

Djiru National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	4,123ha
Bioregion:	Wet Tropics
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
State electorate:	Hinchinbrook

Legislative framework

✓	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>
✓	<i>Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>
✓	<i>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993</i>
✓	<i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	Native Title (Indigenous Land Use Agreement) Regulation 1999 (Cwlth)

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 biogeographic region of North East Queensland 2000–2004
✓	Recovery plan for the southern cassowary <i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> 2001–2005
✓	National recovery plan for the spectacled flying fox <i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>
✓	National recovery plan for the Mahogany Glider <i>Petaurus gracilis</i>
✓	Bonn Agreement
✓	China—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Japan—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Republic of Korea—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 Pest Strategy
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The southern cassowary—two adults and one chick. Photo: M. Trenerry EHP

Vision

Djiru National Park continues to protect some of the last remaining lowland rainforest in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Plant and animal species of conservation significance are protected while offering visitors a range of interests including education and recreation. Djiru National Park is special to visitors as one of the few places where they are likely to see the endangered southern cassowary in the wild.

Conservation purpose

Djiru National Park is part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The park was formerly Tam O' Shanter State Forest prior to gazettal as a national park in December 2009. It is now named in honour of the Traditional Owners of the area, the Djiru Aboriginal people.

This popular park contains conservation values of State significance including 137ha of critical mahogany glider habitat and essential habitat to the endangered southern cassowary.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Djiru National Park is located within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The area's vegetation is primarily tropical rainforest, but also includes open eucalypt forest, wetlands and mangrove forests.

Mount Tam O'Shanter at 381m and Mount Douglas at 339m are the highest points on the Walter Hill Range, which runs parallel to the coast.

Djiru National Park is located eight kilometres west of the coastal town of Mission Beach. The Mission Beach area is one of the wettest parts of Queensland, receiving an average annual rainfall of about 4,500mm. The park has experienced two severe tropical cyclones in 2006 and 2011.

The park is located adjacent to Clump Point, Hull River and Mount McKay national parks.

Regional ecosystems

There are 17 regional ecosystems mapped in Djiru National Park. Those listed as conservation significant are listed in Table 1. The coastal littoral rainforest within Djiru National Park, especially near Tam O'Shanter Point, is listed as critically endangered in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Threats to the regional ecosystems include inappropriate fire regimes associated with infrequent burning, and invasive pest plants and animals—which either pose specific threats within the park (e.g. Class 1 eradication targets to rainforest slopes) or across a broader interface with the agricultural and urban area of South Mission and Wongaling beaches.

Native plants and animals

No plant species of conservation concern are currently recognised as occurring on Djiru National Park.

Animals of conservation significance known to occur on Djiru National Park are listed in Table 2. The Back on Track status of the animals of the park is listed in Table 2.

Aboriginal culture

The Djiru Aboriginal people are the Traditional Owners of the area around Mission Beach. Bingil Bay, to the east, was a traditional camp site meaning 'a good camping ground with fresh water'.

The Hull River Aboriginal settlement (a government settlement, not a mission) was set up in the early 20th century at the adjacent South Mission Beach. It was abandoned after being destroyed by a cyclone in 1918 when the people moved south to Palm Island.

Djiru (#2 QC03/003) native title claim is currently registered over the park and the North Queensland Land Council is the representative body. An Indigenous Land Use Agreement is in negotiation between the Traditional Owners for the park and the State through Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS).

Shared-history culture

Known non-Aboriginal exploration of the area began in 1848 when Edmund Kennedy landed at Kennedy Bay on board the Tam O'Shanter. The first permanent non-Aboriginal residents of Mission Beach were the Cutten brothers who arrived on 1 April 1882.

Timber harvesting occurred on the park. The Musgravea track is an old forestry road used in the 1960s and 1970s to haul timber from South Mission Beach to the El Arish timber mill.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The majority of visitors to the park are independent (self-drive) although guided tourism operates from nearby centres.

The Licuala and Lacey creeks day-use areas have been developed for visitor use within Djiru National Park. These sites are supported by a number of circuit tracks, information shelters and boardwalk areas such as Licuala Children's Circuit, Fan Palm and the Lacey Creek walks.

Picnic tables at the Licuala day-use area are surrounded by a fence to prevent entry by cassowaries.

The seven kilometre Musgravea track from the Licuala day-use area to the El Arish–Mission Beach Road is accessible to walkers and mountain-bike riders. The Wet Tropics Walking Strategy identifies the Mission Beach Circuit as potentially linking existing walks in the area and Clump Mountain National Park.

Camping is not currently permitted in Djiru National Park.

Education and science

The Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing and Wet Tropics World Heritage Authority (WTMA) websites provide most public information. Djiru National Park education themes include factors affecting cassowary survival and the evolutionary history and complexity of animals and plants on the park.

Partnerships

QPWS is legislatively responsible for the day-to-day management of the national park and the WTMA regulates activity in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The goal of both agencies is to present the area's values while protecting its natural and cultural values. Traditional Owners are involved in cooperative park management.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Djiru National Park has two Class 1 eradication targets *Miconia calvescens* and *Cecropia* spp. Progress towards eradication will require a joint effort across the greater Mission Beach area.

Across the larger South Mission Beach area, feral pigs and uncontrolled, roaming domestic dogs threaten native wildlife, including the endangered southern cassowary. QPWS is working toward joint control of these species with Cassowary Coast Regional Council. A sub-regional pest strategy guides management activities within the national park.

Fire management

The area does not have a current fire management strategy. Infrequent fire intervals, exacerbated by increased fuel loads resulting from cyclonic disturbance, may pose a risk to the integrity of coastal littoral rainforest and vine forest—while also altering sclerophyll woodlands and forests towards a more closed canopy structure.

Other management issues

Water intakes and pipelines and access to a gravel scrape are on Tam O'Shanter Forest Reserve.

One unexploded ordnance site is signposted on the park near the Tully-Mission Beach Road.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Aboriginal Culture</p> <p>Traditional Owners are involved in cooperative park management.</p>	<p>A1. Support the involvement of Traditional Owners in park management.</p>
<p>Tenure issues</p> <p>The park boundary is consolidated.</p>	<p>A2. Review future tenure and arrangements for water intakes and pipelines licences on the park.</p>
<p>Pest management</p> <p>A pest management program is developed in partnership with other stakeholders.</p>	<p>A3. Develop a pest management strategy that involves a joint effort between QPWS and relevant stakeholders as part of a broader pest management program surrounding Mission Beach.</p>

Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems.

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.3.4	Mesophyll vine forest with <i>Licuala ramsayi</i> on poorly drained alluvial plains and alluvial areas of uplands	Endangered
7.3.7	<i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> and <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest to woodland (or vine forest with emergent <i>E. pellita</i> and <i>C. intermedia</i>), on poorly drained alluvial plains	Endangered
7.3.8	<i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. +/- <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest to open woodland on alluvial plains	Endangered
7.3.10	Simple to complex mesophyll to notophyll vine forest on moderate to poorly drained alluvial plains of moderate fertility	Endangered
7.3.19	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> or <i>C. tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on well drained alluvium	Of concern
7.3.20	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> , or <i>C. intermedia</i> and <i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> , or <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> and <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp., or <i>E. cloeziana</i> , or <i>C. torelliana</i> open forests (or vine forests with these species as emergents), on alluvial fans at the base of ranges	Of concern
7.11.2	Notophyll or mesophyll vine forest with <i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i> or <i>Licuala ramsayi</i> , on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.18	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and/or <i>C. tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> medium to tall open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on coastal metamorphic headlands and near-coastal foothills	Of concern
7.11.24	Closed vineland of wind disturbed vine forest, on metamorphics	Of concern
7.12.5	<i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> +/- <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest, or <i>Acacia mangium</i> and <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on granites and rhyolites	Endangered
7.12.12	<i>Acacia mangium</i> and <i>A. celsa</i> open to closed forest, or <i>A. polystachya</i> woodland to closed forest on granites and rhyolites	Of concern
7.12.23	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and/or <i>C. tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> medium to tall open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on coastal granite and rhyolite headlands and near-coastal foothills	Endangered
7.12.40	Closed vineland of wind disturbed vine forest, on granites and rhyolites	Of concern

Table 2: Species of conservation significance.

Scientific name	Common name	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> status	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 status	Back on Track status
<i>Litoria rheocola</i>	common mistfrog	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Litoria serrata</i>	tapping green eyed frog	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
<i>Nyctimystes dayi</i>	Australian laceid	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	beach stone-curlew	Vulnerable	Listed marine	High
<i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> (southern population)	southern cassowary (southern population)	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana</i>	Macleay's fig-parrot	Vulnerable	Least concern	Low
<i>Ninox rufa queenslandica</i>	rufous owl (southern subspecies)	Vulnerable	Near threatened	Low
<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	red goshawk	Endangered	Vulnerable	High
<i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>	spectacled flying-fox	Least concern	Vulnerable	High

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements.

Scientific name	Common name	Bonn	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	white-throated needletail	-	✓	✓	✓
<i>Egretta sacra</i>	eastern reef egret	-	-	-	✓
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater	-	✓	-	-
<i>Monarcha trivirgatus</i>	spectacled monarch	✓	-	-	-
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-

Bonn: Bonn Convention

JAMBA: Japan—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

CAMBA: China—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea—Australia Migratory Agreement