

# Speewah Regional Park Management Statement

## Park purpose

Speewah Regional Park was formally gazetted as Speewah Conservation Park in 2004 under the *Nature Conservation Park 1992*.

No park specific purpose was identified as part of the gazettal.

Park size	15.179ha
Bioregion	Wet Tropics
Local government area	Mareeba Shire Council
State electorate	Barron River
QPWS region	Northern
Year prepared: 2015	Review date: 2025

## Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Speewah Regional Park has been assessed as having a medium priority for management. The park will be managed according to this priority rating.

Park management will be based on the best available local knowledge, professional judgement and anecdotal information. The medium level means that it will receive a minimum of quarterly routine inspections with occasional planned visits where issues have been identified. The focus is largely expected to be on natural resource and visitor management involving a proactive effort at a moderate level to understand, protect and present known natural values.

Cultural values will be managed proactively to protect those values known to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, (QPWS). Ongoing consultation, collaboration and relationships with Traditional Owners and Indigenous stakeholders will be undertaken as required to support broader continuing park management programs.

This park currently has relatively low levels of visitor use and provides a few relatively undeveloped visitor sites. Visitors are unlikely to encounter a ranger on site during their visit. Current and future recreational opportunities will require that visitors have a high level of self-sufficiency. A moderate level of infrastructure is provided to support safe and sustainable use by predominantly self-reliant visitors. General park information is provided off-site, primarily through the Departmental website.

Public consultation on park management will be undertaken through ongoing local consultations with community stakeholders to support broad continuing management programs.

Park assets are functional and robust and require limited maintenance to protect the natural and cultural values and management capacity.

## General park values, uses and management

### Regional ecosystems

The park protects one regional ecosystem which has a biodiversity status of no concern at present.

## Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance that are recorded from this park include the southern cassowary *Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*, Table 1.

## Cultural heritage

All protected areas are recognised as cultural landscapes and Aboriginal people see themselves as inextricably linked to country both spiritually and physically. Cultural records on physical artefacts and sites of spiritual significance are documented for this area. All proposed activities need to meet duty of care requirements under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*. Non-indigenous historic places will be managed in accordance with the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

## Priorities for park management

The bird species of conservation significance is the main value of this park. The priorities for park management will be to mitigate any threats to the southern cassowary through fire and pest management.

Management actions will be undertaken which aim to ensure:

- life and property on and adjacent to the park is protected
- fire is managed to conserve or maintain the condition of the regional ecosystems through the application of planned burn guidelines
- the impacts of existing pest species on neighbouring land uses are mitigated
- pest threats are managed to conserve or maintain the condition of regional ecosystems and animal species of conservation significance.

## Appendix 1

### Conservation values inventory

Table 1: 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
Animals				
<i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> (southern population)	southern cassowary (southern population)	Endangered	Endangered	Critical