

Glenbar National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	2,970ha
Bioregion:	South Eastern Queensland
QPWS region:	Sunshine and Fraser Coast
Local government estate/area:	Fraser Coast Regional Council Gympie Regional Council
State electorate:	Maryborough



Green-thighed frog. Photo: NPRSR.

Legislative framework

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

Plans and agreements

✓	Bonn Convention
✓	China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 Fire Management Strategy
✓	Level 2 Pest Management Strategy

Vision

Glenbar National Park will be managed to protect its high biodiversity values including the significant regional ecosystems of grassy woodlands and notophyll vine forest and endemic species. Natural regeneration and recovery of vegetation and landscape will be facilitated through effective threat management. Nature-based recreation opportunities which are consistent with the natural and cultural values will exist for self-reliant visitors. Cultural heritage values will be identified and protected.

Conservation purpose

Glenbar National Park was gazetted in 2006 as a result of tenure conversion and consolidation actions under the South East Queensland Forests Agreement. The park is situated near the township of Tiaro on land that was formerly forest reserve; Glenbar Forest Reserve on the western slopes of Mount Urah and Miva Forest Reserve located about 1km to the south-east. A narrow strip of freehold land partitions these sections, breaking a natural corridor. The national park is part of a corridor of regional significance which connects major remnants and other protected areas. It also has high biodiversity values and protects several plant communities and species of conservation significance. Prior to gazettal as forest reserves, the park consisted of State forest land on which some hardwood timber harvesting occurred, and it protects part of the Burnett and Mary River catchments.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

The park's landscape features open forests on alluvial plains, with forested hills and lowlands on granitic, fine grained sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. Sugarloaf Mountain is located on the park. Spring Creek flows through the park into the Munna Creek catchment which in turn joins the Mary River. Daroug, Bunda and Lagoon creeks also flow through the park along with numerous gullies and drainage lines. The timber harvesting that occurred here was not intensive and the water quality in the creeks and drainage lines is high. Changes to vegetation structures from fire, pest plants and erosion along old forest management and harvesting tracks have the potential to reduce ground cover and increase siltation. This in turn reduces water quality and accelerates the spread of pest plants.

Regional ecosystems

Thirteen regional ecosystems (RE's) are conserved on this park including two endangered and five of concern RE's. The endangered RE 12.9–10.8 silver-leaved ironbark grassy woodland covers around 8 per cent of the park and occurs in only one other national park in the state—Benarkin National Park. The other endangered RE 12.9–10.16 microphyll to notophyll vine forest covers nearly 25 per cent of the park. The five regional ecosystems of concern consist mainly of eucalypt woodlands and open forests and simple notophyll vine forest (Table 1).

Native plants and animals

A number of the rainforest species on the park are endemic to South East Queensland and several plant species on the park are located at the limit of their distribution (Table 2). The endangered plant species *Plectranthus omissus* grows on south-facing rock outcrops bordering araucarian notophyll vine forest.

The park is important as a wildlife refuge because of its elevated sections and forested landscape. Discrepancies between available species lists suggest that current records may need review and new surveys undertaken. For example, the near threatened species black-chinned honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis* and green-thighed frog *Litoria brevipalmata* have been recorded on the contiguous Glenbar State Forest 1 but not on the national park (Table 2).

Aboriginal culture

The parks are covered by a native title claim QC2013/003 on behalf of the Kabi Kabi First Nation. The Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay Burnett areas still hold high importance to Aboriginal people and there are many sites of Aboriginal cultural importance across the region. Site records in the surrounding region include Aboriginal burials, middens and canoe trees but none have been recorded for the park as it has never been formally surveyed.

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

Shared-history culture

Evidence of previous activity includes an old mine site and an old camp site but the significance of these in terms of cultural heritage value is unknown.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The recreation management intent for Glenbar National Park is to support low impact activities for self-reliant visitors. Access to the park can be achieved by two or four-wheel-drive vehicles but movement within the park requires the latter. Visitor use is currently very low.

Education and science

The park has scientific value due to the presence of species that are of conservation significance or at the limit of their distribution. Opportunities are restricted by accessibility and safety issues.

Partnerships

Regular liaison is maintained with neighbours, local government bodies and the local fire authority.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Pest plant species include blue billygoat weed *Ageratum houstonianum*, redhead cottonbush *Asclepias curassavica*, lantana *Lantana camara*, coral berry *Rivina humilis*, Brazilian nightshade *Solanum seaforthianum*, balloon cottonbush *Gomphocarpus physocarpus*, cat's claw creeper *Macfadyena unguis-cati*, common groundsel *Senecio vulgaris* and mother-of-millions *Bryophyllum delagoense*. Biological control has been used successfully on some species especially groundsel. Lantana is sprayed where necessary and fire is also used as a control method.

Pest animals include pigs *Sus scrofa*, foxes *Vulpes vulpes*, cats *Felis catus* and wild dogs *Canis familiaris*. Some cattle enter the park from neighbouring properties as the rough landscape limits the capability to fence the perimeter effectively.

Fire management

Fire is an important tool in controlling pest plants and maintaining regional ecosystem structure and integrity. Broad-scale management involving small fires on land surrounding vine forest communities throughout the year reduces the risk of wildfire damage. Eucalypt woodlands and open forests are protected using a regime of low or moderate intensity fires at varying intervals to maintain a mosaic of burnt and unburnt grassy and shrubby understoreys and to control pest plant infestations. These fire intervals are adjusted according to the perceived health of the ecosystems to ensure a correct response to changing climate conditions.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Regional ecosystems</p> <p>The integrity of endangered and of concern regional ecosystems are maintained or enhanced.</p>	<p>A1. Further the protection of <i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i> (silver-leaved ironbark), <i>E.crebra</i> (narrow-leaved red ironbark) and <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> (hoop pine) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring road widening and maintenance in the area; and • promoting and supporting research and monitoring activities including assessing the extent of the species in the area.
<p>Native plants and animals</p> <p>The diversity of native plants and animals is protected by maintaining natural habitats and by carefully managing the effects of introduced species, fire and human activities.</p>	<p>A2. Conduct plant and animal surveys for native species to inform management actions.</p> <p>A3. Enhance degraded areas either by direct management or allowing natural regeneration to occur over time.</p> <p>A4. Map and monitor the population of <i>Plectranthus omissus</i> and mitigate any threats.</p>
<p>Cultural heritage</p> <p>Traditional Owners have meaningful involvement with park management planning and direction.</p> <p>Shared-history cultural values are identified and protected.</p>	<p>A5. Encourage Traditional Owners to identify values, sites, artefacts and places of cultural heritage significance so that management strategies and decisions relating to fire regimes, access and track maintenance minimise potential threats to these values.</p> <p>A6. Encourage an assessment of the shared-history cultural values of the park.</p>
<p>Tourism and visitor opportunities</p> <p>The park provides opportunities for self-reliant visitors to enjoy its natural and cultural values.</p>	<p>A7. Manage the park for self-reliant visitor uses which are consistent with the natural and cultural values.</p> <p>A8. Maintain existing road infrastructure to a standard which facilitates access for management purposes and use by self-reliant visitors in four wheel drive vehicles.</p> <p>A9. Inform visitors of safety and habitat protection issues, especially risks presented by the remoteness of the park and the risk of the spread of pest plants and wildfire.</p>
<p>Pest management</p> <p>Pests and stock impacts are managed effectively.</p>	<p>A10. Update the pest management strategy as new information becomes available.</p> <p>A11. Undertake ecologically sensitive control measures to manage infestations, especially along creek lines and riparian verges and sites of high conservation value in addition to those that have the potential to impact off-park areas.</p> <p>A12. Monitor the impacts of cattle straying onto the park.</p>
<p>Fire management</p> <p>Fire is used appropriately to protect habitat diversity and wildfire risks are managed effectively.</p>	<p>A13. Update the fire management strategy as new information becomes available.</p> <p>A14. Monitor medium to long term effects of fire to identify the most suitable burning regimes for the vegetation communities on the park. Factors to be considered should include frequency, intensity and timing of planned burns.</p> <p>A15. Liaise regularly with neighbours on wildfire mitigation issues.</p>

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.9–10.8	<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i> , <i>E. crebra</i> woodland on sedimentary rocks	Endangered
12.9–10.16	Araucarian microphyll to notophyll vine forest on sedimentary rocks	Endangered
12.3.11	<i>Eucalyptus siderophloia</i> , <i>E. tereticornis</i> , <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest on alluvial plains near coast	Of concern
12.11.8	<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i> , <i>E. crebra</i> woodland on metamorphics interbedded volcanics	Of concern
12.11.14	<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> , <i>E. tereticornis</i> woodland on metamorphics interbedded volcanics	Of concern
12.12.1	Simple notophyll vine forest usually with abundant <i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i> (gully vine forest) on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	Of concern
12.12.8	<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i> 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
<i>Plectranthus omissus</i>	-	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Cupaniopsis shirleyana</i>	wedge-leaf tuckeroo	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High
<i>Rhodamnia pauciovulata</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Hernandia bivalvis</i>	cudgerie	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Melithreptus gularis</i> *	black-chinned honeyeater	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Litoria brevipalmata</i> *	green-thighed frog	Near threatened	-	Medium

*Species recorded on Glenbar State Forest but not on the national park.

Table 3: Bird species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	Bonn	JAMBA	CAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	white-throated needletail	-	✓	-	✓
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater	-	-	-	✓
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-

Bonn – Bonn Convention

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement