Tully Falls National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	
Tully Falls National Park	17,076ha
Tully Falls National Park (Recovery)	254ha
Bioregion:	Wet Tropics
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Tablelands Regional
State electorate:	Dalrymple

Tully Falls Road through Tully Falls National Park. Photo: NPRSR

Legislative framework

✔	*Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*
✔	*Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth)
✔	*Nature Conservation Act 1992*
✔	*Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*

Plans and agreements

✔	Draft recovery plan for the spotted-tail quoll (northern sub-species) *Dasyurus maculatus gracilis* 2011
✔	National recovery plan for the spectacled flying fox *Pteropus conspicillatus*
✔	National recovery plan for the yellow-bellied glider (Wet Tropics) *Petaurus australis* unnamed subspecies
✔	Recovery plan for the northern bettong *Bettongia tropica* 2000–2004
✔	Recovery plan for the southern cassowary *Casuarius casuarius johnsonii* 2001–2005
✔	Recovery plan for the stream-dwelling rainforest frogs of the Wet Tropics biogeographic region of north-east Queensland 2000–2004
✔	Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005

Thematic strategies

✔	Level 2 fire strategy
✔	Level 2 pest strategy
✔	QPWS Wet Tropics Pest Strategy

Vision

Tully Falls National Park provides a cool highland experience for nature appreciation. The natural and cultural values are well presented and the scenic opportunities attract experienced bush walkers.

Conservation purpose

Tully Falls National Park was gazetted on 16 January 2006 after an assessment of its previous state forest values. The park was designated a protected area in view of its high natural and cultural integrity.

The park is located adjacent to Koombooloomba, Maalan and the Tully Gorge national parks and is within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Tully Falls National Park (Recovery) is located along Tully Falls Road and Sutties Gap Road. This area is anticipated to be amalgamated with Tully Falls National Park.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Tully Falls National Park is on upland areas of the Walter Hill and Cardwell ranges where the highest point is 1215 metres (m). Landscape features of the park include Mount Koolmoon at 1119m, Koolmoon Creek and Falls, Wispy Falls, Cannabullen Creek and Falls and Oakes Knob.

Water has eroded the high-grade Quaternary metamorphic rocks, Cambian-Proterozoic carbonate sediments and Permian granite and basalts to create a range of streams and waterfalls of high scenic value. The Rhyolite Pinnacle on the Misty Mountains trail offers panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.

Regional ecosystems

Of the 23 regional ecosystems mapped in Tully Falls National Park, 19 are endangered or of concern (Table 1).

Native plants and animals

Tully Falls National Park is known to protect plant and animal species of conservation significance (Table 2).

Four bird species are listed in international agreements (Table 3).

Aboriginal culture

The Jirrbal People have lodged a native title application (QC04/004) over the park.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) has limited knowledge and understanding of the cultural significance at present. However, identified sites of material Aboriginal culture are known to exist within Tully Falls National Park.

Shared-history culture

Tully Falls National Park was extensively logged when it was a state forest. This is evidenced by logging tracks, tree stumps, log dumps and loading ramps throughout the park.

Sites of cultural heritage significance on Tully Falls National Park include camps and quarries used during road construction, logging operations and associated activities. The ruins of Ferra Kelly's Teahouse and the forestry experimental plot in the Ongera Logging Area are also of significance.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The Misty Mountains wilderness trails network is located in Wooroonooran, Tully Gorge and Tully Falls national parks. Walks on Tully Falls National Park include Cannabullen Creek, Koolmoon Creek, Rhyolite Pinnacle, Djilgarrin, Walters Waterhole and the Cardwell Range walks.

The Gold Coast Road is an ex-forestry road, which has become part of the Misty Mountains wilderness trails network, and is now referred to as the Cardwell Range Track. The 2005 Wet Tropics Forest Transfer community working group expressed an interest in using the Cardwell Range Track for mountain biking.

Camping facilities are provided at the Cannabullen, Koolmoon and Walters Waterhole sites.

Partnerships

QPWS is responsible for the day-to-day management of the national park. The Wet Tropics Management Authority regulates activity in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The goal of both agencies is to present the area's values while protecting its natural and cultural values.

Traditional Owners are involved in cooperative park management.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Pest management in Tully Falls National Park is undertaken within the framework of the Level 2 Tablelands Pest Management Strategy.

Fire management

The methods and mechanism that are used to manage the equilibrium between rainforest and tall open forest on the western fringe of this park are described in the Tully Falls Aggregation Level 2 fire management strategy.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
Aboriginal culture Traditional Owners are involved in cooperative park management.	A1. Support the involvement of the Traditional Owners in park management.
Tourism and visitor opportunities Tourism and recreation experiences are appropriate to the landscape character of the park, and are safe and sustainable.	A2. Consider using the Cannabullen Creek and Cardwell Range Road tracks for mountain bike riding.

Tables - Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.3.5	*Melaleuca quinquenervia* and/or *Melaleuca cajaputi* closed forest to shrubland on poorly drained alluvial plains	Endangered
7.3.28	Rivers and streams including riparian herbfield and shrubland on river and stream bed alluvium, and rock within stream beds	Endangered
7.3.42	*Eucalyptus grandis* open forest to woodland (or vine forest with emergent *E. grandis*), on alluvium	Endangered
7.3.43	*Eucalyptus tereticornis* open forest to woodland, on uplands on well drained alluvium	Endangered
7.8.1	Complex mesophyll vine forest on well drained basalt lowlands and foothills	Endangered
7.8.2	Complex notophyll to mesophyll vine forest of high rainfall, cloudy uplands on basalt	Of concern
7.8.3	Complex semi-evergreen notophyll vine forest of uplands on basalt	Endangered

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.8.4	Simple to complex notophyll vine forest of cloudy wet highlands on basalt	Endangered
7.8.7	*Eucalyptus tereticornis* open forest, and associated grasslands, predominantly on basalt uplands	Endangered
7.8.15	*Eucalyptus grandis* open forest to woodland (or vine forest with *E. grandis* emergents), on basalt	Endangered
7.12.9	*Acacia celsa* open to closed forest on granites and rhyolites	Of concern
7.12.21	*Eucalyptus grandis* open forest to woodland, or *Corymbia intermedia*, *E. pellita*, and *E. grandis*, open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on granites and rhyolites	Endangered
7.12.22	*Eucalyptus resinifera* +/- *Eucalyptus portuensis* +/- *Syncarpia glomulifera* tall open forest to tall woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on moist to wet granite and rhyolite uplands and highlands	Endangered
7.12.25	*Eucalyptus cloeziana* woodland to open forest on granite and rhyolite	Of concern
7.12.37	Rock pavements and see areas of wet lowlands, uplands and highlands of the eastern escarpment and central range (excluding high granite areas of Hinchinbrook Island and Bishops Peak) on granite and rhyolite, with *Allocasuarina* spp. shrublands and/or sedgelands	Of concern
7.12.48	Wind-sheared notophyll vine forest of exposed granite and rhyolite ridge-crests and steep slopes	Of concern
7.12.50	Simple microphyll vine-fern forest on granite and rhyolite, of wet highlands	Of concern
7.12.52	*Eucalyptus resinifera*, *Corymbia intermedia*, *Allocasuarina littoralis*, *Syncarpia glomulifera*, *E. drepanophylla* +/- *E. reducta* woodland, of dry to moist hills on granite and rhyolite	Of concern
7.12.66	Exposed rocky slopes on granite and rhyolite, with *Lophostemon confertus* low shrubland or low to medium closed forest	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				
Aponogeton bullosus	-	Endangered	Endangered	High
Caesalpinia robusta	giant mother-in-law vine	Near threatened	-	Low
Cyathea baileyana	wig tree fern	Near threatened	-	Low
Cyathea celebica	-	Near threatened	-	Medium
Endiandra dichrophylla	coach walnut	Near threatened	-	Low
Endiandra sideroxylon	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Haplostichanthus submontanus subsp. *sessiliflorus*	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Helicia lamingtoniana	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Hypserpa smilacifolia	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Animals				
Aerodramus terraereginae	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened	-	Low
Bettongia tropica	northern bettong	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
Casuarius casuarius johnsonii (southern population)	southern cassowary (southern population)	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana	Macleay's fig-parrot	Vulnerable	-	Low
Dasyurus hallucatus	northern quoll	Least concern	Endangered	Medium
Dasyurus maculatus gracilis	spotted-tailed quoll (northern subspecies)	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
Dendrolagus lumholtzi	Lumholtz's tree-kangaroo	Near threatened	-	Low
Eulamprus tigrinus	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Hemibelideus lemuroides	lemuroid ringtail possum	Near threatened	-	Low
Litoria nannotis	waterfall frog	Endangered	Endangered	Low
Litoria nyakalensis	mountain mistfrog	Endangered	Critically endangered	Low
Litoria rheocola	common mistfrog	Endangered	Endangered	Low
Litoria serrata	tapping green eyed frog	Near threatened	-	Low

Scientific name	Common name	*Nature Conservation Act 1992* status	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* status	Back on Track status
Murina florium	tube-nosed insectivorous bat	Vulnerable	-	High
Nyctimystes dayi	Australian lacelid	Endangered	Endangered	Low
Petaurus australis unnamed subsp.	yellow-bellied glider (northern subspecies)	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical
Pseudochirops archeri	green ringtail possum	Near threatened	-	Low
Pseudochirulus herbertensis	Herbert River ringtail Possum	Near threatened	-	Low
Pteropus conspicillatus	spectacled flying-fox	Least concern	Vulnerable	High
Taudactylus acutirostris	sharp snouted dayfrog	Endangered	Extinct	Low

Table 3: Bird species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	BONN	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
Coracina tenuirostris	cicadabird	-	✓	-	-
Monarcha melanopsis	black-faced monarch	✓	-	-	-
Monarcha trivirgatus	spectacled monarch	✓	-	-	-
Rhipidura rufifrons	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