

Woroon National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	553ha
Bioregion:	South Eastern Queensland
QPWS region:	South West
Local government estate/area:	South Burnett 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>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>

Plans and agreements

✓	Bonn Convention
✓	Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	National recovery plan for the black-breasted button-quail <i>Turnix melanogaster</i>

Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 fire management strategy
✓	Level 2 pest management strategy

Vision

Woroon National Park will be managed to conserve the natural and scientific values of the park by maintaining its natural processes and high species richness. It will be preserved by limiting threatening processes such as invasive pests and inappropriate burning practices.

Conservation purpose

The Burnett region was opened up for agriculture in the mid-19th century and vast areas of forest and woodland were cleared for pasture lands. Dry vine forest and thicket communities, in particular, were heavily cleared.

A 57 hectare (ha) remnant of semi-evergreen vine thicket in the Woroon State Forest (SF254) was declared a scientific area (SA70) under the Forestry Regulation in 1996.

Under the South East Queensland Forests Agreement, Lot B of SF254 became forest reserve in 2000 and in 2006 was gazetted to national park.

Woroon National Park was gazetted on 31 March 2006.

The park is managed to preserve its high conservation values with one endangered regional ecosystem and at least two noteworthy plant species.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Woroon National Park is situated north-west of Murgon Township and lies in the Burnett River Catchment. Streams that run from the park enter the Barambah and Winderera Creeks which both flow into the Burnett River.

The park joins Woroon State Forest 1 on its northern boundary and together forms an island of remnant vegetation

surrounded by cleared agricultural land. This may increase the threat of fire encroachment and pest invasion from adjacent pastures. The park's terrain is hilly to undulating and it supports a mosaic of dry shrubby and grassy eucalypt woodland, and vine thicket.

Regional ecosystems

Three regional ecosystems are conserved on the park. One is endangered under its biodiversity status and has high regional significance on basaltic soils. The other two regional ecosystems form a mosaic of no concern at present and of concern, mixed woodland on red clay and volcanic derived soils.

The park consists of mainly woodland complex dominated by spotted gum *Corymbia citriodora*, with rusty gum *Angophora leiocarpa* and narrow-leaved ironbark *Eucalyptus crebra* and a grassy understorey. The rusty gum and ironbark become dominant in the north-west corner of the park.

Semi-evergreen vine thicket with Queensland bottletree *Brachychiton rupestris* grows along the eastern boundary of the park. This endangered type is of high conservation significance as it is confined to the Lockyer Valley and Bunya Mountains area and is highly floristically diverse. It is poorly conserved within the bioregion and remnants require intensive management because of weed invasion and fire damage on the margins. It is habitat for threatened plant species including Bailey's cypress *Callitris baileyi* and gorge laurel *Cryptocarya floydii*.

Native plants and animals

Around 136 plant species (131 from SA70) and 72 bird species have been recorded on the park of which one plant, *Notelaea pungens*, is near threatened. The park contains a very high population of disjunct plant species as well as a high concentration of plants endemic to the area.

Notelaea pungens is a compact, bushy shrub that grows in the vine thicket. It is restricted to a few populations around the Burnett area, occurring mainly on state forest and private lands. It is mainly under threat from habitat destruction and inappropriate fire management practices.

Several species of conservation significance have been recorded in the adjacent state forest and local vicinity. These include black-breasted button-quail *Turnix melanogaster*, koala *Phascolarctos cinereus* and six species of migratory birds (Tables 2 and 3).

Aboriginal culture

The Wakka Wakka, Jarowair and Western Wakka Wakka people utilised and moved through the South Burnett. There are many sites of Aboriginal cultural importance throughout the area but no records of cultural sites on the park. Currently, there is an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) in place (Wakka Wakka 2 and Tarong ILUA QI2008/027). The agreement commenced on 16 March 2009 between TEC Coal Pty Limited, Tarong Energy Corporation Limited and the Wakka Wakka people. The agreement will continue until the Bunya Working Group receives notice that the Kunioon Mining Lease and Tarong Coal Project have been surrendered or terminated.

Shared-history culture

The area was settled and extensively cleared by pastoralists in the mid-19th century, leaving the remnant of vegetation (SF254) that makes up the current park and adjacent State forest.

There is a current grazing lease on the park. The park contains access tracks and evidence of an old iron mine site in its interior.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The park has limited potential for recreational opportunities as it is remote and has no public access roads.

Education and science

At this time there are no scientific studies being undertaken on the park. Limited opportunities exist to monitor the condition of the vine thicket as an endangered remnant habitat and to carry out research on species requirements.

Partnerships

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) engages other interested parties such as grazing authority holders

and neighbouring land owners in management of issues of mutual concern such as grazing, fire, pests and infrastructure management.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

The main pest plants on the park are lantana *Lantana camara*, which grows in the gullies and is adequately controlled with fire, and mother of millions *Bryophyllum delagoense*, which has undergone past treatment with spraying.

Emerging pests include African love grass *Eragrostis curvula* and thatch grass *Hyparrhenia rufa*.

There is a Level 2 pest management strategy in place for Kingaroy North management area, which includes Woroon National Park. It identifies a number of feral animal and plant species that generally occur on its parks, as a potential threat to habitat and neighbouring properties.

Fire management

There is a threat of wildfire from neighbouring properties so roads and tracks are maintained for fire management and protection.

There is a current Level 2 fire management strategy in place for Kingaroy North management area which covers Woroon National Park. The management guidelines will be followed to protect life and property both on park and on neighbouring lands, to maintain habitat diversity and to assist in pest plant control.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Natural values</p> <p>Ecosystem health and species diversity are identified and maintained.</p>	<p>A1. Conduct animal surveys (including birds) to establish base line data on which species utilise the park, in particular, to determine whether species of conservation significance inhabit the park.</p>
<p>Pest management</p> <p>The impacts of pests are reduced without compromising the natural integrity of the park.</p>	<p>A2. Assess pest plant and animal activity; apply recommended control principles and guidelines as outlined in the Level 2 pest management strategy.</p> <p>A3. Work cooperatively with neighbouring land managers to reduce impacts of pests on estate.</p>
<p>Fire management</p> <p>Fire is managed to protect life, property and ecosystem integrity.</p>	<p>A4. Assess condition of forest communities to determine fire needs and apply recommended principles and guidelines outlined in the Level 2 fire management strategy.</p> <p>A5. Work cooperatively with neighbours for positive outcomes with fire management.</p>
<p>Aboriginal culture</p> <p>Traditional Owners have meaningful involvement with park management planning and direction.</p>	<p>A6. 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>

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.8.21	Semi-evergreen vine thicket with <i>Brachychiton rupestris</i> on Cainozoic igneous rocks. Usually southern half of bioregion	Endangered
12.12.24	<i>Angophora leiocarpa</i> , <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>Notelaea pungens</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Animals				
<i>Turnix melanogaster</i> *	black-breasted button-quail	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical

*This species has been sighted in the State forest close to the national park and may also inhabit forest within the park.

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	Bonn	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	cidabird	-	-	✓	-
<i>Merops ornatus</i> *	rainbow bee-eater	-	-	✓	-
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i> *	black-faced monarch	✓	-	-	-
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i> *	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-
<i>Symposiachrus trivirgatus</i>	spectacled monarch	✓	-	-	-

*This species has been sighted in the State forest bordering the national park and may also inhabit forest within the park.

Bonn: Bonn Convention

CAMBA: China—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA: Japan—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement