

Macalister Range National Park Management Statement 2013

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| Park size: | 5,563ha |
| Bioregion: | Wet Tropics |
| QPWS region: | Northern |
| Local government estate/area: | Cairns Regional Council |
| State electorate: | Cook north of Wangetti Barron River south of Wangetti |



Macalister Range from the coast. Photo: NPRSR

Legislative framework

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

Plans and agreements

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|---|---|
| ✓ | Bonn Agreement |
| ✓ | China—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement |
| ✓ | Japan—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement |
| ✓ | Republic of Korea—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement |
| ✓ | Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005 |

Thematic strategies

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| ✓ | QPWS Wet Tropics Pest Strategy |
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Vision

Macalister Range National Park continues to provide beautiful forest scenery. Species of conservation significance are protected particularly from pests and inappropriate fire management practices. The community is well informed on the impacts of inappropriate behaviours on this park.

Conservation purpose

The Macalister Range National Park was gazetted 4 June 2010.

This park was formerly Timber Reserve 315 and after being assessed for its natural integrity was gazetted as a protected area.

It is located entirely within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Macalister Range National Park provides a spectacular, rocky forested backdrop adjacent to the Coral Sea and the Kuranda and Mowbray national parks. It stretches from the northern extent of Palm Cove to Pebbly Beach.

The geology varies with metamorphosed sedimentary and volcanic rocks including, schists and pelitic schists, phyllites, meta-basalts (greenstones), serpentinites and amphibolites over much of the park. Acid and acid/intermediate plutonic rocks including granites, microgranites and granodiorites are exposed north of Ellis Beach, from Hartley's Creek to the Rex lookout and along the range between Macalister and Mowbray national parks.

Alluvial plains are characteristic of the flatter land around Hartley's Creek and include outwash plains, riverine flood plains and terraces, piedmont fans, slope wash deposits and minor colluvium. Coastal dune systems including chenier ridges and sand sheets are on the coastal fringe, not necessarily on the park.

Regional ecosystems

Of the 38 regional ecosystems mapped in Macalister Range National Park, 29 are considered to have conservation significance (Table 1).

Native plants and animals

Macalister Range National Park is known to protect two endangered, four vulnerable and three near threatened native plant and animal species (Table 2). Species listed under international agreements are listed in Table 3.

The vulnerable species, a Cooktown orchid *Dendrobium bigibbum*, is threatened by illegal collection.

Aboriginal culture

No native title claim is currently registered for Macalister Range National Park.

Shared-history culture

Tin Creek, which forms the southern boundary of the park, reflects the importance of tin mining which occurred sporadically in the area from 1907 until 1984. A number of overgrown logging tracks still exist on the park.

The Wangetti Rifle Range is used by a variety of community groups.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The south-west take-off point from the Mount Buchan Track on Kuranda National Park is a hang gliding site on Macalister Range. An old forestry road to Hartley Falls is still used for walking and mountain biking and is often overgrown. The Hartley's Creek Track accessing Hartley Falls is a management road, used as a walking and mountain bike track.

The East Black Mountain Road on Kuranda National Park overlooks the coast and the Macalister Range National Park.

Partnerships

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) is legislatively responsible for the day-to-day management of the national park and 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.

QPWS and Hartley's Creek Crocodile Farm, Wangetti Rifle Range and the local Rural Fire Brigade coordinate fire and pest management issues adjacent to the park.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

The rainforest on the south arm of Tin Creek is in poor condition as a result of feral pigs, invasion by pest plants and inappropriate fire regimes.

A pest management strategy is yet to be developed for the park .

Fire management

High frequency burning is said to have caused a noticeable change in the diversity and structure of vegetation, and neighbouring residents raised concern for their properties.

A fire strategy is yet to be developed for the park.

Other management issues

- Beekeepers occasionally and intermittently use areas other than rainforest in the Wangetti area.
- East Black Mountain Road traverses in and out of the Macalister Range.
- Southedge Road (Quaid's Road) passes through Macalister Range National Park, is gated and currently closed to the public by Commonwealth regulation. Currently there is a Wet Tropics Management Authority permit to allow maintenance of the road to ensure environmental standards are maintained.
- A rifle range reserve is located between north and south sections of the Macalister Range National Park. This range requires an exclusion area for safety and a restricted access area has been implemented as well.
- A lease adjacent to Macalister Range National Park was created in 1995. A pipeline exists within the lease boundary.
- Water lines appear to cross the Macalister Range National Park area.
- A fragment of national park is located at the entrance to Hartley's Creek and is surrounded by mowed road reserve.

Management directions

| Desired outcomes | Actions and guidelines |
|---|--|
| Pest management Pest plant and animal species do not threaten park values. | A1. Develop a pest management strategy for Macalister Range National Park, or incorporate the actions for the park into the strategy for the neighbouring Kuranda National Park. |
| Fire management Fire is managed to protect infrastructure and maintain environmental values. | A2. Develop a fire management strategy for Macalister Range National Park, or incorporate actions for the park into the strategy for the neighbouring Kuranda National Park. |
| Tourism and visitor opportunities Tourism and recreation experiences are appropriate to the landscape character of the park and are safe and sustainable. | A3. Ensure Wangetti Rifle Range buffer is a restricted access area for safety purposes—erect and maintain signs defining the restricted access area on Macalister Range National Park. |

Tables—Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

| Regional ecosystem number | Description | Biodiversity status |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 7.3.8 | <i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. +/- <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest to open woodland on alluvial plains | Endangered |
| 7.3.10 | Simple to complex mesophyll to notophyll vine forest on moderate to poorly drained alluvial plains of moderate fertility | Endangered |
| 7.3.16 | <i>Eucalyptus platyphylla</i> woodland to open forest on alluvial plains | Endangered |
| 7.3.25 | <i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> +/- vine forest species, open to closed forest, on alluvium fringing streams | Of concern |
| 7.3.35 | <i>Acacia mangium</i> and/or <i>A. celsa</i> and/or <i>A. polystachya</i> closed forest on alluvial plains | Endangered |
| 7.3.37 | Complex semi-evergreen notophyll vine forest of uplands on alluvium | Endangered |
| 7.3.38 | Complex notophyll vine forest with emergent <i>Agathis robusta</i> , on alluvial fans | Of concern |
| 7.3.44 | <i>Eucalyptus leptophleba</i> +/- <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> open forest to woodland, on alluvium, in near-coastal areas with moderate rainfall | Endangered |
| 7.3.49 | Notophyll vine forest on rubble terraces of streams | Of concern |
| 7.11.8 | <i>Acacia polystachya</i> woodland to closed forest, or <i>Acacia mangium</i> and <i>Acacia celsa</i> open to closed forest, on metamorphics | Of concern |
| 7.11.10 | <i>Acacia celsa</i> open to closed forest on metamorphics | Of concern |
| 7.11.16 | <i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> and <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest to woodland, on wet and moist metamorphics of foothills and uplands | Endangered |

| Regional ecosystem number | Description | Biodiversity status |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 7.11.18 | <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and/or <i>C. tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> medium to tall open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on coastal metamorphic headlands and near-coastal foothills | Of concern |
| 7.11.26 | Rock pavements with <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> and <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> open to closed shrublands or <i>Bombax ceiba</i> and <i>Cochlospermum gillivraei</i> open woodland, or <i>Acacia</i> spp. shrubland, on metamorphics | Endangered |
| 7.11.28 | Wind-sheared notophyll vine forest of exposed metamorphic ridge crests and steep slopes | Of concern |
| 7.11.32 | <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> and/or <i>Allocasuarina</i> 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 |
| 7.11.42 | <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> , <i>Pandanus</i> sp., <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> , <i>Melaleuca dealbata</i> and <i>E. pellita</i> woodland to open forest, in perched drainage areas on peats on metamorphic rocks | Endangered |
| 7.11.44 | <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest to woodland of coastal metamorphic foothills | Of concern |
| 7.11.49 | <i>Eucalyptus leptophleba</i> , <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> and <i>E. platyphylla</i> open forest to woodland, on moist metamorphic foothills | Of concern |
| 7.11.50 | <i>Eucalyptus platyphylla</i> +/- <i>E. drepanophylla</i> +/- <i>Corymbia</i> spp. open woodland to open forest on metamorphics | Of concern |
| 7.11.51 | <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> and/or <i>Eucalyptus drepanophylla</i> open forest to woodland on metamorphics | Of concern |
| 7.12.4 | <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> open forest of granites and rhyolites, on deep soils | Endangered |
| 7.12.5 | <i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> +/- <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest, or <i>Acacia mangium</i> and <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on granites and rhyolites | Endangered |
| 7.12.9 | <i>Acacia celsa</i> open to closed forest on granites and rhyolites | Of concern |
| 7.12.12 | <i>Acacia mangium</i> and <i>A. celsa</i> open to closed forest, or <i>A. polystachya</i> woodland to closed forest on granites and rhyolites | Of concern |
| 7.12.37 | Rock pavements and see areas of wet lowlands, uplands and highlands of the eastern escarpment and central range on granite and rhyolite, with <i>Allocasuarina</i> 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 |
| 7.12.59 | <i>Eucalyptus leptophleba</i> and <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> open forest to woodland, on moist foothills on granite and rhyolite | Endangered |
| 7.12.61 | <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> +/- <i>E. granitica</i> woodland to open forest of moist and dry foothills and uplands on granite and rhyolite | 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 |
|---|----------------------------------|--|---|----------------------|
| Plants | | | | |
| <i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i> | Cooktown orchid | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | High |
| <i>Plectranthus spectabilis</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Toechima pterocarpum</i> | orange tamarind | Endangered | - | Low |
| Animals | | | | |
| <i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i> | grey goshawk | Near threatened | -- | Low |
| <i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i> | Australian swiftlet | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> | southern cassowary | Endangered | Endangered | Critical |
| <i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana</i> | Macleay's fig-parrot | Vulnerable | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Esacus magnirostris</i> | beach stone-curlew | Vulnerable | - | High |
| <i>Ninox rufa queenslandica</i> | rufous owl (southern subspecies) | Vulnerable | Near threatened | Low |

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements.

| Scientific name | Common name | Bonn | CAMBA | JAMBA | ROKAMBA |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------|-------|-------|---------|
| <i>Coracina tenuirostris</i> | cicadabird | - | - | ✓ | - |
| <i>Egretta sacra</i> | eastern reef egret | - | ✓ | - | - |
| <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> | white-bellied sea-eagle | - | ✓ | - | - |
| <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> | Caspian tern | - | ✓ | ✓ | - |
| <i>Merops ornatus</i> | rainbow bee-eater | - | - | ✓ | - |
| <i>Monarcha melanopsis</i> | black-faced monarch | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Monarcha trivirgatus</i> | spectacled monarch | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i> | satin flycatcher | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> | whimbrel | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Pandion cristatus</i> | eastern osprey | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i> | rufous fantail | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Sterna sumatrana</i> | black-naped tern | - | ✓ | ✓ | - |

Bonn: Bonn Convention

CAMBA: China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA: Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement