

Maroochy Wetlands Regional Park Management Statement

Park purpose

Maroochy Wetlands Regional Park was formally gazetted as Maroochy Wetlands Conservation Park in 2003 under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

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

Park size	65.6ha
Bioregion	South East Queensland
Local government area	Sunshine Coast Regional
State electorate	Nicklin
QPWS region	Sunshine and Fraser Coast
Year prepared: 2015	Review date: 2025

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Maroochy Wetlands Regional Park has been assessed as having a basic level of priority for management and 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 priority means it will receive annual routine inspections 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 and protect known natural values.

Cultural values will be managed proactively to protect those values known to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, (QPWS). Informal ad-hoc local consultation, collaboration and relationships with Traditional Owners and Indigenous stakeholders will be undertaken as required to progress specific issues and programs.

This park currently has low levels of infrequent 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 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

Maroochy Wetlands Regional Park has five regional ecosystems, one of which has endangered biodiversity status and two are of concern, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

One species of conservation significance, the vulnerable water mouse *Xeromys myoides*, has been recorded from this park, 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*.

The park is within an area of past use by South Sea Islanders and their descendants.

Marine protected areas

Maroochy Wetlands Regional Park is located within the Maroochy River declared FHA (management A area), which significantly constrain development activities. This declaration under the *Fisheries Act 1994* requires that activities on the regional park must consider potential impacts on the FHA. Approval is required before development can commence, unless authorised under a self-assessable code. Development works may include on-park activities such as construction of boardwalks and bird hides.

Priorities for park management

The three regional ecosystems and the water mouse 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 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 these regional ecosystems and the animal species of conservation significance
- consideration of the impacts on the declared FHA is undertaken when planning and conducting fire or pest management activities on the park in accordance with the FHA code of practice.

Appendix 1

Conservation values inventory

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.1.1	<i>Casuarina glauca</i> woodland on margins of marine clay plains.	Endangered
12.3.5a	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> open forest on coastal alluvium.	Of concern
12.9-10.1	Tall open forest often with <i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i> , <i>E. grandis</i> , <i>E. robusta</i> , <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> on sedimentary 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
Animals				
<i>Xeromys myoides</i>	water mouse	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High