

Wongi National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	10,906ha
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
✓	Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	National multi-species recovery plan for the cycads

Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 fire management strategy
✓	Level 2 pest management strategy

Vision

Wongi National Park provides an excellent example of the range and variation of the relatively undisturbed stands of eucalypt forests and woodlands of the South Eastern Queensland bioregion that are poorly represented elsewhere in the protected area estate. The 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. Cultural heritage values will be protected.

Conservation purpose

Wongi National Park was previously forest reserve and was gazetted as national park in 2006 as part of the South East Queensland Forests Agreement tenure conversion process. The land on which the park is located was logged in the past but it is not clear when this practice ceased. It has high biodiversity values and protects plants and plant communities of high conservation significance.

The park estate was recently extended with the acquisition of three freehold in-holdings, two of which had been used for grazing and the third for growing bananas.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

The landscape comprises river and creek flats, sandy and loamy plains, and hills and lowlands on granitic rocks. Agnes Vale, Scrubby, Doongal and Cockatoo creeks flow through the park in addition to numerous drainage lines and unnamed creeks. These form part of the catchments of the Burrum and Mary rivers. The park has a common boundary with Wongi State Forest for about half of its perimeter, while the remaining park boundary borders freehold grazing land that has been generally thinned or remains relatively uncleared with small sections of hoop pine plantation.

The eucalypt and corymbia woodlands and forests are recovering from past timber harvesting. The microphyll/notophyll vine forest on the park is vulnerable to fire and pest plant infestations, and damage from these threats would exacerbate erosion issues with negative impacts on catchment protection.

Regional ecosystems

The broader Wongi area including Wongi State Forest has very high biodiversity values. This area provides an excellent example of the range and variation of existing, and 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, along with the endangered complex to simple notophyll vine forest 12.3.1 (Table 1).

A further six regional ecosystems on the park are listed as of concern (Table 1), several of which are not well represented in protected areas in Queensland. These of concern regional ecosystems have been subject to clearing for domestic purposes, such as pasture, grazing, cropping and urban expansion. These ecosystems were restricted in their pre-clearing extent.

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* (Table 2).

Discrepancies between available species lists suggest that current records may need to be reviewed and new surveys undertaken if necessary. The vulnerable powerful owl *Ninox strenua* is the only threatened animal species recorded on the park (Table 2) although several animal species of conservation significance have been sighted on the contiguous Wongi State Forest which shares several common habitats with the national park.

The species recorded on the neighbouring Wongi State Forest include the endangered giant barred frog *Mixophyes iterates*, the vulnerable glossy black-cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami* and black-breasted button-quail *Turnix melanogaster*. Near threatened species include the green thighed frog *Litoria brevipalmata*, grey goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*, square-tailed kite *Lophoictinia isura*, black-necked stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*, black-chinned honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis*, Lewin's rail *Lewinia pectoralis*, and little pied bat *Chalinolobus picatus*.

Species recorded from Wongi National Park that listed in international agreements are displayed in Table 3.

Aboriginal culture

The extent of occupation and the degree of the cultural significance of the park to Traditional Owners remains largely unknown by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). The area still holds high importance to Aboriginal people and there are many sites of cultural importance across the region. These include the Wongi waterholes which, while not located on the park, were used by Aboriginal people travelling from Mount Bauple to Urangan and Fraser Island. The park has not been formally assessed for Aboriginal cultural heritage values but artefact scatters, scarred 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. Campsites and small settlements were built along the roads including the Broomfield township which was a major stopping and resting point for bullock teams. Other cultural heritage sites in the Wongi area include the remains of an old Cobb and Co. coach road, Yellow Waterhole Forestry Campsite, Billygoat Mountain fire cabin site and the Brooweena Forest Station site.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

There are no visitor facilities on the national park, however, Wongi waterholes, located on Wongi State Forest, is a popular camping destination. The road network through the park is suitable for four-wheel drive vehicles, and the nature of the terrain along these tracks presents attractive scenic opportunities. The Bicentennial National Trail, which was designed specifically for non-motorised transport along existing tracks and legal rights-of-way, was opened in 1988 and follows much of the coach road through the park and State forest.

Education and science

The very high biodiversity values of the Wongi area comprising the park and State forest, 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 grow on the park. Biological control measures have been used effectively on lantana, cat's claw creeper and the prickly pear species. Giant rat's tail grass and cat's claw creeper are sprayed with herbicide or removed manually and lantana is sprayed only.

Foxes *Vulpes vulpes*, cats *Felis catus*, pigs *Sus scrofa*, horses *Equus caballus*, hares *Lepus europaeus*, cane toads *Rhinella marina* and wild dogs *Canis lupus familiaris* threaten native species. Trapping and joint baiting with neighbours have been used for control of foxes, pigs and wild dogs. The park has a Level 2 pest management strategy.

Fire management

Fire is an important management tool for the park and is used to reinvigorate grass growth and provide buffer areas adjacent to the hoop pine plantation. Care is taken not to burn fire sensitive plant communities such as the microphyll/notophyll vine forest. A Level 2 fire management strategy is in place which guided the establishment of an extensive firebreak network.

Other management issues

There are two grazing leases on Wongi National Park.

There are a large number of apiaries on the park but it is not known how many are still active. Several are in areas which are difficult to access.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
Landscape Catchment protection services are maintained.	A1. Monitor changes in vegetation structure to identify potential erosion issues and mitigate the impacts. A2. Maintain roads and timber bridge crossings in good condition.
Native plants and animals Information on plant, animal and ecosystems is comprehensive and current.	A3. Review currency of species records and conduct surveys where needed to inform management decisions. A4. Review mapping of regional ecosystems and facilitate improvements to mapping when and where needed.
Tourism and visitor opportunities The park retains its natural state for the use of self-reliant visitors and campers.	A5. Manage visitor use with the following intent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confine vehicle traffic to designated formed roads and tracks • provide infrastructure in keeping with the remote, undeveloped setting of the park • monitor motor bike use in the park due to safety risks and the potential for damage to habitat.
Aboriginal culture Traditional Owners have meaningful involvement with park management planning and direction.	A6. 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.
Shared-history Shared-history cultural values are identified and protected.	A7. Encourage and support an assessment of the shared history cultural values of the park.
Other management issues Impacts from pests and cattle grazing on the park are managed effectively.	A8. Monitor the impacts from pest plants and changes to vegetation structure. A9. Ensure compliance with lease conditions prescribed in grazing leases. A10. Fence the perimeter of the park to improve the control of stock movements.

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
12.3.5	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> open-forest to woodland.	Of concern
12.3.11	Open-forest to woodland of <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> , <i>E. siderophloia</i> and <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> .	Of concern
12.9-10.3	<i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i> ± <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> open-forest.	Of concern
12.9-10.7	<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> , <i>E. tereticornis</i> ± <i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> , <i>Angophora</i> spp., <i>E. melanophloia</i> woodland.	Of concern
12.9-10.16	Microphyll to notophyll vine forest ± <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> .	Endangered
12.12.12	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> , <i>E. crebra</i> (sometimes <i>E. siderophloia</i>) open-forest to woodland.	Of concern
12.12.28	<i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i> ± <i>E. crebra</i> , <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> open-forest or woodland.	Of concern

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

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

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	Bonn	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	cicadabird	-	-	✓	-
<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