Little Mulgrave National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	10,929 ha
Bioregion:	Wet Tropics
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Cairns Regional Council
State electorate:	Mulgrave

Buttress roots typical of rainforest trees. Photo: NPRSR

Legislative framework

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

Plans and agreements

✔	Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005
✔	Recovery Plan for the endangered cave-dwelling bats, *Rhinolophus philippinensis*, *Hipposideros semoni* and *Taphozous troughtoni* 2001-2005
✔	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

Thematic strategies

✔	Level 2 fire strategy
✔	QPWS Wet Tropics Pest Strategy 2009

Vision

Little Mulgrave National Park retains a scenic, natural forested back-drop to the Little Mulgrave Valley and the coastal plains. The park continues to protect a range of threatened habitats and species.

Conservation purpose

Little Mulgrave National Park was gazetted 10 December 2010 as part of the Wet Tropics Forest Transfer process. The area was previously Little Mulgrave Forest Reserve.

The park protects an array of endangered regional ecosystems and endangered plant and animal species. The conservation values include its altitudinal range that extends from 20 metres (m) to over 900m above sea-level. This range creates a variety of climatic niches able to be used by a diverse range of plant and animal species.

Most of this park is inside the Wet Tropics World Heritage area.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

The park forms a backdrop to the Goldsborough and Little Mulgrave Valleys and includes seasonal waterfalls, areas of exposed granite, sclerophyll forests and rainforests. The park is adjacent to Gadgarra, Dinden and Danbulla national parks. Little Mulgrave National park partially surrounds the Mount Peter Conservation Park.

Little Mulgrave and the Mulgrave rivers run through the park. The park is bisected by the Gillies Highway which runs from the Goldsborough Valley onto the Atherton Tablelands.

Regional ecosystems

Little Mulgrave National Park has 33 regional ecosystems mapped within its boundaries (Table 1).

The park ecosystems are representative of those on many of the hill slopes of the Cairns hinterland. Maintenance of this mosaic of habitat types is strongly dependent on the fire regime.

Native plants and animals

Species of conservation significance are listed in Table 2. Species listed under international agreement are listed in Table 3.

Aboriginal culture

A native title claim over the western edge of the park (QC99/036) has been lodged by the Tableland Yidinji People. The park is located wholly within the Yidinjdji language group area.

Shared-history culture

Several historic walking and dray tracks cross the park representing routes used to access the Atherton Tablelands from the Cairns lowlands. Little evidence of these tracks remains. However, at certain times of the year, the alignments are visible.

The Robsons Track may have been an Aboriginal walking track. Post-settlement it was used as the telegraph line.

Historic mining leases previously existed within the park. These enterprises targeted limestone, manganese and gold. Licences were discontinued with the Wet Tropics World Heritage listing. Some sites contain cultural material but are not actively managed or promoted as features of the park.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The steep nature of the park and its fragile granite soils reduce the opportunity for mountain bikes and walkers to use certain areas (e.g. Robson Track).

Most visitors appreciate the park's scenic amenity when traversing the Gillies Range road.

Access to the Gillies Lookout is seasonal. Hang-gliding clubs have a take-off point established at the lookout. Day-use facilities are provided but camping is not allowed.

Education and science

Potential for research or educational use of Little Mulgrave National Park is limited by difficulties in access.

Partnerships

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) is legislatively 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 management of the park.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Pests of primary concern are introduced plant species in the vicinity of the disused mine sites and along the Gillies Highway.

Fire management

Fire management will be important in the management of pest plants in some areas of the park and in the maintenance of sclerophyll dominated regional ecosystems on the hill slopes.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
Aboriginal culture Traditional Owners are engaged in cooperative park management.	A1. Support the involvement of the Traditional Owners in park management.
Fire and pest management Fire is used to maintain the natural integrity of the park.	A2. Actively use fire to maintain the structure and health of sclerophyll communities on hill slopes. A3. In combination with other mechanisms, use fire as a management tool, to control pest plants.

Tables—Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.3.10	Simple to complex mesophyll to notophyll vine forest on moderate to poorly drained alluvial plains of moderate fertility	Endangered
7.3.17	Complex mesophyll vine forest on well drained alluvium of high fertility	Endangered
7.3.23	Simple to complex semi-deciduous notophyll to mesophyll vine forest on lowland alluvium	Endangered
7.3.25	*Melaleuca leucadendra* +/- vine forest species, open to closed forest, on alluvium fringing streams	Of concern
7.3.28	Rivers and streams including riparian herbfield and shrubland on river and stream bed alluvium, and rock within stream beds	Endangered
7.3.40	*Eucalyptus tereticornis* medium to tall open forest on well drained alluvial plains of lowlands	Endangered
7.8.14	Complex notophyll vine forest with emergent *Agathis robusta*, on basalt	Endangered
7.11.6	*Syncarpia glomulifera* +/- *Eucalyptus pellita* open forest of metamorphics, on deep soils	Endangered
7.11.8	*Acacia polystachya* woodland to closed forest, or *Acacia mangium* and *Acacia celsa* open to closed forest, on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.10	*Acacia celsa* open to closed forest on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.14	*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 metamorphics	Endangered
7.11.16	*Eucalyptus portuensis* and *Corymbia intermedia* open forest to woodland, on wet and moist metamorphics of foothills and uplands	Endangered
7.11.19	*Corymbia intermedia* and/or *Lophostemon suaveolens* open forest to woodland of uplands, on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.23	Complex mesophyll vine forest on fertile, well drained metamorphics of very wet and wet footslopes	Of concern
7.11.28	Wind-sheared notophyll vine forest of exposed metamorphic ridge crests and steep slopes	Of concern
7.11.32	*Syncarpia glomulifera* and/or *Allocasuarina* spp. +/- heathy understorey, medium to tall woodland to open forest (or vine forest with these species as emergents), of steep rocky metamorphic slopes with shallow soils	Of concern
7.11.44	*Eucalyptus tereticornis* open forest to woodland of coastal metamorphic foothills	Of concern
7.11.51	*Corymbia clarksoniana* and/or *Eucalyptus drepanophylla* open forest to woodland on metamorphics	Of concern

7.12.4	*Syncarpia glomulifera* +/- *Eucalyptus pellita* open forest of granites and rhyolites, on deep soils	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
7.12.37	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

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				
Acalypha lyonsii		Vulnerable	Least concern	High
Agathis microstachya	bull kauri	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
Alloxylon flammeum		Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
Corybas cerasinus	orchid	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
Demorchis queenslandica	orchid	Near threatened	Least concern	Data deficient
Endiandra sideroxylon		Near threatened	Least concern	Low
Eria irukandjiana	orchid	Near threatened	Least concern	Data deficient
Goodyera viridiflora	orchid	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
Huperzia lockyera		Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical
Phyllanthera grayi		Vulnerable	Least concern	Medium
Plectranthus gratus		Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical
Psueduvaria mulgraveana var *glabrescens*		Near threatened	Least concern	Low
Schizomeria whitei	white birch	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
Sphaerantia discolor	Tully penda	Vulnerable	Least concern	Low

Scientific name	Common name	*Nature Conservation Act 1992* status	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* status	Back on Track status
Waterhousea mulgraveana		Near threatened	Least concern	Low
Animals				
Accipiter novaehollandiae	grey goshawk	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
Aerodramus terraereginae	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
Casuarius casuarius johnsonii	southern cassowary (southern population)	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana	Macleay's fig-parrot	Vulnerable	Least concern	Low
Litoria nannotis	waterfall frog	Endangered	Endangered	Low
Litoria rheocola	common mistfrog	Endangered	Endangered	Low
Litoria serrata	tapping green-eyed frog	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
Nyctimystes dayi	Australian lacelid	Endangered	Endangered	Low
Pseudochirulus herbertensis	Herbert River ringtail possum	Near threatened	Near threatened	Low
Rhinolophus philippinensis	greater large-eared horseshoe bat	Endangered	Endangered	High
Taudactylus acutirostris	sharp snouted dayfrog	Endangered	Extinct	Low

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	Bonn	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
Coracina tenuirostris	cicadabird	-	✓	-	-
Merops ornatus	rainbow bee-eater	-	✓	-	-
Plegadis falcinellus	glossy ibis	✓	-	-	✓
Rhipidura rufifrons	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-
Symposiarchus trivirgatus	spectacled monarch	✓	-	-	-

Bonn: Bonn Convention

CAMBA: China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA: Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement