

Glastonbury National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	531.1ha
Bioregion:	South Eastern Queensland
QPWS region:	Sunshine and Fraser Coast
Local government estate/area:	Gympie Regional Council
State electorate:	Callide

Legislative framework

✓	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>
✓	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990</i>
✓	<i>Forestry Act 1959</i>
✓	<i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>

Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 Fire Management Strategy
✓	Level 2 Pest Management Strategy

Vision

Glastonbury National Park will be managed to conserve its high biodiversity values including threatened regional ecosystems, plants and animals. Low impact recreation activities by self-reliant visitors will continue in this semi-rural park.

Conservation purpose

Glastonbury National Park was gazetted as a part of the South East Queensland Forests Agreement process in 2001. It has high local and regional values due to its location in the Gympie area which has had a long history of resource use from gold mining and logging, to beef cattle and dairy farming. It provides protection to remnant areas of natural habitat once typical across the Gympie area. Over 80 per cent of the park is considered of state biodiversity significance (BPA 2006). Two of concern regional ecosystems and representation of seven other regional ecosystems occur on the park. Fourteen plant species are at the southern limits of their distributions and 12 others at the northern limit.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Glastonbury National Park is located within the Mary River catchment and consists of two parcels of land. The western section of the estate is approximately 20km south-west of the township of Gympie. This is bordered by Forest Plantations Queensland Pty Ltd (FPQ) Mary's Creek State Forest to the south and private land to the west. Glastonbury Forest Reserve bounds the northern side of the park.

The eastern portion of the reserve is approximately 13 km south-west of the township of Gympie and is also bounded by FPQ in Mary's Creek State Forest to the west and private land on the other three sides.

Regional ecosystems

Ten regional ecosystems (REs) exist on the estate. Over half of the eastern section is covered by the of concern RE 12.11.14 *Eucalyptus crebra*, *E. tereticornis* woodland on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics, and in total covers around 17 per cent of the park. The western section of the park has a small occurrence of RE 12.12.12 *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *E. crebra* or *E. siderophloia*, *Lophostemon suaveolens* open forest on granite which is also of concern. The eight remaining REs are not of concern but potentially provide habitat for significant species (Table 1).

Native plants and animals

No detailed species list exists for the national park. Previous records have been collected for the adjoining Mary's Creek State Forest but future studies are required to ascertain accurate information. State forest records suggest 162 fauna and 60 flora species have been recorded, 10 of which are species of conservation significance (Table 2). It is vital to undertake comprehensive plant and animal surveys across the national park so management actions can be tailored to protect populations and mitigate any threats.

The near threatened elf skink *Eroticoscincus graciloides* which is endemic to South East Queensland was recorded in the vine forest of the State forest which has now become national park. Further reptile surveys should be undertaken to determine its current habitat and any threatening processes.

Aboriginal culture

The park is covered by a native title claim QC2013/003 on behalf of the Kabi Kabi First Nation. The Sunshine and Fraser Coast area holds high importance to Aboriginal people and there are many sites of Aboriginal cultural importance across the region. Site records in the surrounding area include Aboriginal burials, middens and canoe trees but none 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.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

Visitor opportunities on the national park consist mainly of bushwalking opportunities. Visitor numbers are low as access is limited and visitors need to be self-reliant as no facilities are currently provided. Some four-wheel-drive vehicle and trail bike enthusiasts are attracted by the semi-remote ruggedness of the landscape. However, access to the Mount Warrawee section is from private property and access to the eastern section is limited due to steep terrain and no internal roads.

The management intent is to retain the natural condition of the park for the use of self-reliant visitors.

Other recreation opportunities in the surrounding area are mountain biking, rockclimbing, bird watching and camping in the nearby Brooyar State Forest.

Partnerships

Cooperative partnerships are maintained with neighbours and rural fire authorities regarding shared issues such as fire, pest and infrastructure management.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Cooperative baiting of wild dogs occurs in conjunction with syndicate baiting as required, however impacts on other feral animal populations are not as well known. Feral pigs *Sus scrofa*, red deer *Cervus elaphus*, cats *Felis catus* and foxes *Vulpes vulpes* are known to be in the national park. They are considered to be in low densities but their populations and the impact are largely unknown.

Impacts of pest plants are minimal with the main species being groundsel *Baccharis halimifolia*, lantana *Lantana camara*, silver-leaf desmodium *Desmodium uncinatum*, camphor laurel *Camphor camphora*, weedy sporobolus grasses, mistflower *Eupatorium riparium*, castor oil plant *Ricinus communis* and cat's claw creeper *Macfadyena unguis-cati*.

A current Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) Level 2 Pest Management Strategy exists for Glastonbury National Park and includes the State forest.

Fire management

The vine forest communities are fire intolerant and the majority of the vegetation in the national park is sensitive to fire, thus care must be taken to avoid fire management practices that put them at risk. Careful fire management, including prudent planned burning intervals and wild fire exclusion is required for this area.

A current QPWS Level 2 Fire Management Strategy (Amamoor Aggregation) covers Glastonbury National Park.

References

Czechura, G.V. (1976) (1981) *The Rare Scincid lizard, Nannoscincus graciloides: a reappraisal. Journal of Herpetology* 15(3):315–320.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Native plants and animals</p> <p>The biodiversity of threatened species is maintained.</p> <p>Grazing, fire and pest plants do not impact on the ecological values of the park.</p>	<p>A1. Undertake plant and animal surveys on the park to increase knowledge and direct better species management programs.</p> <p>A2. Work cooperatively with graziers to develop specific management strategies for these areas, addressing fire and pest plant issues and management of boundaries.</p>
<p>Cultural heritage</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>Tourism and visitor opportunities</p> <p>Visitor use on the park is considered as part of a broader landscape approach to recreation provision.</p>	<p>A4. Maintain tracks as limited access for management purposes only.</p> <p>A5. Consider the visitor opportunities in relation to other protected areas in the vicinity.</p>

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.11.14	<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> , <i>E. tereticornis</i> woodland on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics	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 Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks	Of concern

Table 2: Species recorded in the adjacent Mary Creek State Forest which are of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 status	Back on Track status
<i>Adelotus brevis</i>	tusked frog	Vulnerable	-	Medium
<i>Erythroriorchis radiatus</i>	red goshawk	Endangered	Vulnerable	High
<i>Turnix melanogaster</i>	black-breasted button-quail	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	grey goshawk	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Erotoscincus graciloides</i>	elf skink	Near threatened	-	-
<i>Bosistoa transversa</i>	three-leaved bosistoa	Least concern	Vulnerable	-
<i>Choricarpia subargentea</i>	giant ironwood	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Cupaniopsis shirleyana</i>	wedge-leaf tuckeroo	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High
<i>Floydia praealta</i>	ball nut	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	-
<i>Fontainea venosa</i>	-	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Macadamia integrifolia</i>	macadamia nut	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium