

Mouth of Baffle Creek Regional Park 1 Management Statement

Park purpose

Mouth of Baffle Creek Regional Park 1 was formally gazetted as Mouth of Baffle Creek Environmental Park in 1975 under the *Land Act 1962*. At that time there was a Trustee Agreement with Gooburrum Shire Council. In 1994 the Environmental Park was gazetted as Mouth of Baffle Creek Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. In 1995 it was renamed and gazetted as Mouth of Baffle Creek Conservation Park 1.

No park specific purpose was identified as part of the gazettal.

Park size	125ha
Bioregion	South East Queensland
Local government area	Bundaberg Regional Council
State electorate	Burnett
QPWS region	Sunshine and Fraser Coast
Year prepared: 2015	Review date: 2025

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Mouth of Baffle Creek Regional Park 1 has been assessed as having a medium priority for management. The park 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 medium level means that it will receive a minimum of quarterly routine inspections with occasional planned visits where issues have been identified. The focus is largely expected to be on natural resource management involving a proactive management effort at a moderate level to understand or protect known natural values.

Cultural values will be managed proactively to protect those values known to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, (QPWS). Ongoing consultation, collaboration and relationships with Traditional Owners and Indigenous stakeholders will be undertaken as required to support broader continuing park management programs.

This park currently has relatively low levels of 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. General park information is provided off-site, primarily through the Departmental website.

Public consultation on park management will be undertaken through ongoing local consultations with community stakeholders to support broad continuing management programs.

Park assets are functional and robust and require limited maintenance to protect the natural and cultural values and management capacity.

General park values, uses and management

Regional ecosystems

The park protects seven regional ecosystems, of which two have endangered biodiversity status and one is of concern, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance that are recorded from this park include five bird 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*.

Marine protected areas

Mouth of Baffle Creek Regional Park 1 adjoins a conservation park zone and a general use zone of the Great Sandy Marine Park and a general use zone of the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park. A conservation park zone aims to provide a high level of protection for marine landscapes therefore extractive uses and works are limited. A general use zone provides for conservation whilst still allowing reasonable use of the area to occur. Any person wishing to conduct activities in these zones must comply with the *Marine Parks Act 2004*.

The Mouth of Baffle Creek Regional Park is located within the Baffle Creek declared Fish Habitat Area (FHA) management A area, which significantly constrains development activities. This declaration under the *Fisheries Act 1994* requires that activities on the regional park must consider potential impacts on the FHA. Approval is required before development can commence, unless authorised under a self-assessable code. Development works may include on-park activities such as construction of boardwalks and bird hides.

Priorities for park management

The three regional ecosystems and five 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 and animal species of conservation significance
- consideration of the impacts on the declared FHA is undertaken when planning and conducting fire or pest management activities on the park in accordance with FHA code of practice.

Appendix 1

Conservation values inventory

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.1.1	<i>Casuarina glauca</i> woodland on margins of marine clay plains.	Endangered
12.2.2	Microphyll/notophyll vine forest on beach ridges.	Endangered
12.2.7	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> or rarely <i>M. dealbata</i> open forest on sand plains.	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>Limosa lapponica</i> ¹²³⁴	bar-tailed godwit	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> ¹²³⁴	eastern curlew	Near threatened	Critically endangered	Low
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i> ¹²³⁴	whimbrel	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i> ¹	rufous fantail	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i> ¹	spectacled monarch	Special least concern	-	Low

¹Bonn: Bonn Convention³JAMBA: Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement²CAMBA: China-Australia Migratory Agreement⁴ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement