Bania National Park and Bania National Park (Recovery) Management Statement 2013

Park size:	**Bania National Park – 33,110ha** **Bania National Park (Recovery) – 11ha**
Bioregion:	South Eastern Queensland Brigalow Belt
QPWS region:	Sunshine and Fraser Coast
Local government estate/area:	Bundaberg Regional North Burnett Regional
State electorate:	Callide

Legislative framework

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

Plans and agreements

✔	Bonn Convention
✔	China—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✔	Japan—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
	National recovery plan for the black-breasted button-quail *Turnix melanogaster*
✔	Republic of Korea—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

Thematic strategies

✔	Level 2 fire management strategy
✔	Level 2 pest management strategy

Vision

Bania National Park and Bania National Park (Recovery) are contiguous and will be managed as a large, remote, rugged, and undeveloped upland valued for its high conservation values, especially plant and animal biodiversity. As part of the watershed for the Burnett River, the parks' landscapes will be managed to minimise impacts from fire, pests and recreational activities incompatible with their setting. They will provide a natural experience for self-reliant visitors, and cultural heritage values will be identified and protected. The parks will continue to be used for grazing and apiculture where this use is consistent with maintaining the area's nature conservation or cultural values.

Conservation purpose

Both parks were gazetted on 1 August 2008 as part of the South East Queensland Forests Agreement process. They are located approximately 15 kilometres (km) north-west of Mount Perry, which is approximately 100km west of Bundaberg. The parks are mostly located in the South East Queensland bioregion with two small sections in the west located in the Brigalow Belt bioregion. They have high biodiversity values including a broad diversity of habitats. Of particular regional importance are the notophyll vine forests and the range of eucalypt forests and woodlands. The parks protect threatened and near threatened plants and animals and regional ecosystems that are endangered and of concern. The majority of these have a low level of representation in national parks and other protected areas, with two regional ecosystems being found only on Bania National Park.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

The parks are situated on a tilted and heavily dissected plateau that grades upwards from the Burnett River on the western side and upwards from Mount Perry township in the south. The northern and eastern boundaries of the combined reserve are mountainous scarps. A section of Bania National Park on the eastern side was previously part of Wonbah Forest Reserve and is predominantly a heavily dissected granite extension falling off the plateau that forms the national park.

Bania National Park forms a watershed for the Burnett River catchment and protects vital inflows to the catchment area. The land surrounding the parks is currently used for grazing and rural residential development. Prior uses of the parks have included native timber harvesting, grazing and apiculture. Wildfire and logging has resulted in the reduction of old trees and extensive natural regeneration has occurred since logging ceased. While timber harvesting has ceased, grazing and apiculture will continue over much of the parks where this use is consistent with maintaining the area's nature conservation or cultural values.

Regional ecosystems

Dry sclerophyll *Eucalypt/Corymbia* communities with shrubby and grassy understoreys and dry vine scrub communities are the two main broad vegetation communities. The former has a recent timber harvesting and grazing history, and approximately 60% of this vegetation type is still grazed. The dry vine scrub communities are significant in size and conservation value, and because they have had significantly fewer impacts from grazing and timber harvesting they are in a more natural condition. Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems are listed in Table 1.

Native plants and animals

Over 640 plant and animal species have been recorded. The parks contain several threatened and near threatened species which are listed in Table 2. The dry vine scrub communities and their ecotones with surrounding dry sclerophyll forests are habitat for several species of conservation significance, including the vulnerable species black-breasted button-quail *Turnix melanogaster*.

Aboriginal culture

The native title claim QC01/029 Port Curtis Coral Coast covers the area in which the parks are located. Little information is available about the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the parks.

Opportunities exist to improve relationships with local Traditional Owner groups and involve them in park management.

Shared-history culture

Remnants of grazing infrastructure such as shacks, yards and dips remain with some shacks still used by grazing authority holders. Unused huts are in poor condition and are being allowed to degrade naturally.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

Camping does take place in the parks, although they are not promoted as a camping destination due to their remoteness and ruggedness. Currently, there are no restrictions over where people may camp. This can present associated fire risks. Access is normally suitable for four-wheel drive vehicles only, although two-wheel drive access is possible in dry periods when tracks are more regularly maintained.

Partnerships

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) engages other stakeholders such as the Queensland Rural Fire Service, neighbours, and grazing authority holders in management of issues of mutual concern such as fire, grazing and infrastructure management.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Cat's claw creeper *Macfadyena unguis-cati* is a major threat to the headwaters of the Burnett River and is treated annually. Other pest plants include yellow bells *Tecoma stans,* giant rats tail grass *Sporobolus pyramidalis*, and lantana *Lantana camara.* Lantana is present in significant populations.

Feral pig *Sus scrofa* activity in the upper catchment area of the Burnett River has had minor to moderate impacts to date. Significant increases in activity have the potential to change ecosystem structure, damage water bodies and affect riverine regional ecosystems. Feral horses *Equus caballus* are also present and have moderate impact. Foxes *Vulpes vulpes*, cats *Felis catus*, and dogs *Canis lupus familiaris* are present in small numbers and have very minor impact on native animals. A large network of gazetted roads enables travellers to take domestic animals through the parks.

A Level 2 pest management strategy is in place. Grazing authority holders carry out low levels of weed control.

Fire management

The vine scrub, particularly the margins, is very susceptible to fire. It is located within fire tolerant *Eucalyptus* / *Corymbia* communities and requires specific fire management where possible. Planned burns are undertaken at prescribed intervals in response to the park having had many wildfires over the last 10 years that resulted in parts of it being excessively burnt. Incidences of wildfires are becoming fewer due to improved communication and cooperation with neighbours. A Level 2 fire management strategy and a wildfire response procedure are in place.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
Regional ecosystem Ecosystem diversity is maintained.	A1. Monitor impacts on vegetation resulting from visitor use, particularly from off-road motorbikes, the actions of feral animals, encroachment of introduced species, grazing and erosion.
Native plants and animals Species lists are accurate and up-to-date.	A2. Review the currency of species lists and, if required, conduct a survey annually to ensure species records are current and accurate.
Tourism and visitor opportunities The park retains its natural state for the use of self-reliant visitors.	A3. Develop a visitor management strategy to address the management of camping activities, identify visitor opportunities and visitor information sources.
Pest management Cat's claw creeper and lantana are controlled effectively.	A4. Undertake ecologically sensitive control measures to manage infestations of cat's claw creeper and lantana, especially along creek lines and riparian verges and sites of high conservation value as well as those that have the potential to impact off-park areas.
Aboriginal culture Cultural heritage values in general and at specific sites are preserved and interpreted where appropriate.	A5. Encourage Traditional Owners to identify and document values, sites, artefacts and places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance so that management strategies and decisions relating to fire regimes, access and track maintenance minimise potential threats to these values.

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
11.5.15	Semi-evergreen vine thicket on Cainozoic sand plains/remnant surfaces.	Endangered
11.11.10	*Eucalyptus melanophloia* woodland on deformed and metamorphosed sediments and interbedded volcanics.	Of concern
12.3.3	*Eucalyptus tereticornis* woodland to open forest on alluvial plains.	Endangered
12.11.8	*Eucalyptus melanophloia*, *E. crebra* woodland on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics.	Of concern
12.11.9	*Eucalyptus tereticornis, Corymbia intermedia* open forest on metamorphics: interbedded volcanics. Higher altitudes.	Of concern
12.11.13	Semi-evergreen vine thicket on metamorphics: interbedded volcanics; northern half of bioregion.	Of concern
12.11.19	*Eucalyptus fibrosa* open forest on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics.	Of concern
12.12.4	*Eucalyptus acmenoides +/- Syncarpia glomulifera* tall open forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks, especially granite.	Of concern
12.12.8	*Eucalyptus melanophloia* woodland on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks.	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				
Ninox strenua	powerful owl	Vulnerable	-	Medium
Animals				
Accipiter novaehollandiae	grey goshawk	Near threatened	-	Low
Adelotus brevis	tusked frog	Vulnerable	-	Medium
Calyptorhynchus lathami	glossy black-cockatoo	Vulnerable	-	-
Cycas megacarpa	-	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
Phascolarctos cinereus (southeast Queensland bioregion)	koala (southeast Queensland bioregion)	Vulnerable	-	-
Podargus ocellatus plumiferus	plumed frogmouth	Vulnerable	-	Low

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	Bonn	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
Hirundapus caudacutus	white-throated needletail	-	✓	✓	✓
Merops ornatus	rainbow bee-eater	-	-	✓	-
Monarcha melanopsis	black-faced monarch	✓	-	-	-
Myiagra cyanoleuca	satin flycatcher	✓	-	-	-
Rhipidura rufifrons	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-

Bonn: Bonn Convention

CAMBA: China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

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ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement