

Binya National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	13,710ha
Bioregion:	Mulga Lands
QPWS region:	South West
Local government estate/area:	Paroo Shire
State electorate:	Warrego



Cuttaburra Creek floodplain woodlands Binya National Park.
Photo:NPRSR.

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>

Thematic strategies

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

Vision

Binya National Park will be managed to protect the only representation of the Warrego River and Cuttaburra Creek floodplains on protected area estate.

Conservation purpose

Gazetted in 2009, 13,710ha were declared on the Warrego river floodplain south of Cunnamulla as Binya National Park, the first protected area in the Warrego Plains subregion, filling a major gap in Queensland's representative reserve system.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Binya National Park is located approximately 85–110km south of Cunnamulla and contains large areas of riparian zones which are noted for high biodiversity values.

Around 70 per cent of the property lies within significant riparian corridors along the Warrego River and Cuttaburra Creek. The general landscape is grassy floodplains with coolabah *Eucalyptus coolabah*, yapunyah *E. ochrophloia* and gidgee *Acacia cambagei*. A low sandy rise vegetated with cypress pine *Callitris* sp., beefwood *Grevillea striata*, *Geijera* sp. and *Eremophila* sp. runs north to south through the property between the two drainage corridors.

The national park is the first and only representation of the Warrego and Cuttaburra drainage system on Department of Natural Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (NPRSR) estate.

Regional ecosystems

Binya National Park contains 11 regional ecosystems most with low levels of representation within the protected area estate. Five are of concern and the remaining six are not of concern under their biodiversity status (Table 1). This park is the only protected area containing regional ecosystem 6.3.22. Binya National Park has a high floristic diversity and vegetation communities are in good condition with limited impact from pest plants and animals.

Native plants and animals

Limited survey work to date has recorded 240 native species. Of these, the Major Mitchell's cockatoo *Lophochroa leadbeateri* is listed as vulnerable under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and is ranked as a high priority for conservation under the Back on Track Species Prioritisation Framework.

More work is required to determine fauna values, but it is highly likely that the animal diversity will be high considering records from surrounding areas.

Aboriginal culture

The area is known to be of importance for local Traditional Owners. The Kunja people have an important burial site not far from Binya National Park.

Many properties in the area have names with an Aboriginal origin. The word Binya means 'sitting down' in the Aboriginal language. Binya has been described by one Traditional Owner as a place that the Aboriginal women went to give birth.

There are currently no native title claims over Binya National Park. The Aboriginal representative body of the area is the Queensland South Native Title Services.

Shared-history culture

The holding, later named 'Binya', was drawn in the sheep block ballot in 1951 when Tinnenburra, the property to the north of Binya, was broken up.

Evidence of the areas pastoral history remains in the form of the homestead complex, shearing shed and quarters, fences, stock yards, water supply infrastructure and building ruins.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The park provides a range of low-key, nature-based recreational opportunities which complement opportunities offered in the surrounding area. These activities include camping, bush walking, bird and wildlife watching. The park aims to provide environmentally sensitive interpretive and recreational facilities. Interpretive materials highlight the safety risks of travelling in remote western areas as well as raising community awareness, appreciation and support for the park's conservation values.

The access road to Binya is via working pastoral properties. The roads are unsealed and impassable when wet. A four-wheel-drive vehicle is recommended for visitors. After good rains (either locally or far upstream) flooding isolates the park for long periods.

Education and science

The park is not well-studied and provides numerous opportunities for research and education in relation to the diverse floodplains it contains, species management and Aboriginal and shared-history values.

Partnerships

Partnerships between State and local governments, organisations and leaseholders that utilise land in or surrounding the park are needed to ensure the values and benefits of the drainage systems and other ecological features contained within the park are recognised and managed appropriately.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

The main pest animals found on Binya National Park include feral pigs *Sus scrofa*, foxes *Vulpes vulpes*, cats *Felis catus*, rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus*, European carp *Cyprinus carpio* and European honey bees *Apis mellifera*. Pest management programs are in place and have proved successful.

The park displays limited impacts from pest plants and animals, however recent major flooding over the last three years has encouraged weed growth. Further survey work is required to determine their full extent so that control measures can be implemented.

Fire management

A Level 2 fire management strategy is currently in place for the park. There is very little history of fire on the park; however grass growth following three recent flood seasons has increased the fire hazard across the catchment areas.

Other management issues

Levy bank

A levy bank surrounds the homestead and was extended following record flooding in 2010. Maintenance is required to ensure protection of the house from future flood events.

Water infrastructure

There are two bores on the park; Irrara Bore and Binya Bore. Irrara Bore feeds approximately 1.8km of bore drain. Binya Bore feeds approximately 7.5km of bore drain and 14km of piped water to tanks and troughs. This bore also supplies water to the homestead complex. Since gazettal the tanks and troughs have been disconnected, the bores repaired and the main pipeline to the homestead replaced.

Fences

Most flood damaged fences have been repaired along Warrego River on the eastern boundary of the park. For both the Warrego system and the Cuttaburra Creek system of the western boundary, there is ongoing maintenance and repairs to floodgates after flood damage.

Water extraction

Many of the Lower Warrego Water Users have bought water licences to limit future water extraction. Approximately 30 per cent of the vegetation communities on Binya require flooding. If water extraction significantly increases upstream, it may have an impact on their survival and viability.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Species and ecosystems of conservation significance</p> <p>Populations of plant species and ecosystems of conservation significance are conserved, and habitat diversity is protected and maintained.</p> <p>Knowledge of plant and animal species distribution and habitat requirements are enhanced and are used as a basis for future management decisions.</p>	<p>A1. Establish or review key monitoring objectives for species and ecosystems of conservation significance on the park, and support monitoring programs that achieve these objectives. Consider monitoring programs for floodplain communities and the distribution of cypress pine communities.</p> <p>A2. Undertake surveys for plants and animals across the park.</p> <p>A3. Encourage research from tertiary institutions and other organisations to provide management data for improved management of the park's plants and animals.</p>
<p>Shared-history culture</p> <p>Places and items of cultural heritage significance are documented, protected and/or maintained where possible.</p>	<p>A4. Implement protective management of shared-cultural heritage sites with particular focus on maintenance works on structures to ensure their integrity is maintained and the adaptive reuse of structures where appropriate.</p>
<p>Aboriginal culture</p> <p>Manage, in consultation with local communities including representatives of Aboriginal groups and local historic organisations, places of special cultural significance.</p>	<p>A5. Encourage Traditional Owners to participate in management of the national park; including the documentation, mapping and conservation of places of Aboriginal cultural and other historical significance.</p>
<p>Pest management</p> <p>Artificial watering points will be progressively decommissioned to promote natural ecological processes.</p> <p>An effective pest control program is developed and implemented to contain and reduce impacts to manageable levels.</p>	<p>A6. Implement a program to decommission all remaining artificial watering points.</p> <p>A7. Exclude stray stock and pest animals from the park by systematically upgrading boundary fences to a stock resistant standard.</p> <p>A8. Implement and review the pest management strategy for the management area.</p>
<p>Tourism and visitor opportunities</p> <p>Information is provided to the visitor to improve knowledge of the park's natural and cultural resources.</p>	<p>A9. Assess requests and demand for new nature based recreational opportunities as they arise.</p> <p>A10. Allow bush camping to continue in designated areas with monitoring of potential impacts.</p> <p>A11. Limit disturbance to bird colonies and other sites of ecological or cultural significance through visitor education and access restrictions.</p> <p>A12. Vehicle access will be by four-wheel drive only and suitable for self reliant visitors seeking a remote and isolated park experience.</p>
<p>Fire management</p> <p>Fire is being managed to protect life, property and commercial assets and to protect the natural and biodiversity values of the management area.</p>	<p>A13. Review and implement the fire management strategy for the management area.</p>
<p>Partnerships</p> <p>Maintain cooperative relations with neighbours and interested parties.</p>	<p>A14. Consult with neighbours and interested parties on key issues including fire, pest and visitor management.</p>

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
6.3.3	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> +/- <i>E. coolabah</i> +/- <i>E. populnea</i> , <i>Acacia stenophylla</i> woodland on alluvium	Of concern
6.3.13	<i>Atriplex</i> spp., <i>Sclerolaena</i> spp., species of <i>Asteraceae</i> and/or short grasses open herbland on alluvial plains	Of concern
6.3.16	<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i> , <i>Acacia excelsa</i> , <i>Geijera parviflora</i> +/- <i>Acacia aneura</i> woodland on alluvial dunes	Of concern
6.3.18	<i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> +/- <i>Eremophila mitchellii</i> +/- <i>Acacia aneura</i> +/- <i>E. melanophloia</i> woodland on flat alluvial plains	Of concern
6.3.22	<i>Acacia victoriae</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. tall open shrubland on old levees	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
Animals				
<i>Lophochroa leadbeateri</i>	Major Mitchell's cockatoo	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Melithreptus gularis</i>	black-chinned honeyeater	Near threatened	-	Low

Note: no plant species recorded from the park are considered to have conservation significance. No species recorded from the park are listed in international agreements.