

# Wrattens National Park (northern section), Wrattens Conservation Park and Wrattens Resources Reserve Management Statement 2013

Park size:	20,934.97ha national park (nth) 4,056.34ha resources reserve 28.22ha conservation park
Bioregion:	South Eastern Queensland
QPWS region:	Sunshine and Fraser Coast
Local government estate/area:	Gympie Regional Council
State electorate:	Callide

## Legislative framework

a	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth)
a	<i>Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Regulation 2002</i>
a	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>
a	<i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>

## Plans and agreements

a	China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
a	Bonn Convention
a	Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
a	Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

## Thematic strategies

a	Level 2 Fire Management Strategy
a	Level 2 Pest Management Strategy
a	Regional Visitor Strategy

## Vision

Wrattens National Park and Wrattens Resources Reserve will be managed to protect their high scenic, cultural heritage and natural values, in particular the conservation significant species that exist there through minimising the impacts of fire and pest species. Wrattens Conservation Park will be managed for education and research opportunities. The combined parks will continue to provide visitors with opportunities to enjoy bushwalking and four-wheel driving along designated roads and tracks. The national park will continue to provide horse riders opportunities to ride along sections of the Australian Bicentennial National Trail.

Apiculture and grazing uses will continue while leases remain valid.

## Conservation purpose

As part of the South East Queensland Forests Agreement (SEQFA) process, Wrattens National Park, Wrattens Conservation Park and Wrattens Resources Reserve were gazetted in June 2009. The gazettal amalgamated four forest reserves—Wrattens, Kandanga, Elgin and Yabba 2 allowing for a greater representative area of significant elevated ecosystems within protected areas.

This management statement covers the northern section of the Wrattens National Park, Wrattens Conservation Park and Wrattens Resources Reserve.

The combined estates contain and protect 11 of concern regional ecosystems, 30 significant fauna species and many Aboriginal and shared-history cultural sites.

Protection of the significant values of these areas centres on the management of threats both internally and externally to the parks. Appropriate fire regimes for vegetation communities and the protection of riparian scrub from severe wildfire will be managed in accordance with the existing fire management strategy.

## Protecting and presenting the park's values

### Landscape

Wrattens encompasses three catchments—the Burnett, Mary and Brisbane River catchments—with remnant vegetation corridors extending from Goodnight Scrub National Park in the north, to Brisbane in the south.

The protected areas conserve high scenic values, with the ranges providing picturesque viewpoints that are used as observation points. These include Mount Mia, South Station, Gympie West and Coolamon.

Previous selective hardwood logging practices over the estate has had minimal impact on the parks due to the difficulty accessing the timber in the steep terrain. Some areas were left completely intact; one such area is the previously named 'Feature Protection Area 50' that contains stands of old age blackbutt *Eucalyptus pilularis*.

Mining is part of the landscape, with test sites still visible over the estate as proof of exploration for nickel and gold deposits. Main thoroughfares were built and/or maintained for mining, creating wide breaks that benefit current fire management.

Plantation timber and grazing are the dominant neighbouring land uses in this region. Plantations are currently managed by HQ Plantations and are economically significant to the area. Although Wrattens is part of a wider vegetative corridor, neighbouring land has been greatly impacted on by complete or partial clearing.

### Regional ecosystems

The vegetation consists predominantly of eucalyptus open forest and grassy woodlands with notophyll vine scrub and areas with xanthorrhoea.

The combined estate has 26 different regional ecosystems present with 11 being of concern (Table 1). The most dominant regional ecosystems are 12.11.14, 12.12.12 and 12.11.15.

Giant ironwood *Choricarpia subargentea* communities (generally associated with regional ecosystems 12.11.10 and 12.12.16) and the Feature Protection Area 50 require attention to maintain their natural integrity.

### Native plants and animals

The parks provide habitat for many species of conservation significance including 12 listed as near threatened, nine vulnerable and one endangered under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. Seven birds that are listed under international agreements have also been recorded for the Wrattens protected areas (tables 2 and 3).

The near threatened giant ironwood *Choricarpia subargentea* is a species of significance that requires special management. Generally the giant ironwoods exist as part of scrubby vegetation communities that naturally have a low ground fuel level. To minimise disturbance to these areas, care needs to be taken in managing impacts of fire, for example, weed species can alter ground cover fuel loads, allowing for fire to carry which could then threaten this fire sensitive species.

Preservation of vegetation communities which include yellow box *Eucalyptus melliodora* is of local significance as Wrattens National Park is an area of interest to apiarists.

Other species of significance include *Acomis acoma* and milk vine *Marsdenia coronata*. Milk vine is generally found on the fringes of rainforests and can be susceptible to fire. Disturbance by pests and fire to communities with *Acomis acoma* needs to be kept to a minimum.

Significant fauna including koalas *Phascolarctos cinereus*, glossy-black cockatoos *Calyptorhynchus lathami*, black-breasted button-quails *Turnix melanogaster* and spotted-tailed quolls *Dasyurus maculatus* have been recorded. Suitable habitat for the endangered eastern bristlebird *Dasyornis brachypterus* has been identified, but no species sightings have been recorded.

## Aboriginal culture

The northern and eastern sections of the parks are covered by a native title claim (claim no: QC2013/003) on behalf of the Kabi Kabi First Nation, while the southern sections are covered by a native title claim (claim no: QC2012/004) on behalf of the Wakka Wakka people #5. The Sunshine and Fraser Coast area holds high importance to Aboriginal people and there are many sites of Aboriginal significance across the region. Site records in the surrounding region include Aboriginal burials, middens and canoe trees but no sites have been recorded for the park as it has never been formally surveyed.

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

## Shared-history culture

Wrattens has a rich history of timber getting and grazing with numerous sites such as huts, observation points, nursery sites, camps/barracks and sawmills located within the parks.

Mining has also been part of the history in the area, with test sites still visible over the estate as proof of exploration for nickel and gold deposits. Main thoroughfares were built and/or maintained for mining, creating wide breaks that today benefit fire management.

## Tourism and visitor opportunities

Wrattens is considered a low-key explorer park with no visitor infrastructure currently provided. It is also a good location for low impact four-wheel-drive touring. The majority of visitors to the parks are locals who drive the parks roads and tracks in four-wheel-drive vehicles or motorbikes.

The Australian Bicentennial National Trail (BNT) is a 5,330km self-reliant multi-use route through bush, wilderness and mountain areas. It is suitable for horse riders, walkers and mountain bike riders. A section of the BNT travels through Wrattens National Park and is located along existing road reserve.

## Science and education

Wrattens Conservation Park is home to the Barambah Environmental Education Centre which is managed by Education Queensland for research and education purposes. The centre is situated 50km west of Gympie.

## Partnerships

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) work in partnership with neighbours, HQ Plantations and Gympie Regional Council in managing fire and pests across the whole landscape.

Protection of the natural values of the park is improved through maintaining and promoting these partnerships.

## Other key issues and responses

### Pest management

The parks have a current Level 2 Pest Management Strategy covering the Wrattens aggregation. Giant rats tail grass *Sporobolus pyramidalis* infestation along Sterling Road has been identified and managed with the aim to contain its spread.

Corky passion vine *Passiflora suberosa* is currently found within the feature protection area and either side of Coolamon and Black Snake Road. Spraying has been undertaken in the past but further attention is required due to its aggressive nature.

A cooperative wild dog management program is in place with the Gympie Regional Council and other stakeholders with the aim to minimise impacts on the natural environment by wild dogs.

Stray cattle grazing in the park promotes weed growth, in particular giant rat's tail grass which is a significant issue.

## Fire management

A Level 2 Fire Management Strategy is current for Wrattens National Park, Wrattens Conservation Park and Wrattens Resources Reserve.

Fire frequency has increased in parts of Wrattens National Park due to an increasing number of fires originating off park. Fire management can be difficult due to the isolated nature of parts of Wrattens National Park, particularly around Mount Groggy. In this location the area is also very steep making the boundary difficult to protect from fire originating beyond the park boundary.

Historically, arson has resulted in high intensity fires in the area west of Black Snake Road.

Fire will be managed in accordance with the Wrattens Fire Management Strategy, taking into consideration the different forest types and fire regimes, with the aim of preventing wild fire and maintaining the parks ecological integrity.

## Other issues

Mining is not currently occurring but permits for this use still exist. If mining activities are re-established, an increase in vehicles and access may lead to impacts on Wrattens Kandanga Road, Black Snake Road and a short section of Coolamon Road.

## References

Burnett, S and Zwar, A, 2009, Quolls (*Dasyurus maculatus* and *D. hallucatus*) in the southern Mary River catchment, south-east Queensland. Reported by University of the Sunshine Coast to Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland

## Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p><b>Native plants and animals</b></p> <p>Knowledge of the biodiversity values is enhanced and applied to management practices.</p>	<p>A1. Conduct flora and fauna surveys in open forest and vine forest and use information to develop adaptive management programs.</p> <p>A2. Ensure any mining interests do not compromise the integrity of the parks.</p>
<p><b>Aboriginal culture</b></p> <p>Traditional Owners have meaningful involvement with park management planning and direction.</p>	<p>A3. 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><b>Partnerships</b></p> <p>Neighbouring land owners contribute to improved management outcomes.</p>	<p>A4. Work cooperatively with neighbours, local governments and local communities in joint programs to improve landscape connectivity and enhance fire and pest management across the broader landscape.</p>
<p><b>Pest management</b></p> <p>Pest are managed to reduce their impacts on park values.</p>	<p>A5. Follow the guidelines outlined in the Level 2 Pest Management Strategy for the protected area.</p>
<p><b>Fire management</b></p> <p>Fire is managed to protect life and property and the biodiversity value of the park.</p>	<p>A6. Follow the fire management guidelines outlined in the fire management strategy for the protected area.</p>

## Tables – Conservation values management

**Table 1: Of concern regional ecosystems**

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.8.13	Araucarian complex microphyll vine forest on Cainozoic igneous rocks Habitat for rare and threatened flora species including <i>Alectryon ramiflorus</i> , <i>Cossinia australiana</i> , <i>Phyllanthus sauropodoides</i> , <i>Sarcophilus dilatatus</i> and <i>S. weinthalii</i> .	Of concern
12.11.8	<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i> , <i>E. crebra</i> woodland on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics	Of concern
12.11.9	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics. Usually higher altitudes	Of concern
12.11.14	<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> , <i>E. tereticornis</i> woodland on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics	Of concern
12.11.15	Woodland with <i>Xanthorrhoea</i> sp. on serpentinite	Of concern
12.12.1	Simple notophyll vine forest usually with abundant <i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i> (gully vine forest) on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks Habitat for rare and threatened flora species including <i>Austromyrtus inophloia</i> .	Of concern
12.12.6	<i>Eucalyptus montivaga</i> tall open forest on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	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	<i>Angophora leiocarpa</i> , <i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> woodland 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
<b>Plants</b>				
<i>Acomis acoma</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Choricarpia subargentea</i>	giant ironwood	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Macrozamia longispina</i>	Cycad sp.	Near threatened	-	Critical
<i>Marsdenia coronata</i>	slender milkvine	Near threatened	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Nothoalsomitra suberosa</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 status	Back on Track status
<b>Animals</b>				
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (South East Queensland bioregion)	koala	Vulnerable	-	-
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	glossy black-cockatoo	Vulnerable	-	-
<i>Turnix melanogaster</i>	black-breasted button-quail	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical
<i>Litoria pearsoniana</i>	cascade treefrog	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Adelotus brevis</i>	tusked frog	Vulnerable	-	Medium
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	grey goshawk	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	red goshawk	Endangered	Vulnerable	High
<i>Climacteris erythroptis</i>	red-browed treecreeper	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i>	squatter pigeon (southern subsp)	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
<i>Podargus ocellatus plumiferus</i>	plumed frogmouth	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Lewinia pectoralis</i>	Lewin's rail	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	powerful owl	Vulnerable	-	Medium
<i>Tyto tenebricosa tenebricosa</i>	sooty owl	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i>	spotted-tailed quoll (southern subspecies)	Vulnerable	Endangered	High
<i>Kerivoula papuensis</i>	golden-tipped bat	Near threatened	-	Medium
<i>Acanthophis antarcticus</i>	common death adder	Near threatened	-	Medium
<i>Erotoscincus graciloides</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Medium

**Table 3: Bird species listed in international agreements**

Family	Scientific name	Common name	BONN	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
Apodidae	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	white-throated needletail	-	Ü	Ü	Ü
Campephagidae	<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	cidabird	-	-	Ü	-
Meropidae	<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater	-	-	Ü	--
Monarchidae	<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	black-faced monarch	Ü	-	-	-
Monarchidae	<i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i>	spectacled monarch	Ü	-	-	-

Family	Scientific name	Common name	BONN	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
Rhipiduridae	<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	Ü	-	-	-
Threskiornithidae	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	glossy ibis	Ü	Ü	-	-

Bonn – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement