

Fairlies Knob National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	299ha
Bioregion:	South Eastern Queensland
QPWS region:	Sunshine and Fraser Coast
Local government estate/area:	North Burnett Regional Council Fraser Coast Regional Council
State electorate:	Maryborough

Legislative framework

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

Plans and agreements

✓	Bonn Convention – Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
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Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 Pest Management Strategy
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Vision

Fairlies Knob National Park will be managed to protect plants and animals of conservation significance and to retain its high scenic values. It will offer low impact recreational opportunities for self-reliant visitors in keeping with its remote, undeveloped setting.

Conservation purpose

Adjoining Wongi National Park, Fairlies Knob National Park supports significant areas of Araucarian microphyll to notophyll vine forest, a community not greatly represented elsewhere in the protected area estate. The parcel of land first known as Fairlies Knob National Park was the third national park declared in Queensland, gazetted in 1910. The park was expanded in December 2010 with the gazettal of an adjoining freehold in-holding. It has high biodiversity values and protects plant communities of high conservation significance. Cultural heritage values will be protected.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

The park is located on an offshoot of the Sea View Range, 50km west of Maryborough, 231km north of Brisbane.

The original parcel of 40.46ha was declared a national park in 1910 to preserve an area of local recreational and scenic value as well as the preservation of a rainforest community. This area contained significant proportions of endangered Araucarian microphyll to notophyll vine forest, as well as remnants of Eucalyptus and Corymbia open forests.

The landscape comprises creek flats, hills and lowlands on granitic rocks. The park has a common boundary with Wongi State Forest (hoop pine plantation) for about half of its perimeter, while the remaining park boundary borders Wongi National Park.

Until 2010, the national park consisted of a 40.46ha section at the eastern end of the current area. In December 2010, the western adjacent block of freehold land was added to the park, increasing the area to 299ha and encompassing the actual Fairlies Knob peak into the park. The new section of park was former grazing land that had been generally thinned, but remained relatively uncleared with small sections of hoop pine plantation. It currently supports significant sections of Araucaria forest and is largely forested with the other eucalypt/corymbia communities.

Due to previous land use, the more recently gazetted section of the park had been cleared but is now regenerating naturally.

There are several access tracks and fire breaks running through the park. These are accessible to visitors with four wheel drive vehicles. The terrain is steep and the roads highly susceptible to erosion following high rainfall.

Regional ecosystems

The broader Wongi area, including Wongi State Forest, Wongi National Park and Fairlies Knob National Park, has very high biodiversity values. This area provides an excellent example of relatively undisturbed stands of eucalypt forests and woodlands. The park contains a significant area of endangered microphyll/notophyll vine forest (12.9–10.16) which is sensitive to fire and vulnerable to pest plant infestation.

Three regional ecosystems have been identified in the park, two of which are endangered and one of which is of concern (Table 1).

The eucalyptus open forests in the surrounding local area containing of concern regional ecosystems have been subject to clearing for grazing and cropping.

Any gradual widespread change to temperature and rainfall is likely to impact the distribution of Araucaria forest over a long period. More extreme climatic variations would also be expected to promote the spread of pest plants and change the structure of native vegetation.

Native plants and animals

The endangered plant species *Cycas megacarpa* is found on the park along with the vulnerable *Macrozamia parcifolia* and near threatened giant ironwood *Choricarpia subargentea*.

The vulnerable powerful owl *Ninox strenua* is the only threatened animal species recorded on the park although several animal species of conservation significance have been sighted in adjacent Wongi State Forest which shares several common habitats with the national park. The endangered giant barred frog *Mixophyes iterates* is also present in Wongi State Forest. Other species recorded on the State forest and likely present on the park include the vulnerable glossy black-cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami* and black-breasted button-quail *Turnix melanogaster*. Near threatened species recorded nearby and likely to occur in the park include the green thighed frog *Litoria brevipalmata*, grey goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*, square-tailed kite *Lophoictinia isura*, black-chinned honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis*, Lewin's rail *Lewinia pectoralis*, and little pied bat *Chalinolobus picatus*.

Aboriginal culture

The park is covered by a native title claim QC2013/003 on behalf of the Kabi Kabi First Nation. The area holds high importance to Aboriginal people and there are many sites of Aboriginal cultural importance across the region. These include the nearby Wongi Waterholes which were used by Aboriginal people travelling from Mount Bauple to Urangan and Fraser Island (QPWS 2003). The park has not been formally assessed for Aboriginal cultural heritage values but artefact scatters, scar trees and burial sites have been found in the surrounding region.

Opportunities exist to improve relationships with local Traditional Owner groups and involve them in park management.

Shared-history culture

The Wongi area has a significant association with timber harvesting dating back to the 1860s. The old Maryborough–Gayndah, Golden Fleece and Convict roads run through the park and were major carriageways for the transport of produce to the port of Maryborough. Other cultural heritage sites in the Wongi area include the remains of an old Cobb and Co. coach road, Yellow Waterhole Forestry Camp site, Billygoat Mountain fire cabin site and the Brooweena Forest Station site (QPWS 2003).

Tourism and visitor opportunities

There are no visitor facilities on the national park. However, the road network through the park is suitable for four wheel drive vehicles. The landscape along these tracks presents attractive and scenic views. A section of the Bicentennial National Trail, which was designed specifically for non-motorised transport along existing tracks and legal rights-of-way, cuts through the park.

The roads through and adjacent to the park are occasionally used for motorised group and commercial activities.

Education and science

The very high biodiversity values of the Wongi area, including Fairlies Knob National Park, offer opportunities for both education and scientific research.

Partnerships

Regular liaison is maintained with neighbours and organisations with shared interests in park management.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Lantana *Lantana camara*, giant rat's tail grass *Sporobolus natalensis*, cat's claw creeper *Macfadyena unguis-cati*, creeping lantana *Lantana montevidensis*, cotton bush *Maireana aphylla*, billygoat weed *Ageratum conyzoides*, Brazilian nightshade *Solanum seaforthianum*, black nightshade *Solanum americanum*, prickly pear and tree pear *Opuntia spp.* and corky passion fruit *Passiflora suberosa* all occur on the park. Biological control measures have been used effectively on lantana, cat's claw creeper and the pear species. Giant rat's tail grass and cat's claw creeper are sprayed or removed manually and lantana is sprayed only.

Foxes, cats, pigs, horses, hares, cane toads and wild dogs threaten native species. Trapping and joint baiting with neighbours have been used for control of foxes, pigs and wild dogs.

Cattle from neighbouring properties occasionally stray onto park to graze the most recently gazetted section, which is regenerating.

Fire management

Fairlies Knob National Park contains vegetation types that are fire sensitive and not normally flammable (microphyll/notophyll vine forest). Management will focus on deliberately not burning these communities while maintaining appropriate fire regimes for adjacent fire adapted ecosystems. Protection relies on broad-scale management of surrounding country so that encroaching wildfires will be very limited in extent. These communities may need active protection from wildfire in extreme conditions, after prolonged drought or if surrounding land management practices create fire risk.

Fairlies Knob National Park is currently included in the Wongi Statement of Fire Management Intent, which is due for review in June 2014.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Landscape</p> <p>Catchment protection services are maintained.</p>	<p>A1. Monitor changes in vegetation structure to identify potential erosion issues and mitigate impacts.</p> <p>A2. Monitor motorised visitor impact on access roads, including motorised group/commercial activities.</p>
<p>Native plants and animals</p> <p>Information on plant, animal and ecosystems is comprehensive and current.</p>	<p>A3. Review currency of species records and conduct surveys where needed to inform management decisions.</p>
<p>Cultural heritage</p> <p>Traditional Owners have meaningful involvement with park management planning and direction.</p> <p>Shared-history cultural values are identified and protected.</p>	<p>A4. Encourage Traditional Owners to identify and document values, sites, artefacts and places of cultural heritage significance so that management strategies and decisions relating to fire regimes, access and track maintenance minimise potential threats to these values.</p> <p>A5. Support an assessment of the shared-history cultural values of the park.</p>
<p>Tourism and visitor opportunities</p> <p>The park provides opportunities for self-reliant visitors to enjoy the natural values.</p>	<p>A6. Manage visitor use to confine vehicle traffic to formed roads and tracks and to be in keeping with the retention of the remote, undeveloped character of the park.</p>
<p>Fire management</p> <p>Appropriate fire management practices are implemented.</p>	<p>A7. Update the Level 2 Fire Management Strategy for the park.</p> <p>A8. Protect the microphyll/notophyll vine forest in fire events.</p>
<p>Pest management</p> <p>Impacts from pests and cattle grazing on the park are managed effectively.</p>	<p>A9. Monitor the impacts from pest plants and changes to vegetation structure.</p> <p>A10. Work closely with neighbours to restrict encroachment of grazing stock.</p> <p>A11. Control pest plants in the previously cleared areas to promote successful rehabilitation.</p> <p>A12. Continue joint baiting and trapping programs with neighbouring land holders to control wild dog and pig populations.</p>

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.3.1	Complex to simple notophyll vine forest.	Endangered
12.9-10.16	Microphyll to notophyll vine forest ± <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> .	Endangered
12.9-10.3	<i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i> ± <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> open-forest.	Of concern

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> status	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> status	Back on Track status
<i>Cycas megacarpa</i>	-	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
<i>Macrozamia parcifolia</i>	-	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical
<i>Choricarpia subargentea</i>	giant ironwood	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	powerful owl	Vulnerable	-	Medium

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	Bonn	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-

Bonn – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement