

Keatings Lagoon Regional Park Management Statement

Park purpose

Keatings Lagoon Regional Park was formally gazetted as Keatings Lagoon (Cooktown) Environmental Park in 1989 under the *Land Act 1962*. At that time there was a Trustee Agreement with the Cook Shire Council. In 1994, the environmental park was gazetted as Keatings Lagoon Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

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

Park size	46.7ha
Bioregion	Cape York Peninsula and Wet Tropics
Local government area	Cook Shire Council
State electorate	Cook
QPWS region	Northern
Year prepared: 2015	Review date: 2025

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Keatings Lagoon Regional Park 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, (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 moderate levels of visitor use stemming from the provision of a formalised off highway carpark which services a walking track to a bird-hide on the lagoon. Visitors are unlikely to encounter a ranger on site during their visit. Current and future recreational opportunities will require that visitors have the ability to walk short distances. A moderate level of infrastructure is provided to support safe and sustainable use. 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. A twin 22 kV / 66 kV Ergon power-line transects the park.

General park values, uses and management

Regional ecosystems

The park protects eight regional ecosystems, two of which have of concern biodiversity status, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance that are recorded from this park include four 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 heritage places will be managed in accordance with the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

Priorities for park management

The two regional ecosystems and four bird 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 the regional ecosystems and animal species of conservation significance
- visitor infrastructure is safe and sustainable.

Appendix 1

Conservation values inventory

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
3.11.6b	<i>Eucalyptus platyphylla</i> +/- <i>E. leptophleba</i> +/- <i>Corymbia nesophila</i> open forest to woodland on hill slopes.	Of concern
7.11.51	<i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> and/or <i>Eucalyptus drepanophylla</i> open forest to woodland on metamorphics.	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>Ardea modesta</i> ²³	eastern great egret	Special least concern	-	low
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i> ¹²³⁴	curlew sandpiper	Special least concern	Critically endangered	low
<i>Merops ornatus</i> ³	rainbow bee-eater	Special least concern	-	low
<i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i> ¹	spectacled monarch	Special least concern	-	low

¹Bonn: Bonn Convention

³JAMBA: Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

²CAMBA: China-Australia Migratory Agreement

⁴ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement