

# Highworth Bend Regional Park Management Statement

## Park purpose

Highworth Bend Regional Park was formally gazetted as Highworth Bend Environmental Park in 1974 under the *Land Act 1962*. At that time there was a Trustee Agreement with Banana Shire Council. In 1994, the environmental park was gazetted to Highworth Bend Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

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

Park size	51.6ha
Bioregion	Brigalow Belt
Local government area	Banana Shire Council
State electorate	Callide
QPWS region	South West
Year prepared: 2015	Review date: 2025

## Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Highworth Bend Regional Park has been assessed as having a basic level of priority for management and 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 basic level priority means it will receive annual routine inspections with occasional planned visits where issues have been identified. The focus is largely expected to be on natural resource management involving proactive management to understand and protect known natural values.

Cultural values will be managed proactively to protect those values known to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, (QPWS). Informal ad-hoc local consultation, collaboration and relationships with Traditional Owners and Indigenous stakeholders, will be undertaken as required, to progress specific issues and programs.

This park currently has low levels of infrequent 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 and are primarily responsible for their own personal safety. General park information is mainly provided off-site through the Departmental website.

Informal ad-hoc consultation with community stakeholders will be undertaken on specific issues of park management.

Park assets will consist of minimal robust infrastructure which is required for the protection of natural and cultural values and self-reliant use by the public.

## General park values, uses and management

### Regional ecosystems

Highworth Bend Regional Park protects four regional ecosystems, one of which has endangered biodiversity status of and two are of concern, Table 1.

### Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance recorded from this park include four bird and two mammal 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*.

## Priorities for park management

The three regional ecosystems and six 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 state-wide 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.

## Appendix 1

### Conservation values inventory

**Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems**

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
11.9.4	Semi-evergreen vine thicket or <i>Acacia harpophylla</i> with a semi-evergreen vine thicket understorey on fine-grained sedimentary rocks.	Endangered
11.3.2	<i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> woodland on alluvial plains.	Of Concern
11.3.25	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> or <i>E. camaldulensis</i> woodland fringing drainage lines.	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 ibis</i> <sup>12</sup>	cattle egret	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> <sup>1</sup>	white-bellied sea-eagle	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i> <sup>123</sup>	white-throated needletail	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Merops ornatus</i> <sup>2</sup>	rainbow bee-eater	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>	short-beaked echidna	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>	duck-billed platypus	Special least concern	-	Low

<sup>1</sup>Bonn: Bonn Convention

<sup>3</sup>JAMBA: Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

<sup>2</sup>CAMBA: China-Australia Migratory Agreement

<sup>4</sup>ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement