

Eudlo Creek National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	41.9ha
Bioregion:	South Eastern Queensland
QPWS region:	Sunshine and Fraser Coast
Local government estate/area:	Sunshine Coast Council
State electorate:	Glass House

Legislative framework

✓	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>
✓	<i>Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>
✓	<i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>

Plans and agreements

✓	Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Strategy 2010–2020
✓	Maroochy Plan 2000
✓	Bonn Convention

Thematic strategies

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

Vision

Eudlo Creek National Park continues to protect the threatened Eucalyptus open forest ecosystems and form part of a valuable habitat corridor.

Conservation purpose

Gazetted in 1918, Eudlo Creek National Park is a very small remnant of a vegetation type now highly fragmented in the lower lying areas of the Sunshine Coast hinterland (flooded gum and turpentine very tall open forest). *Melaleuca Melaleuca quinquenervia* and palm forest in the minor creek lines and blackbutt *Eucalyptus pilularis* forest on drier rises create a mosaic of different habitat opportunities (Thomas, 2002).

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Eudlo Creek National Park is located 2km south of Palmwoods, 1km north of Eudlo and straddles the main Brisbane to Gympie railway line. The 42ha area is divided into three roughly equal sized blocks by local roads. The surrounding landscape was once fruit growing and dairy land but is now mainly rural-residential and contains good remnant vegetation linkages to the park. The geology of the area is Landsborough sandstone (Thomas, 2002).

The park is flat to undulating sub-coastal lowland with a number of minor creek lines crossing the park and flowing to Eudlo Creek, a tributary to the Maroochy River in the east. The creek is a major contributor to the health of the Maroochy River and its catchment.

Regional ecosystems

The park contains three regional ecosystems—*Eucalyptus grandis* tall open forest on alluvial plains (12.3.2 of concern); shrubby open forest often with *E. resinifera*, *E. grandis*, *Corymbia intermedia* on sedimentary rocks. Coastal (12.9–10.1 of concern); and *E. pilularis* tall open forest on sedimentary rocks (12.9–10.14 no concern at present), (Table1). Reducing stresses on the area's natural systems will make these ecosystems more resilient to extreme climatic events. Securing habitat in and between other areas is an important factor in building this resilience.

Native plants and animals

Decaying logs on the forest floor provide habitat for numerous reptiles, frogs and small mammals. Reptile species found at the site include the burrowing skink *Ophioscincus truncatus* and the near threatened elf skink *Erotioscincus graciloides*. The vulnerable tusked frog *Adelotus brevis* is also listed as occurring at the site.

A fauna survey conducted by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) in 2002 found a high density of small mammals and 57 species of birds occurring in the relatively small area of remnant vegetation (Thomas, 2002). Bush rats *Rattus fuscipes* and yellow-footed antechinus *Antechinus flavipes* are common in the understory and bandicoot diggings can be observed throughout the park. Sugar gliders *Petaurus breviceps* also occur, feeding on the sap of the *Eucalyptus grandis*. The vulnerable koala also moves through the area utilising the Eucalyptus food trees on the park.

The park protects representative examples of paperbark *Melaleuca quinquenervia* and piccabeen *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* forests, coastal lowland rainforest and the only conserved stand of *Austromyrtus* spp in the Blackall Range.

Aboriginal culture

The extent of occupation and the degree of its cultural significance to Traditional Owners remains largely unknown to QPWS. The area still holds high importance to Aboriginal people and there are many sites of Aboriginal cultural importance across the region. The park has not been formally assessed for cultural heritage values but artefact scatters, scarred trees and burial sites have been found in the surrounding region.

Opportunities exist to improve relationships with local Traditional Owner groups and involve them in park management.

Shared-history culture

Cattlemen and timber getters began settling the area from the 1860s, and a sawmill was built in 1891 at Eudlo to process large quantities of timber from the Blackall Range and surrounding forests (Sunshine Coast Regional Council, 2012).

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The national park currently has no visitor facilities. Management is focussed primarily on protecting the regional ecosystems in the park. Opportunities exist for low-level nature-based activities such as bird-watching.

Partnerships

Regular liaison is maintained with neighbours and organisations with shared interests in park management.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Declared pest plants found in the park include groundsel *Baccharis halimifolia*, lantana *Lantana camara*, camphor laurel *Cinnamomum camphora* and, due to the adjacent residential land use, various pest plants from garden waste, including singapore daisy *Sphagneticola trilobata*, umbrella tree *Schefflera actinophylla* and annual rag

weed *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*.

Locally observed feral pest animals include fox *Vulpes vulpes*, wild dog *Canis familiaris* and domestic and feral cats *Felis catus*. Cane toads *Bufo marinus* are common.

Fire management

The *Melaleuca quinquenervia* community requires fire intervals between 15 and 30 years. The adjacent *Eucalyptus grandis* forest (12.3.2) may be burnt in a low-intensity mosaic burning regime to maintain understory floristic diversity, but requires a moderate to high intensity fire every 20+ years for stand regeneration of flooded gum. *E. pilularis* forest also requires occasional high intensity fires for regeneration of canopy species.

E. grandis and *E. pilularis* forests are difficult to burn outside of fire season and, conversely, burn extremely well in a dry, hot summer. This presents potential threats to property in the rural/residential zones in the area during severe fire seasons.

Other management issues

The park is in close proximity to two urban centres, but relatively isolated making it susceptible to dumping of rubbish. There are also issues with neighbour access/incompatible use on the park.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Landscape</p> <p>Catchment protection services are maintained.</p> <p>Close proximity to urban areas does not detract from the parks scenic values.</p>	<p>A1. Monitor changes in vegetation structure to identify potential erosion issues and mitigate impacts.</p> <p>A2. Assess the options of excising the portion of the park west of the railway line or excising specific access roads in the western portion.</p> <p>A3. Implement compliance measures for rubbish dumping.</p>
<p>Native plants and animals</p> <p>Information on plant, animal and ecosystems is comprehensive and current.</p>	<p>A4. Review currency of species records and conduct surveys where needed to inform management decisions.</p> <p>A5. Review mapping of regional ecosystems and facilitate improvements to mapping refinements where needed.</p>
<p>Cultural heritage</p> <p>Traditional Owners have meaningful involvement with park management planning and direction.</p> <p>Shared-history cultural values are identified and protected.</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> <p>A7. Encourage and support an assessment of the shared-history cultural values of the park.</p>
<p>Tourism and visitor opportunities</p> <p>The park provides opportunities for self-reliant visitors to enjoy the natural and cultural values.</p>	<p>A8. Provide management in keeping with the retention of the undeveloped character of the park and provide for self –reliant visitors.</p>
<p>Pest management</p> <p>Impacts from pests on the park are managed effectively.</p>	<p>A9. Monitor the impacts from pest plants and changes to vegetation structure.</p>

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems.

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.9-10.1	Shrubby open forest often with <i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i> , <i>E. grandis</i> , <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> on sedimentary rocks. Coastal	Of concern
12.3.2	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> tall open forest on alluvial 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
<i>Adelotus brevis</i>	tusked frog	Vulnerable	-	Medium
<i>Erotoscincus graciloides</i>	elf skink	Near threatened	-	Medium
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (South East Queensland bioregion)	koala	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	-

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	Bonn	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
<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