

Junee Area

Management Statement

2013



Prepared by: **Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS), Department of Environment and Science**

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The Junee Area Management Statement 2013 has been extended in 2023 in line with the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (s120G). Minor amendments have been made. There has been no change to the statement's original management intent and direction.

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Park size:	Junee National Park 5,400ha Junee State Forest 24,800ha Bundoora State Forest 8,400ha
Bioregion:	Brigalow Belt North Bioregion
QPWS region:	Central
Local government estate/area:	Isaac Regional Council Central Highlands Regional Council
State electorate:	Gregory

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>
✓	<i>Queensland Heritage 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
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Vision

The natural ecosystems and flora and fauna populations within Junee Area (Junee National Park, Junee and Bundoora State forests) are conserved.

The area is managed to conserve the biological values found within it and to provide safe sustainable, nature based recreation and commercial tourism opportunities.

Establish partnerships with Traditional Owners, local community, neighbours, lessees, research institutes, conservation groups, emergency services and Isaac Regional Council that contribute to the area's ongoing management.

Conservation purpose

The objectives of management for the Junee Area are to:

- protect regional ecosystems and species of conservation significance and their habitats
- conserve and protect the management areas natural, cultural and scenic values
- encourage outdoor recreation activities and commercial tourism opportunities that are in keeping with the area's natural values
- minimise the impact of pests and inappropriate fire regimes on the natural environment
- incorporate the interests and rights of the Traditional Owners and their affiliations to the area by cooperatively protecting and managing cultural heritage of significance
- provide direction and actions to protect the natural, cultural and social values of the area, through appropriate research and monitoring
- foster cooperative relationships with relevant stakeholders to build stronger partnerships to assist management.

Protecting and presenting the area's values

Landscape

Junee National Park and Junee State Forest is situated 30km east of Middlemount. Junee Tableland is a geologically significant raised plateau containing tertiary sandstone, siltstone, claystone, diatomite, oil shale, conglomerate and basalt (Wilmott 2006). The area was originally gazetted as Timber Reserve 9. The reserve was not suitable for farming due to the terrain; however, was deemed suitable for timber production. Mining interest continued to exist over the area except for the north-western corner of the timber reserve. This corner block was gazetted as Junee National Park in 2000. The remaining reserve was gazetted as Junee State Forest as mining interest remained for this area. Drill sites and mine test pits are found on the management area. Small freshwater wetlands and water holes exist on the tableland and support a variety of flora and fauna. Gilgais are found on the lowlands of Junee and are unique to the area. The gilgais support some brigalow *Acacia harpophylla* populations.

Bundoora State Forest is located 32km west of Middlemount. Bundoora State Forest is situated in Isaac Regional Council, except for a small portion on the south-east corner that is in the Central Highlands Regional Council area. The area consists of the marine sequence known as Back Creek Group and the Blenheim subgroup which comprises of the late Permian sediments with quartz to sandstone, siltstone, carbonaceous shale, minor coal and sandy limestone. The Middle Devonian period is also represented with Theresa Creek volcanics and andesitic flows and limestone. The soils are predominately hard brown sandy loam and sandy clay soils. The State forest consists of undulating gravelly ridges and hills timbered with narrow leaf ironbark *Eucalyptus crebra*, lancewood *Acacia shirleyi*, rosewood *Acacia rhodoxylon* and yapunyah *Eucalyptus thozetiana*. Shell and Charcoal creeks run through the north-western section of Bundoora.

Rural properties and mining leases surround the Junee Area. Mining leases remain over the state forest areas.

Native plants and animals

Open forest and woodland cover most of Junee National Park and State forest. The national park preserves significant ecosystems and a variety of habitats, including brigalow, bendee, pockets of microphyll vine forest and lancewood.

There are 15 regional ecosystems in the Junee National Park and State forest, with four listed as of concern and six listed as endangered (Table 1). The Junee Area provides habitat for three significant plant species, listed under

state legislation. *Desmodium macrocarpum* is found in open woodland and forest communities and microphyll vine thicket. *Solanum elaeagnifolium* is listed as endangered under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) and is a medium priority in the Back on Track species prioritisation framework. It is found on cracking clay soils with brigalow and the endangered *Eucalyptus cambageana* woodland. *Cerbera dumicola* is found in Junee State Forest and listed as near threatened under the NCA. It is found in lancewood thickets and is threatened by agriculture and mining activities. A small population of narrow-leaved white mahogany *Eucalyptus tenuipes* also occurs on the Junee tableland.

Grazing impacts are evident on parts of Junee State Forest. Grazing has not occurred in the leased middle and north-eastern blocks due to difficult terrain and lack of water sources and the vegetation is in a good condition compared to the rest of the State forest. Grazing can be a threatening process for some regional ecosystems including brigalow, *Eucalyptus tereticornis* or *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* woodland. To allow for native grasses to recover, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and the lessees will monitor and manage the impacts from grazing.

There are nine regional ecosystems in the Bundoora State Forest, with three listed as of concern as described in Table 1. Bundoora State Forest provides habitat for one significant plant species, listed under state legislation (Table 2). *Bertya pedicellata* is listed as near threatened under the NCA. It is commonly found in open forests on rocky hills with sandy soils. Threatening processes for *Bertya pedicellata* include inappropriate fire regimes, grazing and land clearing. Bundoora was originally gazetted to protect the intact rosewood population. Rosewood is limited in distribution and declining in the management area due to a number of factors including theft for fence posts. Lease holders are encouraged to protect the rosewood populations from theft.

There have been three fauna species of conservation significance recorded in the management area, and a further 16 are identified as having habitat occurring or potentially occurring in the management area (Table 2). Brigalow scaly-foot *Paradelma orientalis* is listed as vulnerable under both the NCA and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and is a medium priority in the Back on Track species prioritisation framework. It can be found under fallen logs, bark and debris in a wide variety of open woodland and dry sclerophyll forests, including brigalow. Little pied bat *Chalinolobus picatus* is listed as near threatened under the NCA, and is a medium priority in the Back on Track species prioritisation framework. It roosts in caves, mines and tree hollows in wide variety of arid, open habitats including dry open forests, open woodlands and shrublands.

There are also 10 bird species listed in international agreements that occur or are likely to occur in the management area (Table 3).

Aboriginal culture

Junee State Forest or Junee National Park is part of an area under native title claim by the Barada Kabalbara Yetimarala people (QC2013/004). Junee State Forest has three known sites significant to Aboriginal people. These sites consist of stone artefacts and scatters.

Bundoora State Forest is part of an area under native title claim by the Barada Barna people (QC20/011) and by the Barada Kabalbara Yetimarala people (QC2013/004). The relationship of Traditional Owners with their traditional country is a special one with the whole landscape having important value.

Limited information is available about sites of cultural or historic significance or any other heritage values in the management area. No cultural survey is known to have been undertaken in the management area. However it is reasonable to expect that heritage sites and artefacts occur in the area.

Shared-history culture

An old homestead site with fencing, steel gates and tank stand are remnants of a grazing history on Junee State Forest. There are dams on both Junee and Bundoora. Commercial logging occurred within Junee Creek area; however, no logging was conducted on the tableland.

The degree of shared-history culture remains largely unknown in the management area and information should be developed further to assist with the interpretation and protection of these sites.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The master plan for Queensland's parks system has categorised settings for how protected areas should be managed to support a spectrum of outdoor recreation in protected areas. These categories range from high profile estates that provide a range of facilities and are internationally renowned to self-reliant, remote parks that are free from facilities and receive very little visitation. The protected areas in the Central Queensland region provide a range of visitor experiences from very popular parks to remote areas that encourage visitors to be self-sufficient. The high profile Blackdown Tablelands, Expedition and Carnarvon national parks encourage opportunities for four-wheel driving, camping in developed sites with facilities and interpretative one day walks to multi-day walks. Other

protected areas in Central Queensland, such as Goodedulla National Park, provide a challenging and remote visitor experience. These areas encourage visitors to be fully self-sufficient and offer remote bush camping, four-wheel driving and remote bushwalking.

The Junee Management Area may see a gradual increase in the visitor use of the area, due to the region's population growth from the mining industry boom. The Junee Area provides for recreation opportunities in a totally or almost totally natural landscape and provides a very remote experience suitable for experienced, self-reliant visitors for remote bushwalking, photography and bird watching.

Access to Junee National Park and State forest is via a rough, unsealed dry weather only track to the boundary of the QPWS estate, where visitors can park and explore the area by foot. This access is currently through private property from Maydowns Road and visitors require permission from the landowner for access through private property.

Bundoora State Forest is accessed by a gazetted unsealed dry weather only track from Booroondarra Capella Road to the forest boundary, where visitors can park and explore the area by foot.

An undeveloped road easement exists to Junee National Park; however, due to the terrain, an access track has been established on adjacent private property. QPWS will seek to improve public access by consulting with council and the landholder to undertake a tenure conversion to degazette the current easement and gazette the current track access to the park.

Education and science

The management area provides opportunities for scientific research and monitoring. Results from research and monitoring can benefit the area's management and educate staff and the community.

Further surveys would provide a direction on the protection of flora and fauna species and the impact of threatening processes of inappropriate fire regimes, pest animal and plant species.

Partnerships

QPWS is directly responsible for planning, managing and regulating activities in the management area. Working with neighbours, Traditional Owners, lessees, organisations, councils, user groups and individuals with similar interests in managing the area is highly desirable to achieve the vision. Efficiencies in resource sharing, improved communications, decision making and enhanced on-ground outcomes is to be facilitated, where possible, through working partnerships.

Pest management

There is no pest management strategy for the management area. A pest management strategy will be developed and implemented. This strategy will help to prioritise pest plant and animal controls, and guide operational work plans and evaluate program effectiveness on QPWS-managed estates. To date, pest plant and animal monitoring has been limited in the management area and further information is required to understand the impacts of pests to *Desmodium macrocarpum*, *Solanum elaeagnifolium* and *Cerbera dumicola* and regional ecosystems in the management area.

Pest animals found on Junee State Forest and national park include wild dogs *Canis lupus familiaris*, pigs *Sus scrofa* and cane toads *Rhinella marina*. Pest animals found on Bundoora State Forest include cane toads, feral pigs and rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* that have been observed on the Bundoora creek flats.

Feral pigs are present in the area; however, the extent of the population is unknown. They are a declared Class 2 pest under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 1992*. Feral pigs cause significant damage and degradation to waterholes, spread weeds and diseases and may cause significant losses to neighbouring crop producers.

Wild dogs are present in the area; however, the extent of the population is unknown. They are a declared Class 2 pest under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act*. Wild dogs predate on livestock, decrease stock production and prey on native animals.

Pest plants found on Junee National Park and State forest include sorghum *Sorghum* spp., velvety tree pear *Opuntia tomentosa* and buffel grass *Cenchrus ciliaris*.

Buffel grass is a perennial tussock grass native to parts of Africa and Asia. It was introduced into the Brigalow Belt Bioregion in combination with clearing or brigalow communities in the second half of the 20th century. It is an important food source for grazing cattle but has detrimental effects on natural communities managed for conservation. Buffel grass is very invasive in disturbed areas and can form dense swards, reducing both plant and animal diversity. It can also significantly increase fuel loads and potentially increase fire intensity and frequency.

Various pest plant species occur on Bundoora including red natal grass *Melinis repens*, velvety tree pear, blue heliotrope *Heliotropium amplexicaule*, *Malvastrum americanum* and *Oxalis corniculata*.

Lessees and permit holders on QPWS estate are responsible for managing pest plants and animals on their lease area.

Fire management

QPWS has a statewide fire management system. QPWS is the primary agency for fire management on protected areas and State forests. Fire strategies provide the overall framework and direction for fire management and are the foundation from which planned burn programs are developed. There is a Level 2 fire management strategy for the Junee National Park and State forest; however a strategy is lacking for Bundoora State Forest.

Fire management in Bundoora State Forest and Junee State Forest is managed by the current lessees with QPWS.

The main threat to the Junee Area is inappropriate fire regimes and wildfires. The long-term fire management aims for the area are to maintain the current diversity of native flora and fauna species while allowing for natural change to ensure the conservation of fire sensitive ecosystems and species. The vegetation communities, including brigalow, semi-evergreen vine thicket and rosewood, are fire sensitive and fire should be excluded from these communities. These communities have experienced wildfires previously; however, the extent of impacts is not known. The encroachment of buffel grass is a concern for several of the vegetation communities. Buffel grass is likely to increase the intensity and frequency of fires. A coordinated approach to fire management with surrounding neighbours will be maintained to ensure fire is managed appropriately.

Authorities and leases

Permitted grazing occurs on Junee and Bundoora State forests, authorised under the *Land Act 1994* and *Forestry Act 1959*. Grazing can also occur under a permit obtained under the *Forestry Act*. In cooperation with QPWS, lessees and adjoining landholders will ensure fences are erected and maintained to keep stock in approved/permitted stock grazing areas and that stocking rates are consistent with leases and permits.

Authorities may be issued under the NCA sections 34–38 to allow certain types of infrastructure on protected area estate. These authorities can be used for public service facilities and they are most commonly used to enable infrastructure to be built or remain on a protected area. Authorities in the management area must be consistent with this management statement and relevant policies and be issued in accordance with the NCA.

A power line traverses for 234m on Bundoora State Forest and is owned by Powerlink Queensland. This power line is recognised in a Deed of Agreement for Electricity Works on Protected Area between the State of Queensland and the Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporate Limited, Ergon Energy Corporation Limited and Energex (Queensland Government 2009).

Owners of power lines and associated infrastructure must adhere to the code of practice for maintaining electricity corridors in Queensland parks and forests dated 12 March 2010 and are to be authorised appropriately in accordance with the NCA.

Exploration and mineral development approvals exist over the Bundoora and Junee State forests.

Exploration permits and mineral development licences are accessed in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and *Mineral Resources Act 1989*. All mining and exploration permits and licences issued on the QPWS estate are assessed by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines with advice from QPWS in relation to management of sensitive areas and protection of significant species, habitat and biodiversity values.

References

Queensland Government 2009, Deed of Agreement for Electricity works on Protected Areas between State of Queensland and Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited and Ergon Energy Corporation Limited and Energex, Queensland Government.

Willmott W 2006, Rocks and Landscapes of the National Parks of Central Queensland, Geological Society of Australia, Queensland Division.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Landscape</p> <p>The full range of naturally occurring biological diversity, ecological processes and landscape dynamics are maintained.</p>	<p>Monitor the impacts from natural processes, pests, fire and recreation on the high scenic landscape, natural and cultural values. Use the information to guide management decisions and amend current and future plans and strategies.</p> <p>Review the pest management strategy to include the current pest threats for the whole area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimise threats through plant and animal control • encourage cooperative pest control with lessees and neighbours. <p>Encourage lease holders to protect rosewood populations from illegal logging.</p> <p>Implement research programs into species distribution and population dynamics.</p>
<p>Fire management</p> <p>Fire is managed to meet the ecological requirements of fire-dependant and fire-sensitive communities.</p>	<p>Develop and implement a Level 1 fire management strategy noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regulate the frequency and intensity of fire to maintain the regional ecosystem composition, structure and ecological dynamics of all vegetation communities. • encourage cooperative fire management with lessees and neighbours.
<p>Authorities and leases</p> <p>Impacts of existing and future developments in the management area are minimised, particularly the intrusion of transmission lines and telecommunications facilities.</p> <p>Stock grazing complies with existing permit conditions.</p>	<p>Ensure all permitted mining and extractive activities are undertaken in accordance with relevant legislation and authorities.</p> <p>Work with lease holders and adjoining landholders to monitor and manage impacts from grazing and to promote native vegetation and grasses, ensure fences are erected and maintained to keep stock in approved/permitted stock grazing areas and that stocking rates are consistent with leases and permits.</p>
<p>Tourism and visitor opportunities</p> <p>Visitor use provides for a range of sustainable self-reliant outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities that meet and adapt to visitor needs with minimal impact on the natural and cultural values of the Junee Management Area.</p>	<p>Visitor facilities will be provided in response to use rates and demand and will be developed in cooperation with the user groups.</p> <p>The gazetted access road to Junee National Park is realigned to the current access road in cooperation with the landholder.</p>
<p>Partnerships</p> <p>The effectiveness of future management is strengthened through cooperative partnerships.</p>	<p>Continue to build relationships with the local community, councils, visitors and interest groups to improve knowledge of the management area, and to highlight its significance to the region.</p> <p>Encourage and support Traditional Owners in conducting a cultural heritage survey including recording sites, stories, language names and cultural heritage places.</p>

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems in the Junee Management Area

Regional ecosystem Number	Description	Biodiversity status
11.3.1	<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> and/or <i>Casuarina cristata</i> open forest on alluvial plains	Endangered
11.3.2	<i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> woodland on alluvial plains	Of concern
11.3.25	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> or <i>E. camaldulensis</i> woodland fringing drainage lines	Of concern
11.4.8	<i>Eucalyptus cambageana</i> woodland to open forest with <i>Acacia harpophylla</i> or <i>A. argyrodendron</i> on Cainozoic clay plains	Endangered
11.4.9	<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> shrubby open forest to woodland with <i>Terminalia oblongata</i> on Cainozoic clay plains	Endangered
11.5.16	<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> and/or <i>Casuarina cristata</i> open forest in depressions on Cainozoic sand plains/remnant surfaces	Endangered
11.5.17	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> woodland in depressions on Cainozoic sand plains/remnant surfaces	Endangered
11.7.1	<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> and/or <i>Casuarina cristata</i> and <i>Eucalyptus thozetiana</i> or <i>E. macrocarpa</i> woodland on lower scarp slopes on lateritic duricrust	Of concern
11.8.3	Semi-evergreen vine thicket on Cainozoic igneous rocks. Steep hillsides	Of concern
11.8.13	Semi-evergreen vine thicket and microphyll vine forest on Cainozoic igneous rocks	Endangered

Table 2: Species of conservation significance in the Junee Area

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 status	Back on Track species prioritisation framework (BOT)
Plants				
* <i>Bertya pedicellata</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
* <i>Cerbera dumicola</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
^ <i>Cycas ophiolitica</i>	Marlborough blue	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
* <i>Desmodium macrocarpum</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
^ <i>Digitaria porrecta</i>	finger panic grass	Near threatened	Endangered	Low
* <i>Solanum elachophyllum</i>	-	Endangered	-	Medium
Animals				
* <i>Chalinolobus picatus</i>	little pied bat	Near threatened	-	Medium
^ <i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	northern quoll	Least concern	Endangered	Medium
^ <i>Delma torquata</i>	collared delma	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High
^ <i>Denisonia maculata</i>	ornamental snake	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
^ <i>Egernia rugosa</i>	yakka skink	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
^ <i>Erythrorchis radiatus</i>	red goshawk	Endangered	Vulnerable	High
^ <i>Furina dunmalli</i>	Dunmall's snake	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
^ <i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i>	squatter pigeon (southern)	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
^ <i>Lerista allanae</i>	Allan's lerista	Endangered	Endangered	High
^ <i>Neochmia ruficauda ruficauda</i>	star finch	Endangered	Endangered	-
^ <i>Nyctophilus corbeni</i>	eastern long eared bat	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
* <i>Paradelma orientalis</i>	brigalow scaly foot	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
* <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	koala	Least concern	Vulnerable	Low
^ <i>Poephila cinta cinta</i>	black-throated finch (southern)	Endangered	Endangered	High
^ <i>Rheodytes leukops</i>	Fitzroy river turtle	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High
^ <i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian painted snipe	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium

* confirmed to occur

^ likely to occur as habitat is present

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements in the Junee Area

Scientific name	Common name	Bonn	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	fork-tailed swift	-	✓	✓	✓
<i>Ardea ibis</i>	cattle egret	-	✓	✓	-
<i>Ardea modesta</i>	great egret	-	✓	✓	-
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's snipe	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	white-bellied sea-eagle	-	✓	-	-
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	white-throated needletail	-	✓	✓	✓
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	barn swallow	-	✓	✓	✓
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater		-	✓	-
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	blacked-faced monarch	✓	-	-	-
<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>	satin flycatcher	✓	-	-	-

Bonn – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement