

Blackwater Regional Park Management Statement

Park purpose

Blackwater Regional Park was formally gazetted as Blackwater Environmental Park in 1976 under the *Land Act 1962*. At that time there was a Trustee Agreement with the Duaringa Shire Council. In 1994 the environmental park was gazetted to Blackwater Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

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

Park size	35ha
Bioregion	Brigalow Belt
Local government area	Central Highlands Regional Council
State electorate	Gregory
QPWS region	Central
Year prepared: 2015	Review date: 2025

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Blackwater Regional Park has been assessed as having a basic 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 basic level means that it will receive an annual routine inspection with occasional planned visits where issues have been identified. The focus is largely expected to be on natural resource management involving proactive management to understand or protect 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. 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 and are primarily responsible for their own personal safety.

Informal ad-hoc consultation with community stakeholders will be undertaken on specific issues of park management.

Park assets will consist of minimal robust infrastructure which is required for the protection of natural and cultural values and self-reliant use by the public.

General park values, uses and management

Regional ecosystems

The park protects five regional ecosystems two of which have a biodiversity status of endangered and three have of concern status, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance that are recorded from this park include the golden-tailed gecko *Strophurus taenicauda*, Table 2.

Cultural heritage

All protected areas are recognised as cultural landscapes and Aboriginal people see themselves as inextricably linked to country both spiritually and physically. Although cultural records on physical artefacts and sites of spiritual significance are not well 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 five regional ecosystems and golden-tailed gecko are the main values of this park. The priorities for park management will be to mitigate any threats to these values 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 ecosystem through the application of State-wide 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: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
11.3.3	<i>Eucalyptus coolabah</i> woodland on alluvial plains.	Of concern
11.3.3c	Palustrine wetland (e.g. vegetated swamp). <i>Eucalyptus coolabah</i> woodland to open woodland (to scattered trees) with a sedge or grass understorey in back swamps and old channels. The ground layer is dominated by a range of sedge or grass species depending on hydrological regime, soil and management conditions. Occurs in flooded back swamps and old channels on Cainozoic alluvial plains or levees. Generally clay or sometimes texture contrast soils.	Of concern
11.3.25	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> or <i>E. camaldulensis</i> woodland fringing drainage lines.	Of concern
11.4.9	<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> shrubby woodland with <i>Terminalia oblongata</i> on Cainozoic clay plains.	Endangered
11.9.1	<i>Acacia harpophylla-Eucalyptus cambageana</i> woodland to open forest on fine-grained sedimentary rocks.	Endangered

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
Animals				
<i>Strophurus taenicauda</i>	golden-tailed gecko	Near threatened	-	Medium