

Mudlo National Park Management Statement 2013

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| Park size: | 2,192ha |
| Bioregion: | South Eastern Queensland |
| QPWS region: | Sunshine and Fraser Coast |
| Local government estate/area: | North Burnett Regional Council Fraser Coast Regional Council |
| State electorate: | Maryborough |

Legislative framework

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

Plans and agreements

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|---|--|
| ✓ | Bonn Convention |
| ✓ | Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA) |

Thematic strategies

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| ✓ | Level 2 Fire Management Strategy |
| ✓ | Level 2 Pest Management Strategy |

Vision

Mudlo National Park continues to conserve its high biodiversity values and provides for nature-based recreational activities.

Conservation purpose

Kilkivan Forest Reserve was gazetted as Mudlo National Park in 2007, having been previously Kilkivan State Forest until 2000. Locally known as Mudlo Gap, the original parcel of land was subject to logging for hoop pine *Araucaria cunninghamii*. Hoop pine vine forest once covered many of the coastal ranges in the Lower Burnett Valley. The national park protects one of the area's few remaining stands of native hoop pine vine forest.

The park will be managed to conserve its high biodiversity values including the 'of concern' regional ecosystems. It offers opportunities for low impact recreation for self-reliant visitors in a semi-rural area with limited alternative natural areas for recreation.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Mudlo National Park is located 8.5km north-west of Kilkivan, 1km south of Grongah National Park. Kilkivan's main industries are mixed mineral mining and agriculture. The township of Kilkivan underwent a rapid expansion from 1868 to 1900 after gold was discovered in the surrounding area. After gold deposits were depleted, the area developed its mineral mining and agriculture.

Located in the higher parts of the Mary River Catchment, the Mudlo area is hilly country intersected by numerous small ranges and ravines. While large areas of the landscape have been cleared into grasslands for beef cattle, dense belts of native vegetation still remain.

Regional ecosystems

Twelve regional ecosystems have been identified in the park including six of concern ecosystems (Table 1).

Native plants and animals

The small endangered shrub *Plectranthus omissus* grows on rock outcrops in eucalypt open forest and adjacent to vine forest. The species is listed as endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and is only known to occur in four places from Gympie to Gayndah. The main threats to *P. omissus* is competition from introduced weeds including lantana *Lantana camara* and billy goat weed *Ageratum houstonianum*, as well as inappropriate fire regimes and increasing public access.

Many species of wildlife can be observed at the park, including whiptail wallabies *Macropus parryi*, brush-turkeys *Alectura lathamii* and wonga pigeons *Leucosarcia picata*. The vulnerable plumed frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus plumiferus* has been recorded on the park along with the grey headed flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus* which is listed as vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. A number of bird species listed under international agreements have been recorded on the park (Table 2).

Hoop pines and occasional bunya pines emerge from the forest canopy. Many plants here are close to the limit of their normal range. Open eucalypt woodlands with ironbarks and forest red gums grow on more exposed slopes and foothills.

Aboriginal culture

The park is covered by a native title claim QC2013/003 on behalf of the Kabi Kabi First Nation. The area holds high importance to Aboriginal people and there are many sites of Aboriginal cultural importance across the region. The park has not been formally assessed for Aboriginal cultural heritage values but artefact scatters, scarred trees and burial sites have been found in the surrounding region.

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

Shared-history culture

Mudlo was a once a timber-getting area and nearby gold reefs later attracted copper and gold miners to Kilkivan in the late nineteenth century.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The short scenic drive from Kilkivan to Scrubby Creek and on to Mudlo National Park offers views of surrounding forests and grazing land. In the national park, visitors can explore the hoop pine vine forest along two walking tracks—Mudlo Gap track (4km return), a steep track to a lookout with views over farmland south to Kilkivan; and Scrubby Creek circuit (1km circuit), which loops through the vine forest along Scrubby Creek.

There are also facilities provided for picnicking and wildlife viewing opportunities. Picnic tables, a picnic shelter, toilets and a barbecue are provided at the Mudlo Gap day-use area.

Education and science

The Mudlo National Park vegetation is representative of the Araucaria forests which once covered the area and supports several endangered and vulnerable species, offering opportunities for both education and scientific research.

Partnerships

Regular liaison is maintained with neighbours and organisations with shared interests in park management. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) regularly works with Gympie Regional Council and volunteer organisations in the management of fire and pests across tenures in the Gympie area.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

The park has a current Level 2 pest management strategy. The main weed concerns include Lantana *Lantana camara*, giant rat's tail grass *Sporobolus natalensis*, cat's claw creeper *Macfadyena unguis-cati*, creeping lantana *Lantana montevidensis*, cotton bush *Maireana aphylla*, billygoat weed *Ageratum conyzoides*, Brazilian nightshade *Solanum seafortianum*, black nightshade *Solanum americanum*, prickly pear and tree pear *Opuntia* spp. and corky passion fruit *Passiflora suberosa*. Biological control measures have been used effectively on lantana, cat's claw creeper and the pear species. Giant rat's tail grass and cat's claw creeper are sprayed or removed manually and lantana is sprayed only.

Foxes *Vulpes vulpes*, cats *Felis catus*, pigs *Sus scrofa*, horses *Equus caballus*, hares, cane toads *Rhinella marina*, red deer *Cervus elaphus*, rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* and wild dogs *Canis lupus familiaris* are present in the park. Trapping and joint baiting with neighbours have been used for control of foxes, pigs and wild dogs.

Due to the nature of the terrain, it is not practical for neighbouring landholders to construct fences to contain grazing stock and cattle sometimes stray onto park.

Fire management

A current Level 2 fire management strategy is approved and guides fire management and the maintenance of fire infrastructure.

Scrubby Creek runs through the park, providing water points at several locations. Neighbouring rural properties also have accessible dams, which can also be used for fire suppression operations.

The Araucarian complex microphyll to notophyll vine forest (12.11.10) within the park should not be burnt deliberately and may require active protection during wildfire season. Fire mitigation may be achieved by an appropriate fire regime in surrounding areas. Any prescribed burns adjacent to the vine forest should not be allowed to run into the ecosystem.

There is a history of wildfires escaping from neighbouring properties and encroaching on estate. Due to steep and difficult terrain, there is limited fire management infrastructure in the park and no fire breaks exist on the eastern boundary edge.

Management directions

| Desired outcomes | Actions and guidelines |
|---|---|
| <p>Landscape</p> <p>Catchment protection services are maintained.</p> | A1. Monitor changes in vegetation structure to identify potential erosion issues and mitigate impacts. |
| <p>Native plants and animals</p> <p>Information on plant, animal and ecosystems is comprehensive and current.</p> | <p>A2. Review currency of species records and conduct surveys where needed to inform management decisions.</p> <p>A3. Review mapping of regional ecosystems and facilitate improvements to mapping refinements where needed.</p> |
| <p>Cultural heritage</p> <p>Traditional Owners have meaningful involvement with park management planning and direction.</p> <p>Shared-history cultural values are identified and protected</p> | <p>A4. Encourage Traditional 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>A5. Encourage and support an assessment of the shared-history cultural values of the park.</p> |
| <p>Tourism and visitor opportunities</p> <p>The park retains its natural state to cater for self-reliant visitor use.</p> | <p>A6. Manage visitor use with the following intent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restrict unauthorised vehicle access • maintain infrastructure in keeping with the retention of the landscape setting of the park. |
| <p>Pest management</p> <p>Impacts from pests and cattle grazing on the park are managed effectively.</p> | <p>A7. Monitor the impacts from weeds and changes to vegetation structure.</p> <p>A8. Work with neighbours to mitigate the impact of encroaching grazing stock.</p> |
| <p>Fire management</p> <p>Fire management practices conserve biodiversity values while protecting life and property.</p> | <p>A9. Manage the park in accordance with the Level 2 fire management strategy.</p> <p>A10. Protect the microphyll/notophyll vine forest in fire events.</p> <p>A11. Maintain positive relationships with neighbouring landholders to promote cooperative fire management.</p> |

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

| Regional ecosystem | Description | Biodiversity status |
|--------------------|--|---------------------|
| 12.11.8 | <i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i> , <i>E. crebra</i> woodland on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics | Of concern |
| 12.11.12 | Araucarian complex microphyll vine forest on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics; usually northern half of bioregion | Of concern |
| 12.11.14 | <i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> , <i>E. tereticornis</i> woodland on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics | Of concern |
| 12.12.8 | <i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i> woodland on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks | Of concern |
| 12.12.12 | <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> , <i>E. crebra</i> or <i>E. siderophloia</i> , <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest on granite | Of concern |
| 12.12.24 | Angophora leiocarpa, <i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> woodland 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 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Plants | | | | |
| <i>Plectranthus omissus</i> | | | | |
| Animals | | | | |
| <i>Podatgus ocellatus plumiferus</i> | plumed frogmouth | Vulnerable | - | Low |
| <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i> | grey-headed flying-fox | Least concern | Vulnerable | Critical |

Table 2: Species listed in international agreements

| Scientific name | Common name | BONN | CAMBA | JAMBA | ROKAMBA |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|------|-------|-------|---------|
| <i>Coracina tenuirostris</i> | cicadabird | - | - | ✓ | - |
| <i>Merops ornatus</i> | rainbow bee-eater | - | - | ✓ | - |
| <i>Monarcha melanopsis</i> | black-faced monarch | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i> | rufous fantail | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i> | spectacled monarch | ✓ | - | - | - |

BONN – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement