

Mount Hypipamee National Park

Management Statement

2013



Prepared by: **Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS), Department of Environment, Science and Innovation**

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The Mount Hypipamee National Park Management Statement 2013 has been extended in 2024 in line with the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (s120G). Minor amendments have been made. There has been no change to the statement's original management intent and direction.

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Park size:	364ha
Bioregion:	Wet Tropics
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Tablelands Regional Council
State electorate:	Dalrymple

Legislative framework

✓	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>
✓	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>
✓	<i>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993</i>

Plans and agreements

✓	Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005
✓	Recovery plan for the stream-dwelling rainforest frogs of the Wet Tropics biogeography region of north-east Queensland 2000–2004
✓	National recovery plan for the southern cassowary <i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> 2007
✓	Draft recovery plan for the spotted-tail quoll (northern sub-species) <i>Dasyurus maculatus gracilis</i> 2011
✓	National recovery plan for the spectacled flying-fox <i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>
✓	Bonn Agreement
✓	Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

Thematic strategies

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

Vision

Mount Hypipamee National Park protects high altitude rainforest and tall open forest communities, surrounding a volcanic diatreme.

The park offers an easily accessible and unusual visitor experience. It remains a well-known wildlife watching site.

The park's high scenic and natural values are protected by managing visitor infrastructure, pest plants and fire.

Conservation purpose

Mount Hypipamee National Park protects an area of upland rainforest and open eucalypt forest surrounding a dramatic diatreme (volcanic pipe) approximately 60m deep and 70m across. The park is home to a variety of plants and animals of conservation significance and is a particularly well known location for arboreal mammals.

An area of 512ha surrounding the crater was originally proclaimed a reserve in 1908. The eastern section of the reserve was later included for selection by ballot, effectively reducing the size of the reserve to about 360ha.

The area was eventually gazetted as national park in 1939, at its current size of approximately 364ha.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Located high on the southern Evelyn Tableland in the Hugh Nelson Range, Mount Hypipamee National Park is centred around a diatreme or what is commonly referred to as a volcanic pipe or vent, thought to have been created by a massive gas explosion. The crater is less than 70m across with sheer granite walls. Fifty-eight metres below the crater rim is a lake about 82m deep covered with a green layer of native waterweed. A remarkable variety of vegetation types, including high-altitude rainforest, grow in this small park.

The surrounding land uses include the Herberton Range National Park and grazing.

Regional ecosystems

Mount Hypipamee National Park contains seven regional ecosystems—four of which are endangered, and one of concern (Table 1). The majority of the park is covered in notophyll vine forest, with some tall open forest communities occurring in the northern portion of the park.

Native plants and animals

The park is known to protect plant and animal species of conservation significance (Table 2). Six bird species are listed under international agreements (Table 3).

The park is a well-known location for arboreal mammals and for this reason is frequently visited by naturalists and tourism operators. Mount Hypipamee National Park is also well known for bird watching. Many species endemic to the wet tropics are present—upland rainforest species in particular.

Aboriginal culture

No native title claim applications currently exist for the park.

Shared-history culture

Since settlement of the Atherton Tablelands, the scenic values of Mount Hypipamee National Park have been recognised. The crater has a long history of visitation by European settlers. In Ion Idriess's memoirs of life during the Herberton Tin Rush, *Back o' Cairns*, the author visits this site, describing its awe-inspiring beauty and envisaging popularity of the area with future travellers and sightseers.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

Mount Hypipamee National Park has easy vehicular access, well-maintained walking trails, and is very popular with visitors.

Fauna viewing is particularly popular for commercial and independent visitors to the park. A wide variety of arboreal and ground-dwelling mammals are present. The park is also popular with birdwatchers, and a cassowary is regularly seen by visitors to the park.

The walking track network allows visitors to experience a variety of vegetation communities on differing geology and provides access to the viewing platform above the crater itself.

Education and science

The landscape and easy access to relatively undisturbed rainforest and sclerophyll communities at high elevation has led to the park being used to study wet tropical rainforest ecology, as well as geomorphologic studies of the crater.

Partnerships

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is responsible for the day-to-day management of the national park. The Wet Tropics Management Authority regulates activity in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The goal of both agencies is to present the area's significance while protecting its natural and cultural values.

The Tablelands National Park volunteers undertake regular arboreal mammal surveys on the park and provide collected information to park managers.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Pests of primary concern are introduced plant species in the vicinity of the car park and along the walking track network.

Fire management

Fire management plays a significant role in the maintenance of sclerophyll communities in the park.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Native plants and animals Ensure the park continues to protect plants and animals of conservation significance, including the diverse arboreal mammal community.</p>	<p>Familiarise staff with conservation significant species and monitor those species to ensure persistence. Continue to support Tablelands National Park Volunteers mammal spotlighting assessment in the park.</p>
<p>Cultural heritage Traditional Owners are involved in cooperative park management.</p>	<p>Support the involvement of the Traditional Owners in park management. Confirm the origin of the name 'Hypipamee' with relevant Traditional Owners.</p>
<p>Tourism and visitor opportunities Continued enjoyment of area by Tablelands residents, tourists and naturalists.</p>	<p>Maintain and upgrade visitor facilities including car park, interpretive signs, walking tracks, and viewing platforms, as required.</p>
<p>Science and education Research and monitoring programs have increased knowledge and management responses for the park's natural and cultural values.</p>	<p>Continue to provide opportunities for low-impact research and education.</p>
<p>Pest management Invasive plant threats to endangered communities are minimised.</p>	<p>Carry out pest management activities where required.</p>
<p>Fire management Tall open forest is retained on the park area.</p>	<p>Implement planned burns in open forest communities to ensure persistence of fire-dependent vegetation.</p>

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.12.68	Complex notophyll vine forest of cloudy moist to wet highlands on granite.	Endangered
7.8.4a	Complex notophyll vine forests. Highlands on basalt, of the cloudy wet rainfall zone.	Endangered
7.12.21b	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> tall open-forest and woodland with a well developed vine forest understorey on granite.	Endangered
7.12.22a	<i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i> , <i>Eucalyptus acmenoides</i> , <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> , <i>Eucalyptus cloeziana</i> , <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> tall open-forest to tall woodland with <i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i> and <i>Callitris macleayana</i> . Uplands and highlands of the moist rainfall zone.	Endangered
7.12.66a	Woodland to low woodland, open-forest, closed-forest, or mosaics of all three with <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> , <i>Alstonia muelleriana</i> , <i>Acacia celsa</i> , <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> , <i>Callitris macleayana</i> , <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> , <i>A. torulosa</i> , <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and a range of vine forest species. Generally occupying steep slopes where the structure can vary widely according to the degree of slope and depth of soil.	Of concern

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> status	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> status	Back on Track status
Animals				
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	grey goshawk	Near threatened		Low
<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened		Low
<i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i>	southern cassowary	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana</i>	Macleay's fig-parrot	Vulnerable		Low
<i>Dasyurus maculatus gracilis</i>	spotted-tailed quoll	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
<i>Dendrolagus lumholtzi</i>	Lumholtz's tree-kangaroo	Near threatened		Low
<i>Glapyromorphus mjobergi</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Hemibelideus lemuroides</i>	lemuroid ringtail possum	Near threatened		Low
<i>Hipposiderus diadema</i>	diademed leaf-nosed bat	Near threatened		Low
<i>Kerivoula papuensis</i>	golden-tipped bat	Near threatened		Medium
<i>Litoria nannotis</i>	waterfall frog	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Litoria nyakalensis</i>	mountain mistfrog	Endangered	Critically Endangered	Low
<i>Litoria rheocola</i>	common mistfrog	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Litoria serrata</i>	tapping green eyed frog	Near threatened		Low
<i>Murina florium</i>	tube-nosed Insectivorous bat	Vulnerable		High
<i>Ninox rufa queenslandica</i>	rufous owl	Vulnerable		Low
<i>Nyctimystes dayi</i>	Australian laceid	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Pseudochirops archeri</i>	green ringtail possum	Near threatened		Low
<i>Pseudochirulus herbertensis</i>	Herbert River ringtail possum	Near threatened		Low
<i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>	spectacled flying-fox	Least concern	Vulnerable	High
<i>Taudactylus acutirostris</i>	sharp-snouted dayfrog	Endangered	Extinct	Low
Plants				
<i>Agathis microstachya</i>	bull kauri	Near threatened		Low

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	BONN	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Grus antigone</i>	sarus crane	-	✓	-	-
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater	-	-	✓	-
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	black-faced monarch	✓	-	-	-
<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>	satin flycatcher	✓	-	-	-
<i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i>	spectacled monarch	✓	-	-	-
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-

BONN – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement