Bulburin Area Management Statement 2013

Park size:	Bulburin East Forest Reserve	1,695ha
	Bulburin National Park	32,662ha
	Bulburin State Forest	2,335ha
	Mount Colosseum National Park	840ha
	Mount Coulston State Forest	323ha
	Norton State Forest	548ha
	O'Connell State Forest	569ha
	Rule State Forest	588.3ha
	Warro National Park	6,032ha
Bioregion:	South Eastern Queensland	
QPWS region:	Sunshine and Fraser Coast	
Local government estate/area:	Bundaberg Regional Council Gladstone Regional Council	
State electorate:	Gladstone, Burnett, Callide	

Bulburin National Park, Photo: QPWS.

Legislative framework

a	*Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*
a	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth)
a	*Forestry Act 1959*
a	*Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*
a	*Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth)
a	*Nature Conservation Act 1992*
a	*Queensland Heritage Act 1992*

Plans and agreements

a	Bonn Convention
a	China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
a	IUCN Red List for Threatened Species
a	Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
a	National Multi-species Recovery plan for cycads
a	Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

Thematic strategies

a	Level 2 Fire Management Strategy
a	Level 2 Pest Management Strategy

Vision

The Bulburin area (Mount Colosseum, Bulburin and Warro national parks, Bulburin East Forest Reserve, Mount Coulston, O'Connell, Bulburin, Norton and Rule State forests) will preserve habitat and species of state, national and international conservation significance.

The Bulburin area is managed with an increased understanding of the diversity of natural environments, ensuring significant species and communities are protected and impacts are minimised.

The visitor experiences and recreation opportunities are in keeping with the undeveloped natural environment of the management area.

Partnerships with Traditional Owners, local community, neighbours, research institutes and conservation groups are established and contribute to the area's ongoing management.

Conservation purpose

Bulburin National Park and Warro National Park were gazetted in 2006 as part of the South East Queensland Forests Agreement (SEQFA) introduced in 1999. The purpose of the SEQFA was to develop a world-class conservation reserve system, ensure ecologically sustainable management of forests and maintain a competitive and efficient timber industry. Mount Colosseum National Park was gazetted in 1994.

The management area is one of the most biologically diverse protected areas in the South Eastern Queensland bioregion with over 300 animal species and 550 plant species listed. It lies in a terrestrial bioregional corridor which is of state significance (BPA 2006). It incorporates altitudinal and climatic gradients and provides coast to inland connectivity from Tannum Sands to Yarrol.

The objectives of management for the Bulburin area are to:

- protect regional ecosystems and protect and extend the distribution of species of conservation significance
- conserve and protect the management areas natural, cultural and aesthetic values
- incorporate the interests and rights of Traditional Owners and their affiliations to the area by cooperatively protecting and managing cultural heritage of significance
- provide safe, sustainable, nature-based recreation opportunities where appropriate
- provide direction and actions to protect the natural, cultural and social values of the management area, through appropriate research and monitoring
- foster cooperative relationships with neighbouring land holders to build stronger partnerships.

Protecting and presenting the area's values

Landscape

The Bulburin area lies approximately 120km south of Gladstone and 40km south-west of Miriam Vale. Significant vegetation communities including, subtropical rainforests, open eucalypt forest and woodland, tall open forest with a rainforest understorey and dense stands of dry rainforest exist in the area. The management area contains the junction of the Dawes, Bobby and Many Peaks Ranges in the north, southward the extension of the Dawes Range to Mount Molangul and a region of hilly country north of the Kolan River. The terrain is generally mountainous with an altitudinal range of 150m in the Granite Creek Valley to 604m on the Dawes Range.

Bulburin National Park contains the head waters of the Boyne River, Baffle Creek and Kolan River. The area contains the largest remnant rainforest in central Queensland and provides a unique landscape in comparison to the surrounding areas.

The region was formed predominantly by marine volcanoclastic deposition between the early Devonian and early Triassic eras. The area lies over parts of the Muncon Volcanics; these consist of intermediate and basic lava, tuff, agglomerate, siltstone and lithic sandstone (DPI 1994).

Mount Colosseum is a steep peak in a dry hoop-pine rainforest; the peak is a distinct granite body that formed in the late Triassic period (Willmott 2006).

Native plants and animals

There are two endangered and nine of concern regional ecosystems that occur in the area (see Table 1).

Over 550 plant species have been recorded in the area including 17 species of plants that are listed as endangered, vulnerable or near threatened (Table 2).

The endangered plant *Cycas megacarpa* is found on the hill tops and steep slopes in eucalypt woodlands and open forest with grassy under storey. The distribution and number of individuals is largely unknown; however this habitat type occurs widely in the management area.

The endangered *Macadamia jansenii* is only found in one protected area in the state—Bulburin National Park, where it grows in the simple notophyll vine forest. It consists of a single population in an area that occupies less than a hectare. This makes the species highly susceptible to a single disturbance event (such as fire) or disease. The habitat is also impacted by pest plant species, particularly Lantana *Lantana camara*.

Over 300 animal species are recorded in the management area including 17 scheduled conservation significant species. Research is required to establish the extent of populations and distribution (Table 3).

The vulnerable long nosed potoroo reaches its northern limit in the Bulburin National Park area. While the Herbert's rock-wallaby *Petrogale herberti* although common has a restricted distribution in the South Eastern Queensland bioregion and has been recorded in the Bulburin area.

The vulnerable tusked frog *Adelotus brevis* has been recorded in Bulburin and Warro national parks and can provide an indication of riverine system health.

Impacts affecting the biological integrity and diversity of the parks include the spread of pest plants and erosion of roads and fire breaks. Maintaining species diversity and numbers will be assisted with the control of pest plant and animal species and appropriate fire regimes. There has been extensive clearing in the areas surrounding these estates; however clearing is currently static and further external fragmentation should be minimal. There is the potential that existing power corridors could be widened, which would increase fragmentation and may have an impact on the movement of some species.

More extreme weather events are expected to promote the spread of pest plants, alter fire regimes and change the structure of native vegetation. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) will continue to improve knowledge, understanding and modelling of such events and the potential impacts on the management area, particularly in the areas of vulnerable ecosystems and species.

Aboriginal culture

Sections of the management area are under a native title claim by the Port Curtis Coral Coast Indigenous group (Claim reference QUD6026/01 and QC01/09). The Bailai, Gooreng Gooreng and Gurang people have a cultural connection to the Bulburin area.

A memorandum of understanding exists between the Gidarjil Development Corporation (on behalf of the Gurang and Gooreng Gooreng people) and the Queensland Government. This memorandum of understanding was established in March 2010 to foster a coordinated and cooperative partnership in the use and management of QPWS-managed lands.

Mount Colosseum National Park holds specific cultural significance for the Traditional Owners.

It is important for QPWS to continue to work with Traditional Owners to identify cultural connections and ensure appropriate measures are taken to protect known sites and areas, and to develop appropriate management tools for the area.

Shared-history culture

The initial history of the QPWS managed estates dates back to 1901 with the declaration of an un-numbered temporary reserve for timber purposes. Between 1901 and the 1950s, the gazettal area and the type of estate changed a number of times, varying between State forest and timber reserve. Forestry was an integral industry for the region and provided employment opportunities for nearby communities (DPI 1994). A hoop pine plantation occurs on Bulburin National Park, in what was previously known as Granite Creek State Forest. This area is being harvested over the next 20 years and allowed to naturally regenerate. This plantation historically provided economic support to the surrounding communities (DPI 1994).

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The Bulburin area provides for low-impact, nature-based recreation and appreciation of the area's natural, cultural and scenic values. Bulburin National Park is the key recreation focus for the Bulburin area. The area has been relatively untouched by clearing or infrastructure. Bulburin National Park provides a scenic rainforest drive starting at the site of the old forestry barracks and runs through to the Granite Creek access. Warro National Park has no vehicle access.

Visitors come to the area for many reasons including four-wheel driving (specifically Bulburin National Park), camping and bush walking. Visitors can camp on Bulburin National Park with a camping permit. Campfires are permitted (except when fire bans apply); however, visitors must take timber into the area for firewood. Visitors must be self-reliant when visiting the management area. Keen walkers and enthusiastic naturalists can use the old logging tracks in Bulburin National Park. The area is frequented by bird watching groups. The needs of both current and future recreation users must be considered in management especially as the population of the area increases.

The State forest areas provide a natural setting and have no visitor facilities. Visitors may access and traverse the State forest along gazetted roads. Camping is not permitted in the State forest.

Education and science

The Bulburin area provides significant opportunities for scientific research and monitoring. The most recent surveys of the rainforest sections of the Bulburin area were undertaken in 1980. Surveys of vertebrate species of dry rainforests were undertaken in the Bulburin area in 1993. Since this time, no formal surveys have been undertaken. Any research conducted on the management areas must be in accordance with a permit to take, use, keep or interfere with a cultural or natural resource for scientific purposes. Results from research and monitoring, specifically in relation to species or communities of conservation significance, can benefit the area's management and contribute to interpretive materials.

Monitoring into the impact harvesting has on the surrounding ecosystem is currently being undertaken in areas where hoop pine still exists. Plots have been established and monitoring will be undertaken until the area has been completely harvested.

The distribution and abundance of conservation significant species (tables 2 and 3) is not well known and requires research and monitoring to assist decisions regarding improving their status.

The Sunshine Coast University, in partnership with QPWS, is currently conducting surveys and research in Bulburin National Park on the endangered *Macadamia jansenii*. Surveys are endeavouring to establish baseline information on the distribution of the species. A translocation program is currently being trialled to re-introduce the species into other suitable areas to boost the recovery (population numbers and distribution) of the species.

An opportunity exists for QPWS to work collaboratively with the Traditional Owners to ensure QPWS have an understanding of the significance of connection to land and to provide educational opportunities to the community where appropriate.

Other key issues and responses

Partnerships

QPWS needs the support of the local community, visitors and interest groups if the vision for the management area is to be achieved. The community is more likely to develop awareness, a sense of custodianship and help manage the area if their views, values and culture are reflected in management objectives and activities, and they are enabled to play an active role in park management.

A strong working relationship with the Traditional Owners including the Bailai, Gooreng Gooreng and Gurang people is essential so that their views and aspirations for the land can be included in planning and management. The Bailai, Gooreng Gooreng and Gurang people have a role to protect cultural heritage in the management area and a role to educate QPWS and visitors on cultural heritage management.

Pest management

There are several pest plants which exist on the parks and are declared species under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002.* Lantana is a class 3 pest plant and is one of the major threats to this area. Being a pioneer species it dominates at shrub level in disturbed areas and can change fire intensities and impact on scenic amenity. Lantana is currently limited in rainforest communities due to natural canopy cover.

Cat's claw creeper *Macfadyena unguis-cati* is also a declared class 3 pest plant and occurs in the Granite Creek area. It poses a serious threat to riverine rainforest communities and more specifically 12.12.16, where the *Macadmia jansenii* occurs. Gidarjil trainees undertake manual control of cats' claw creeper on the Boyne River and other river systems in the area.

A limited population of groundsel bush *Baccharis halimifolia* (class 2 pest plant) occurs in the area and poses a threat to the catchment if the distribution increases.

Guinea grass *Megathyrsus maximus*, grader grass *Themeda quadrivalvis* and other grass species have the ability to change fire regimes. Giant rats' tail grass *Sporobolus jacquemontii* occurs on Warro National Park and in a small area of Bulburin National Park on roadsides and can easily out-compete native species.

The impact of pest animals and the risk they pose to the natural integrity of the area is currently hard to quantify. Pigs are present in the area; this is evident from diggings sighted; however the extent of the population is largely unknown.

The distribution and population density of cattle and horses is largely unknown. The varying boundary definition of the area may increase the problem in the future.

Fire management

A fire management system has been adopted statewide by QPWS which is the primary agency for fire management on protected area estate. Fire strategies provide the overall framework and direction for fire management and are the foundation from which planned burn programs are developed. The management area currently has a Level 2 Fire Management Strategy.

The main threat in relation to fire management is inappropriate fire regimes and wildfires. A coordinated approach is required with neighbouring properties to ensure fire is managed appropriately.

Resource use

Apiculture

The Bulburin area is used by apiarists, particularly in the flowering Eucalypt communities. Current apiary permits exist for Warro National Park until the end of 2024. Apiary permits are assessed in accordance with the Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2006. Permits are issued on QPWS-managed estates and assessed by QPWS in relation to management of sensitive areas and protection of significant species, habitat and biodiversity values.

Mining and extractive industry

The Bulburin area has a long mining history and has current mining interests.

Several gravel pits are located in Rule and Norton State forests. A gravel extraction permit exists for Gladstone Regional Council under the Forestry Act. Extraction of soil or gravel can impact on the management area's natural and cultural values.

A sales permit (115698) exists over the gravel pits on Rule and Norton State forests and is managed to ensure appropriate environmental controls are in place.

Authorities

Grazing authorities exist on Bulburin and Warro national parks and Norton State Forest until their expiry in 2013–2014. Three occupation permits exist on Bulburin National Park for infrastructure and radio broadcasting purposes without NCA authorities. Authorities may be given under section 37 of the NCA for this type of infrastructure.

References

Barker M 1995 Species management profile – *Grevillea venusta* Resource Science Centre, DNR October 1995.

Department of Primary Industries 1994 Management Plan Granite Creek (State Forest 391) March 1994.

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPC) 2012 *Macadamia jansenii* in Species Profile and Threats Database, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Canberra.

Horsup A, James C & Porter G 1993 Vertebrates of dry rainforest of south and mid-western Queensland. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 34 (1):215–228.

McDonald WJF 1980 *Rainforests of Bulburin State Forest*. Report

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
Landscape The landscape is protected, particularly areas of high scenic quality or traditional or cultural significance, while allowing natural processes to continue.	A1. Ensure all activities and infrastructure in the management area is consistent with the high scenic landscape values and the relaxed, low-key amenity of the area. Activities that compromise these values, and cannot be mitigated or managed, will not be permitted. A2. Monitor the impacts from natural processes, pests, fire and recreation. Use this information to guide management decisions and amend current and future plans and strategies.
Native plants and animals Plant species and communities and animals of significance are protected and populations extended.	A3. Undertake actions from the National Recovery plan for Cycads as appropriate. A4. Investment is made into the control of lantana and other weed species in the forestry plantation area. A5. Implement research programs into species distribution and population dynamics. Incorporate new information about threatened plants, animals or communities into plans or strategies and WildNet. A6. Continue partnerships with Sunshine Coast University to increase the population of the endangered *Macadamia jansenii* population in Bulburin National Park through translocation activities. A7. Support regional and local priority actions for the recovery of *Macadamia jansenii* as outlined by DSEWPC (2012). A8. Review the Bulburin Level 2 Fire Management Strategy. A9. Incorporate measures of extreme weather risk and species vulnerability into threatened species registers and provide adaptive management strategies for those species.
Cultural heritage Traditional Owner groups have involvement in managing the national park. Sites and materials of Aboriginal or shared-history cultural significance are identified, preserved and, where appropriate, conserved.	A10. Continue to work with Traditional Owners to identify cultural connections and ensure appropriate measures are taken to protect known sites and areas, and to develop appropriate management tools for the area. A11. QPWS will continue to liaise and work with the Gidarjil Caring for Country rangers as part of the Memorandum of Understanding to undertake pest management activities, particularly for feral pigs and noxious weeds.
Tourism and visitor opportunities Visitor access and activities are environmentally and culturally appropriate and in keeping with a remote, self-reliant experience.	A12. Informal four-wheel driving and camping opportunities will be developed into marked trails with low key camping sites and complemented with multi-use trails for mountain biking and hiking.
Partnerships The effectiveness of future management is strengthened through cooperative partnerships.	A13. Continue to build relationships with the local community, organisations, visitors and interest groups to improve knowledge of the management area, and to highlight its significance to the region and gain support for park management initiatives.
Resource use Facilities in the management area are correctly authorised under the NCA. Facilities will be managed to minimise impacts on the values of the area.	A14. Ensure all private infrastructures are authorised under the NCA. A15. Powerlines and associated infrastructure is to be managed in accordance with the Code of Practice for maintaining electricity corridors in Queensland's parks and forests.

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.3.1	Gallery rainforest (notophyll vine forest) on alluvial plains	Endangered
12.3.3	*Eucalyptus tereticornis* woodland to open-forest on alluvial plains	Endangered
12.11.14	*Eucalyptus crebra, E. tereticornis* woodland on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics	Of concern
12.11.17	*Eucalyptus acmenoides* or *E. portuensis* open forest on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics	Of concern
12.12.3	*Corymbia citriodora, Eucalyptus siderophloia* or *E. crebra* or *E. decolor, E. major* and/or *E. longirostrata, E. acmenoides* or *E. portuensis* open-forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	Of concern
12.12.4	*Eucalyptus acmenoides* with or without *Syncarpia glomulifera* tall open-forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks, especially granite	Of concern
12.12.6	*Eucalyptus montivaga* tall open forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	Of concern
12.12.10	Shrubland on rocky peaks on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	Of concern
12.12.12	*Eucalyptus tereticornis, E. crebra* or *E. siderophloia, Lophostemon suaveolens* open-forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	Of concern
12.12.22	*Eucalyptus decolor, E. portuensis* or *E. acmenoides* open-forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	Of concern
12.12.28	*Eucalyptus moluccana* open forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	Of concern

Table 2: Plant 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
Acomis acoma	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Actephila bella	-	Vulnerable	-	Low
Alectryon semicinereus	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Argophyllum nullumense	silverleaf	Near threatened	-	Low
Arytera dictyoneura	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Bosistoa transversa	three-leaved bosistoa	Least concern	Vulnerable	-
Cupaniopsis shirleyana	wedge-leaf tuckeroo	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High
Cycas megacarpa	-	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
Eucalyptus decolor	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Macadamia jansenii	-	Endangered	Endangered	Low
Medicosma elliptica	-	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low

Scientific name	Common name	*Nature Conservation Act 1992* status	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* status	Back on Track status
Phyllanthus brassii	-	Vulnerable	-	Low
Phyllanthus sauropodoides	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Phyllanthus sp. (Bulburin P.I.Forster+ PIF16034)	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Rhodamnia glabrescens	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Triunia robusta	-	Endangered	Endangered	High
Xanthostemon oppositifolius	southern penda	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low

Table 3: Animal 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
Adelotus brevis	tusked frog	Vulnerable	-	Medium
Phyllurus caudiannulatus	ringed thin-tailed gecko	Vulnerable	-	Medium
Accipiter novaehollandiae	grey goshawk	Near threatened		Low
Calyptorhynchus lathami	glossy-black cockatoo	Vulnerable	-	-
Geophaps scripta scripta	squatter pigeon	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
Melithreptus gularis gularis	black-chinned honeyeater	Near threatened	-	Low
Ninox strenua	powerful owl	Vulnerable	-	Medium
Podargus ocellatus plumiferus	plumed frogmouth	Vulnerable	-	Low
Turnix melanogaster	black-breasted button-quail	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical
Tyto tenebricosa tenebricosa	sooty owl	Near threatened	-	Low
Dasyurus maculatus maculatus	spotted-tailed quoll	Vulnerable	Endangered	High
Kerivoula papuensis	golden-tipped bat	Near threatened	-	Medium
Phascolarctos cinereus	koala	Vulnerable	-	-
Potorous tridactylus tridactylus	long-nosed potoroo	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
Pteropus poliocephalus	grey-headed flying-fox	Least concern	Vulnerable	Critical
Tachyglossus aculeatus	short beaked echidna	Cultural significance	-	-
Jalmenus eubulus	pale imperial hairstreak	Vulnerable	-	Medium

Table 4: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	BONN	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
Apus pacificus	fork-tailed swift	-	ü	ü	ü
Ardea modesta	great egret	-	ü	ü	-
Ardea ibis	cattle egret	-	ü	ü	-
Hirundo rustica	barn swallow	-	ü	ü	ü
Merops ornatus	rainbow bee-eater	-	-	ü	-
Monarcha melanopsis	black-faced monarch	ü	-	-	-
Symposiarchus trivirgatus	spectacled monarch	ü	-	-	-
Myiagra cyanoleuca	satin flycatcher	ü	-	-	-
Rhipidura rufifrons	rufous fantail	ü	-	-	-
Danaus plexippus plexippus	monarch	ü	-	-	-

BONN – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement