12.2.9	<i>Banksia aemula</i> low open woodland on dunes and sand plains. Usually deeply leached soils	No concern at present
12.5.4	<i>Eucalyptus latisinensis</i> ± <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> , <i>C. trachyphloia</i> subsp. <i>trachyphloia</i> , <i>Angophora leiocarpa</i> , <i>Eucalyptus exserta</i> woodland on complex of remnant Tertiary surfaces and Cainozoic and Mesozoic sediments	No concern at present
12.9-10.4	<i>Eucalyptus racemosa</i> subsp. <i>racemosa</i> woodland on sedimentary rocks	No concern at present
12.5.10	<i>Eucalyptus latisinensis</i> and/or <i>Banksia aemula</i> low open woodland on complex of remnant Tertiary surface and Tertiary sedimentary rocks	No concern at present
12.2.14	Foredune complex	No concern at present
12.12.15	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> ± <i>Eucalyptus propinqua</i> , <i>E. siderophloia</i> , <i>E. microcorys</i> , <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> open forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	No concern at present
12.1.3	Mangrove shrubland to low closed forest on marine clay plains and estuaries	No concern at present
12.3.6	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> ± <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> , <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest on coastal alluvial plains	No concern at present

* Queensland's Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD) Biodiversity Status

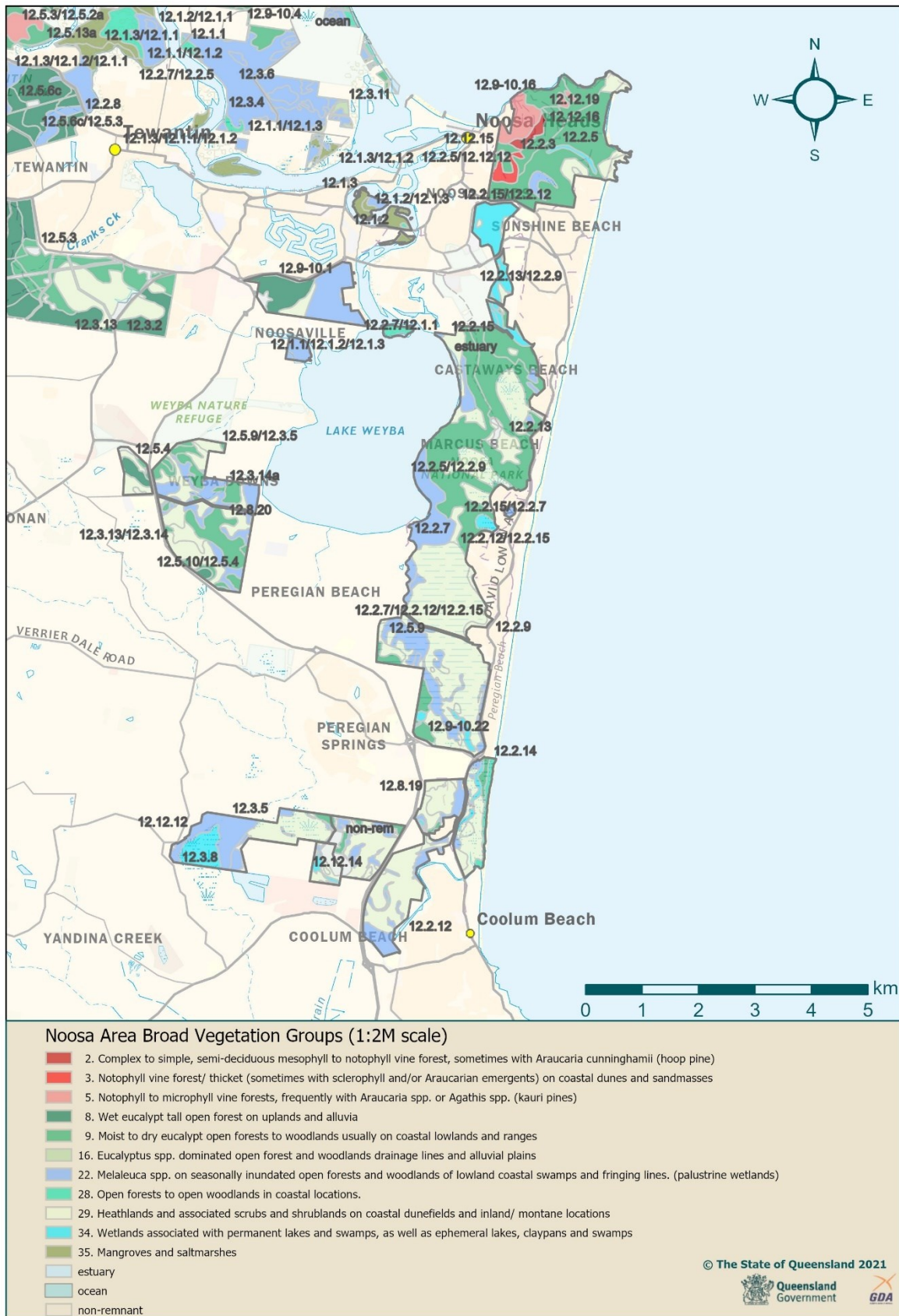


Figure 2. Noosa Area Broad Vegetation Groups

Appendix 3. Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	NC Act status	EPBC Act status	Back on track
Plants				
<i>Acacia attenuata</i> *	-	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High
<i>Acacia baueri</i> subsp. <i>baueri</i>	tiny wattle	Vulnerable	-	Medium
<i>Allocasuarina emuina</i>	Mt Emu she-oak	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Allocasuarina thalassoscopia</i>	Mt Coolum she-oak*	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Arthraxon hispidus</i> *	-	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Blandfordia grandiflora</i>	Christmas bells	Endangered	-	High
<i>Bulbophyllum globuliforme</i> *	-	Near threatened	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Cryptocarya foetida</i>	stinking cryptocarya	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
<i>Cryptostylis hunteriana</i>	-	Least concern	Vulnerable	Data deficient
<i>Eucalyptus conglomerata</i>	swamp stringybark	Endangered	Endangered	Medium
<i>Glycine argyrea</i>	-	Near threatened	-	-
<i>Macarthuria complanata</i>	-	Near threatened	-	High
<i>Phaius australis</i>	-	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
<i>Prasophyllum wallum</i>	wallum leek orchid	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Data deficient
<i>Symplocos harroldii</i>	hairy hazelwood	Near threatened	-	Low
Animals				
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	common sandpiper	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Adelotus brevis</i>	tusked frog*	Vulnerable	-	Medium
<i>Anilius silvia</i>	striped blind snake*	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	fork-tailed swift	Special least concern	-	-
<i>Ardenna pacifica</i>	wedge-tailed shearwater*	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Ardenna tenuirostris</i>	short-tailed shearwater*	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	sharp-tailed sandpiper	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	red knot	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	curlew sandpiper	Endangered	Critically endangered	Low
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	red-necked stint	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	glossy black cockatoo*	Vulnerable	-	-
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	glossy black cockatoo (eastern)	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Charadrius bicinctus</i>	double-banded plover	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	lesser sand plover	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	white-winged black tern	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Crinia tinnula</i>	wallum froglet	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	monarch butterfly	-	-	Low
<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	red goshawk	Endangered	Vulnerable	High
<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	beach stone-curlew	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Fregata ariel</i>	lesser frigatebird	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's snipe	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	gull-billed tern	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	white-throated needletail	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian tern	Special least concern	-	Low

Scientific name	Common name	NC Act status	EPBC Act status	Back on track
<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>	western Alaskan bar-tailed godwit	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	black-tailed godwit	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Litoria cooloolensis</i>	Cooloola sedge frog*	Near threatened	-	Medium
<i>Litoria freycineti</i>	wallum rocket frog	Vulnerable	-	Medium
<i>Litoria longburensis</i>	wallum sedge frog	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	black-faced monarch	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>	satin flycatcher	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Nannoperca oxleyana</i>	Oxleyan pygmy perch	Vulnerable	Endangered	Critical
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	Endangered	Critically endangered	Low
<i>Numenius minutus</i>	little curlew	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Pandion cristatus</i>	eastern osprey	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Petauroides volans volans</i>	southern greater glider	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	-
<i>Pezoporus wallicus wallicus</i>	ground parrot	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Koala	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific golden plover	Special least concern		Low
<i>Poephila cincta cincta</i>	black-throated finch (white-rumped subspecies)	Endangered	Endangered	High
<i>Pseudomugil mellis</i>	honey blue eye	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	grey-headed flying-fox	Least concern	Vulnerable	Critical
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian painted snipe	Vulnerable	Endangered	Medium
<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Arctic jaeger	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	little tern	Special least concern	-	High
<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	brown booby	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Symposiachrus trivirgatus</i>	spectacled monarch	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>	shorted-beaked echidna	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	crested tern	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Tringa brevipes</i>	grey-tailed tattler	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Tringa incana</i>	wandering tattler	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	common greenshank	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	marsh sandpiper	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Turnix melanogaster</i>	black-breasted button-quail	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical
<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	terek sandpiper	Special least concern	-	Low

Appendix 4. Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	CMS	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	fork-tailed swift		✓		✓
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	sharp-tailed sandpiper		✓	✓	✓
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	red knot	✓		✓	
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	curlew sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	red-necked stint		✓	✓	✓
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Mongolian plover (lesser sand plover)	✓		✓	
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	white-winged black tern	✓		✓	
<i>Fregata ariel</i>	lesser frigatebird			✓	
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's snipe			✓	✓
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica nilotica</i>	common gull-billed tern	✓			
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	white-throated needletail			✓	✓
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian tern	✓			✓
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	bar-tailed godwit	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	black-tailed godwit	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Numenius minutus</i>	little curlew			✓	✓
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific golden plover			✓	
<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	parasitic jaeger (Arctic jaeger)			✓	
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	little tern	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	brown booby		✓	✓	✓
<i>Tringa brevipes</i>	grey-tailed tattler		✓	✓	✓
<i>Tringa hypoleucos (Actitis hypoleucos)</i>	common sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Tringa incana</i>	wandering tattler		✓		
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	common greenshank	✓		✓	
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	marsh sandpiper	✓		✓	✓
<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	terek sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓

Notes:

This list includes local and migratory birds that regularly use the park for feeding, nesting or breeding. Species that may visit intermittently have not been included in this table.

CMS – Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

Appendix 5. Pests

Scientific name	Common name	Biosecurity Act 2014 status	Historic notes
Plants			
<i>A. densiflorus</i> , <i>A. aethiopicus</i> , <i>A. africanus</i>	asparagus fern	Category 3	Could potentially dominate ground level strata and change the ecosystem structure by displacing native flora.
<i>A. plumosus</i>			
<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	blue billygoat weed		
<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	whiskey grass	Not declared	Potential to change ecosystem structure by domination of ground cover and can increase fire intensity and frequency due to increase of biomass and seasonal drying off.
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	groundsel bush	Category 3	Potentially capable of changing ecosystem structure through competition within lower strata. RE 12.1.1 is susceptible to invasion by <i>B. halimifolia</i> .
<i>Bryophyllum species</i>	mother of millions	Category 3	Potentially capable of changing ecosystem structure by domination of ground strata.
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	pink periwinkle		
<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i> ssp. <i>rotundifolia</i>	bitou bush	Category 2,3,4,5 WONS	High potential of changing ecosystem structure by total domination of dune areas on Noosa NP Headland and could impact RE 12.2.13.
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	water hyacinth	WONS	
<i>Gloriosa superba</i>	Gloriosa lily		
<i>Ipomoea cairica</i>	mile a minute		
<i>Ipomoea indica</i>	blue morning glory		
<i>Lantana camara</i>	lantana	Category 3	Capable of changing ecosystem structure by domination of ground and lower strata, specifically RE 12.2.13.
<i>Macroptilium atropurpureum</i>	siratro		
<i>Neonotonia wightii</i>	Rusty glycine		
<i>Ochna serrulata</i>	Mickey Mouse plant	Not declared	Potential to change ecosystem structure by heavily competing with low strata of vegetation.
<i>Opuntia stricta</i>	prickly pear	WONS	Has the potential to change natural ecosystems through domination of ground space and high survival rate during drought periods.
<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	Corky passionflower		
<i>Pinus elliotii radiata</i>	exotic pine	Not declared	Potentially capable of changing ecosystem structure through rapid propagation, vigorous growth and domination of all levels of vegetation strata.
<i>Pinus elliotii</i>	slash pine		
<i>Salvia coccoinea</i>	red salvia		
<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	salvinia	Category 3 WONS	Creates a haven for mosquitoes. Salvinia is a physical barrier to aquatic and semi-aquatic animals, restricting territorial movements and breeding activities. Recorded habitat of acid frogs.
<i>Schefflera actinophylla</i>	umbrella tree		Fast growing and prolific seeder that has the potential to change ecosystem structure at all levels through competition.
<i>Schinus terebinthifolia</i>	Broad-leaved pepper	Category 3	Invasive plant with high potential to displace native species and compromise the integrity of natural ecosystems within the Noosa National Park.
<i>Senna pendula</i> var. <i>gladrata</i>	Easter cassia		
<i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i>	Singapore daisy	Category 3	Invasives riparian vegetation and disturbed areas, increasing along edges of rainforests, roadsides and other disturbed areas. Has the ability to colonise large areas of ground space and potentially change ecosystem diversity.

Scientific name	Common name	Biosecurity Act 2014 status	Historic notes
Animals			
<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Indian myna	Not declared	
<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	dog	Category 3,4,6	Potential to threaten the biodiversity of ecosystems through predation of ground dwelling fauna, and by interfering with the genetic integrity of the dingo <i>Canis lupus dingo</i> via interbreeding with domestic dogs, creating a rapid escalation in numbers.
<i>Felis catus</i>	cat	Category 3,4,6	
<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	Asian house gecko	Not declared	
<i>Lepus capensis</i>	brown hare	Not declared	
<i>Mus musculus</i>	house mouse	Not declared	
<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	rabbit	Category 3,4,5,6	
<i>Rattus rattus</i>	black rat	Not declared	
<i>Rhinella marina</i>	cane toad	Not declared	
<i>Sus scrofa</i>	pig		
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	red fox	Category 3,4,5,6	Potentially could predate rare and threatened fauna (ground parrot) and other small ground-dwelling fauna.

WONS – Weeds of National Significance

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Additional database sources:

- Wildlife Online
- Regional Ecosystem Description Database – REDD
- Wetland Info and Wetland Maps