

Cherbourg National Park and Cherbourg Conservation Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	Cherbourg National Park 995ha Cherbourg Conservation Park 580ha
Bioregion:	South Eastern Queensland
QPWS region:	South West
Local government estate/area:	South Burnett Regional Council
State electorate:	Callide

Legislative framework

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

Thematic strategies

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

Vision

The Cherbourg National Park and Cherbourg Conservation Park are managed primarily for conservation. Wherever possible the national park and conservation park will be managed together as a combined landscape, maintaining the natural integrity of the parks by restricting threatening processes.

Conservation purpose

Both parks were gazetted on 31 March 2006 under the South East Queensland Forests Agreement. There are currently no visitor facilities at either of the parks; however visitors use and pass through the conservation park on their way to Barambah Lake (Joh Bjelke-Petersen Dam). Park management will be focused primarily on conservation through the delivery of appropriate fire management and pest strategies.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Cherbourg Conservation Park is made up of non-contiguous segments that sit within sections of Wondai State Forest. A large water mass, Lake Barambah, borders the conservation park and the State forest to the east. The lake is managed by SunWater. The conservation park is easily accessed from the towns of Cherbourg and Wondai. Parcels of land in the conservation park were cleared for grazing prior to its gazettal and remain relatively open. Stock grazing permits expire in 2013. Long-term impacts from grazing are possible and require assessment.

The national park is located at the south-eastern corner of Wondai State Forest and is one continuous piece of land that is relatively secluded. The national park shares a fenced boundary to the south and west with freehold cattle properties.

In both parks the terrain is an undulating to hilly landscape of dry open forest with a shrubby understory, falling away to flatter levels adjacent to Lake Barambah. The parks have a local catchment function in filtering gullies feeding into the lake and are part of the greater Burnett catchment.

Regional ecosystems

Vegetation is typically dry sclerophyll spotted gum *Eucalyptus maculata* and ironbark forest *E. crebra* with a grassy to shrubby understory.

Fourteen regional ecosystems are documented across the parks, two of which are endangered—12.9–10.15 semi-evergreen vine scrub in the conservation park and 12.3.3 Forest Red Gum woodland in the national park. However the endangered vine scrub in the conservation park is unconfirmed. A number of the regional ecosystems, while not significant on a statewide level, are of very high regional significance.

Native plants and animals

The parks have high biodiversity value providing important habitat for species of conservation significance including the glossy black-cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami* and the red goshawk *Erythrotriorchis radiates* (Table 2). Species lists exist for Wondai State Forest, and should be referred to for the conservation park and the national park.

Threats to native plants and animals include unscheduled inappropriate fire occurrence and pest plants both of which can change the nature of the understory and therefore habitat conditions.

Aboriginal culture

There is a large Aboriginal community in Cherbourg, governed locally under Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council. The community has expressed an interest in passing on its cultural history to future generations through educational training and tours, predominantly in the State forest but potentially in the conservation park.

There are sites of Aboriginal cultural significance in the regional and surrounding areas; however none have been recorded on the parks as they have not been surveyed formally.

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

Shared-history culture

The history of the local area is one of timber harvesting and grazing. Post-settlement many hectares of native forests were cleared to make way for pastures and grazing livestock and later for timber. Some grazing infrastructure remains located on the conservation park.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The conservation park and to a lesser degree the national park offer an opportunity for individuals to traverse the land; however they are not considered destinations in themselves and there are currently no visitor facilities provided. The use of the conservation park as an access route to the adjacent Lake Barambah necessarily means that visitor use patterns are closely connected to dam water levels and the future of the water resource. Some visitor impacts are known to occur from unauthorised camping and firewood collection.

Education and science

There are no education or science programs in place currently. Local interest has been expressed in offering guided activities in the area to pass on Aboriginal culture.

Partnerships

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) engages neighbouring properties, Forestry Products Queensland, the Queensland Rural Fire Service and Burnett Mary Regional Group Murri Rangers to deliver the fire management strategy and with park neighbours to deliver the pest management strategy.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Lantana *Lantana camara* has been identified on the conservation park and national park and is being addressed through the pest management strategy, predominantly via targeted spraying. Pest animals will continue to be monitored and any observed growth in population size would trigger action in accordance with the pest management strategy.

Fire management

Fire management will be delivered according to the fire management strategy. There is a history of wildfires and the conservation park will be managed for fire hazard reduction.

Other management issues

Unauthorised stock, including horses and cattle, are present in the conservation park. Cherbourg National Park has seven authorised apiary sites of which two are currently occupied under permit.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Native plants and animals</p> <p>Ecosystem condition and species diversity are identified and maintained.</p>	<p>A1. Conduct plant and animal surveys to establish population sizes and community condition to establish baselines to monitor ecological trends and inform management.</p>
<p>Pest management</p> <p>Pest management improves the integrity of communities and species.</p>	<p>A2. Implement and review the pest management strategy.</p>
<p>Fire management</p> <p>Fire is managed to protect habitat.</p>	<p>A3. Deliver the fire management strategy to establish appropriate fire regimes and update as new information becomes available.</p>
<p>Aboriginal culture</p> <p>Traditional Owners have meaningful involvement with park management planning and direction.</p>	<p>A4. Encourage Tradition Owners to identify and document 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>Science</p> <p>Knowledge of the landscapes, ecological processes and infrastructure is increased.</p>	<p>A5. Ground truth (from existing mapping) regional ecosystems to ensure fire and pest management strategies are tailored to the regional ecosystems present.</p>
<p>Stock management</p> <p>Unauthorised stock are removed from the parks.</p>	<p>A6. Assess unauthorised stock to establish ownership and management responses.</p>

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity Status
Cherbourg Conservation Park		
12.9–10.7	<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> woodland on sedimentary rocks	Of concern
12.9–10.15	Semi-evergreen vine thicket with <i>Brachychiton rupestris</i> on sedimentary rocks	Endangered
12.9–10.18	<i>Angophora leiocarpa</i> , <i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> woodland on sedimentary rocks	Of concern
12.11.19	<i>Eucalyptus fibrosa</i> open forest on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics	Of concern
12.12.24	<i>Angophora leiocarpa</i> , <i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> woodland on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	Of concern
12.12.25	<i>Eucalyptus fibrosa</i> subsp. <i>fibrosa</i> woodland to open forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	Of concern
Cherbourg National Park		
12.3.3	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> woodland to open forest on alluvial plains	Endangered
12.9–10.3	<i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i> on sedimentary rocks	Of concern
12.9–10.7	<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> woodland on sedimentary rocks	Of concern
12.11.14	<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> , <i>E. tereticornis</i> woodland on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics	Of concern
12.11.19	<i>Eucalyptus fibrosa</i> open forest on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics	Of concern
12.12.24	<i>Angophora leiocarpa</i> , <i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> woodland on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	Of concern
12.12.25	<i>Eucalyptus fibrosa</i> subsp. <i>fibrosa</i> woodland to open forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	Of concern
12.12.28	<i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i> open forest 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
Cherbourg Conservation Park				
Animals				
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	glossy black-cockatoo	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Chalinolobus picatus</i>	little pied bat	Near threatened	-	Medium
<i>Melithreptus gularis</i>	black-chinned honeyeater	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	cotton pygmy-goose	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	koala (in South East Queensland)	Vulnerable	-	Low
Cherbourg National Park				
Animals				
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	grey goshawk	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	glossy black-cockatoo	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Chalinolobus picatus</i>	little pied bat	Near threatened	-	Medium
<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	red goshawk	Endangered	Vulnerable	High
<i>Melithreptus gularis</i>	black-chinned honeyeater	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	cotton pygmy-goose	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	koala (in South East Queensland)	Vulnerable	-	Low