

Mount Blandy Regional Park

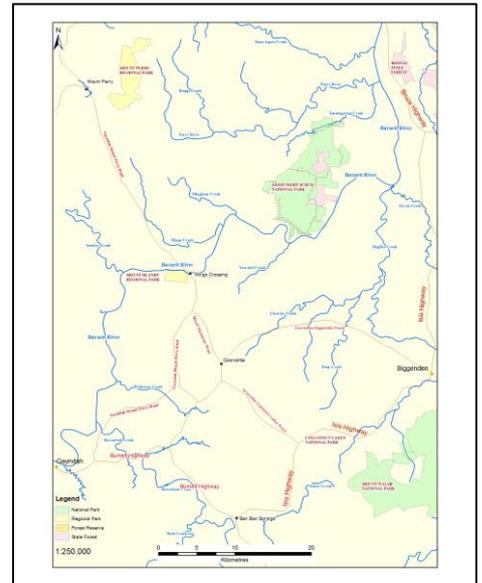
Management Statement 2016

Context

Mount Blandy Regional Park is a small park on the bank of the Paradise Dam that protects an area of semi-evergreen vine thicket. Vine scrubs of this sort are rare in the south east Queensland bioregion and protect a range of plants and animals of conservation concern.

A primary purpose for conserving Mount Blandy Regional Park is to protect the high quality semi-evergreen vine thicket habitat for the vulnerable black-breasted button quail (*Turnix melanogaster*).

The park lies within the Traditional lands of the Wakka Wakka people who have a Native Title Claim that includes Mount Blandy Regional Park.



Bioregion	South East Queensland	Area	395ha
Local Government Area	North Burnett Regional Council	State electorate	Callide
Designations over the Park	NA		
Management obligations			

This management statement provides high-level strategic direction for the protection and management of key park values. Management will be undertaken in accordance with the management principles for the tenure as defined in the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and supporting regulations, other appropriate legislation including *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, *Native Title Act 1993*, ILUA, government policies, procedures, and protocols.

Key park values

While all parks are important, and all values help make parks worthwhile, management needs to focus on protecting and presenting the most important values – the key values. These are the values that will form the basis of ongoing evaluation of management effectiveness. Protecting these key values will help frame the purpose of management for each park. The table below shows how each key value's condition is represented, how the condition is trending and the confidence in the information used to make the ratings. Details of key values are listed in Table 1 and illustrated in Map 1.

National Recovery Plan for the black-breasted button-quail *Turnix melanogaster*, China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA), Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention).

Key to condition, trend and confidence icons

Condition	Good	Good with some concern	Significant concern	Critical
Description	The value is in good condition and is likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, provided that current conservation measures are maintained.	The value is likely to be essentially maintained over the long-term with minor additional conservation measures to address existing concerns.	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.	The value is severely threatened. Urgent additional large-scale conservation measures are required or the value maybe lost.
Trend rating	Improving	Stable	Deteriorating	No consistent trend
Confidence	Inferred	Limited	Adequate	

1. Semi-evergreen vine thicket

Description	Condition		Trend	Confidence	
	2016:	Desired:		Condition	Trend
Semi-evergreen vine thicket on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks in the northern section of the south east Queensland bioregion. RE 12.12.18, habitat for the Black-breasted button-quail <i>Turnix melanogaster</i> .					

This fragile forest type encompasses almost half of Mount Blandy Regional Park. This rainforest based ecosystem provides both critical habitat for the black-breasted button-quail and a significant contribution to the regions biodiversity through its diverse and varied vegetation structure.

The vulnerable black-breasted button-quail, the subject of a National Recovery Plan, is a small ground dwelling bird which has its core habitat in semi-evergreen vine thickets. Mount Blandy Regional Park was acquired as an offset area based upon the presence of this species. The distribution of this species mirrors that of its vine thicket habitat. This species has been monitored at this site since 2009 and a decline in the population of this species has been observed.

Threats: The primary threatening process is the modification of this ecosystem by fire. On Mount Blandy Regional Park fire is managed to be excluded from this fire sensitive habitat. The current secondary threat is ecosystem modification by pest plants, in particular the vines cat’s claw creeper and Dutchman’s pipe. These invasive plants are concentrated along the park’s riparian edge. Reinfestation is difficult to prevent as up-stream areas have significant populations of these pest species.

Introduced predatory animals, especially feral cats and the red fox, are the secondary threat to the black-breasted button-quail on Mount Blandy Regional Park. This threat is manifested though the direct predation of quail by these predators.

The modification of the semi-evergreen vine forest, relied on by the black-breasted button quail, is also a significant threat to the species. This modification or habitat loss may be driven by the infestation of pest vine species. Pest vines of particular concern are cat’s claw creeper and Dutchman’s pipe.

Strategic management directions: To ensure that this value is retained on Mount Blandy Regional Park it is necessary to continue to exclude fire from this vine thicket community. To support the continued integrity of this value, the containment of the infestations of cat’s claw creeper and Dutchman’s pipe to the riparian edge is required.

To protect and retain this key value it is necessary to reduce the impacts of introduced predators on black-breasted button-quail within Mount Blandy Regional Park. The quality of habitats critical to this species is important in

retaining this value. The containment of the infestations of cat’s claw creeper and Dutchman’s pipe to the riparian edge is required to manage the overall habitat area.

Table 1. Mount Blandy Regional Park — Strategic management directions for key values

Key threatening process	Key values strategic management directions	Priority (1-5)
1. Semi-evergreen vine thicket		
Fire	Exclude fire from semi-evergreen vine thicket.	1
Introduced weeds	Contain the infestation of cat’s claw creeper and Dutchman’s pipe to the riparian area along the parks north boundary.	
Introduced animals	Reduce the impacts of introduced predators on black-breasted button-quail in Mount Blandy Regional Park	

Levels of Service

Levels of Service (LOS) standards have been developed to identify the current and desired future standards for a range of critical management elements and associated performance measures. Mount Blandy Regional Park has been assessed as requiring a basic level of service for most aspects of management based on the identified:

- values
- threats and pressures
- community interface challenges
- special management intervention.

The desired LOS standards for nine management elements have been identified to guide the level of management effort required for Mount Blandy Regional Park within a state-wide context. These nine elements reflect the most common management activities undertaken by QPWS across all protected lands and waters and include Indigenous cultural heritage management and engagement, fire and pest management, visitor management and natural values management.

For further detail on the levels of service standards for Mount Blandy Regional Park, refer to **Table 2**.

Table 2. Mount Blandy Regional Park – Strategic management directions for levels of service

Management element	Current level of service	Desired level of service (target state)	Strategic management directions (bridging the gap)	Priority
1. Fire management	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	3
			Priority fire management is undertaken to protect life, property and the semi-evergreen vine thicket.	3
2. Pest management	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	2
			Continue to mitigate the impacts of pests on the key values.	2
			Maintain informal relationships with neighbours.	2
3. Natural values management	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	2
			Continue monitoring the black-breasted button-quail population.	1
4. Indigenous cultural value management	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	4
			Undertake ad-hoc local consultation and collaboration with Traditional Owners and Indigenous stakeholders as required to progress specific issues and discrete programs.	4
5. Historic heritage management	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	5
			Proactive management effort to protect historic heritage value.	5
6. Community and commercial engagement	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	5
7. Visitor management	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	5
			Maintain current visitor access opportunities.	5
8. Field management capability	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	5
			Basic management with a minimum of annual routine inspections and limited planned visits. The intensity and timing of management effort ensures critical priority initiatives are delivered. Operational management activity is aligned with documented priorities.	5
9. Operational planning and management	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	5

Thematic strategies

Each protected area will require one or more thematic strategies depending on the complexity of the values and service issues. The levels of service prescriptions provide guidance for each individual element to indicate the requirement for a thematic strategy and its appropriate level.

Thematic strategies cover key park management detail, values and significant service issues. They provide a linkage between the strategic approach and operational services. Thematic strategies present detailed objectives which are specific to the protected area developed from the strategic management directions – levels of service.

Thematic strategies required for Mount Blandy Regional Park

- Fire strategy
- Pest strategy

Evaluation and reporting

Management effectiveness will be evaluated for Mount Blandy Regional Park as part of a monitoring framework. This will guide an adaptive management approach to set clear benchmarks for management, ensure the condition of key values is within acceptable thresholds, deliver transparent and accountable reporting and inform future management. Management effectiveness will be measured against:

- condition and trend for key values
- achievement of levels of service standards
- implementation of management actions
- outcomes of strategic management directions.

Map 1: Mount Blandy Regional Park - key values

