

Stones Country Regional Park Management Statement

Park purpose

Stones Country Regional Park was formally gazetted as Stones Country Resources Reserve on 24 February 1990.

The park purpose was identified as part of the gazettal as enabling access to coal and coal seam gas reserves while providing protection for the Fitzroy River catchment.

This regional park is declared as a resource use area to enable access to mineral resources to continue. Under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, the park is managed by joint trustees, the Chief Executive of NPSR and the Chief Executive of Mines.

Park size	260ha
Bioregion	Brigalow Belt
Local government area	Western Downs Regional Council
State electorate	Callide
QPWS region	South West
Year prepared: 2015	Review date: 2025

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Stones Country 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 and mineral 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

Stones Country Regional Park protects seven regional ecosystems, one of which has endangered biodiversity status and one is of concern, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance recorded from this park include four plant, two bird and one reptile species, 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*.

Resource Use

The resource interest in this parcel is based on coal, coal seam gas and petroleum exploration. Bentonite occurs in the area and may occur on the reserve.

Priorities for park management

The two regional ecosystems, four plant species and three animal species of conservation significance 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 regional ecosystems, plant 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
11.7.1	<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> and/or <i>Casuarina cristata</i> and <i>Eucalyptus thozetiana</i> or <i>E. microcarpa</i> woodland on lower scarp slopes on Cainozoic lateritic duricrust	Of concern
11.9.4a	Semi-evergreen vine thicket. Occurs on crests, mid-slopes, undulating plains and rises formed from fine-grained sediments. Generally dominated by a low tree layer (5-10m high) which is floristically diverse and variable.	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
Plants				
<i>Acacia curranii</i>	curly-bark wattle	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Cadellia pentastylis</i>	ooline	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical
<i>Calytrix gurulmundensis</i>	yellow calytrix	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Micromyrtus carinata</i>	Gurumundi heath-myrtle	Endangered	-	Low

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Animals				
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	glossy black-cockatoo	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Merops ornatus</i> ³	rainbow bee-eater	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Strophurus taenicauda</i>	golden-tailed gecko	Near Threatened	-	Medium

¹Bonn: Bonn Convention

³JAMBA: Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

²CAMBA: China-Australia Migratory Agreement

⁴ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement