

# Oakview National Park Management Statement 2013

|                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Park size:                    | 3,490ha                   |
| Bioregion:                    | South Eastern Queensland  |
| QPWS region:                  | Sunshine and Fraser Coast |
| Local government estate/area: | Gympie Regional Council   |
| State electorate:             | Callide                   |

## Legislative framework

|   |  |
|---|--|
| a | <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>                                 |
| a | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i> |
| a | <i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>   |
| a | <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>  |

## Plans and agreements

|   |  |
|---|--|
| a | Bonn Convention  |
| a | Draft national recovery plan for the Nangur spiny skink <i>Nangura spinosa</i> |
| a | Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement                                       |

## Thematic strategies

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| a | Fire Management Strategy |
| a | Pest Management Strategy |

## Vision

Oakview National Park will be managed to protect its high scenic and natural values including endangered regional ecosystems and species of conservation significance through minimising the impacts of fire, pest and inappropriate recreation.

## Conservation purpose

In 2001, a 3,490ha portion of Oakview State Forest, as part of the South East Queensland Forests Agreement (SEQFA) process, was converted to Oakview Forest Reserve due to its high conservation value. In 2009, 1,011ha of the forest reserve was converted to Oakview National Park and the remaining 2,479ha converted to Oakview Resource Reserve to accommodate legitimate mining exploration interests. Exploration was complete in 2010 and the resource reserve was converted to national park with a total area of 3,490ha.

The national park contains diverse ecosystems, spectacular scenic landscapes and provides important habitat for species of conservation significance, including the endangered gecko *Phyllurus kabikabi* and Nangur spiny skink *Nangura spinosa*.

The area contains bottle tree scrub *Brachychiton* sp. that is one of the more easterly examples in South East Queensland. Two near threatened flora species are also found in Oakview National Park, including the giant ironwood *Choricarpia subargentea* and *Rhodamnia pauciovulata*.

Conservation of the area's special values and protection of the Nangur spiny skink is a priority.

## Protecting and presenting the park's values

### Landscape

Oakview National Park is located 35km west of Gympie, south-east of the township of Kilkivan and sits in the higher parts of the Mary River Catchment. The surrounding landscape is a scenic rural area with forested hills and mountain ranges. Mount Sinai is located in the south of the national park. Oakview State Forest is located adjacent to the Oakview National Park and contains both native forest and exotic plantation.

The park is generally located in Sub-region (Province) 7, Gympie Block as described in Sattler and Williams (1999). The geology is broadly summarised as old sedimentary rocks, metamorphics and intermediate and basic volcanics with scattered acid volcanic intrusions; and low, hilly landscapes.

Oakview National Park is linked by steep ridges and forested freehold land to Wrattens National Park, about 5km south. Wrattens National Park is linked further south to the much larger Yabba State Forest, Conondale National Park and Jimna State Forest complex. These linkages provide a significant expanse of native vegetative corridor from Bellthorpe to Kilkivan in a landscape modified for forestry and grazing.

Oakview National Park is rugged and remote with little development occurring during the years since the cessation of timber extraction.

### Regional ecosystems

The area contains extensive ironbark woodlands, mixed eucalypt woodlands and forests and araucarian notophyll and microphyll rainforests. The diverse vegetation includes localised patches of wet sclerophyll/tall open forest and rare woodland with *Xanthorrhoea* species on serpentinite.

There are six of concern regional ecosystems and one endangered regional ecosystem represented in Oakview National Park (Table 1). The endangered regional ecosystem 12.12.17 semi-evergreen vine thicket on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks is usually found in the southern half of the bioregion and appears on different geology types.

### Native plants and animals

Over 200 plant species occur in the park including fourteen species at the northern limit of their distribution range and thirty-one at their southern limit. Conservation significant plant species include the giant ironwood *Choricarpia subargentea*, three-leaved bosistoa *Bosistoa transversa* and *Rhodamnia pauciovulata* (Table 2).

The Nangur skink *Nangura spinosa* was discovered in 1992. Surveys suggest that less than 200 adult skinks exist in Oakview National Park and Nangur National Park (DERM 2010). The suspected cause of decline in skink numbers has been attributed to loss and disturbance of habitat from past hoop pine logging operations. More recently feral animals have impacted on skink numbers, most notably cane toads and foxes (Borsboom et al. 2005). Illegal collection has been known to occur and is suspected to be a threat. Location sites of the skink are not publicised in order to protect burrows from illegal collection.

The vulnerable glossy black-cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami* and near threatened grey goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae* and golden-tipped bat *Kerivoula papuensis* have been recorded in Oakview National Park. Other conservation significant species include the ringed thin-tailed gecko *Phyllurus caudiannulatus* and *Phyllurus kabikabi*. Further work is required on the endangered gecko *Phyllurus kabikabi* as it is the only population currently recorded on a protected area. Species of conservation significance are listed in tables 2 and 3.

### Aboriginal culture

The park is covered by a native title claim QC2013/003 on behalf of the Kabi Kabi First Nation. The Kilkivan area holds high importance to Aboriginal people and there are many sites of Aboriginal cultural importance across the region. Site records in the surrounding region include Aboriginal burials, middens and canoe trees but none have been recorded for the park as it has never been formally surveyed.

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

## Shared-history culture

The Kilkivan area was built largely on gold and other mineral mining industries, including copper mining. The Mt Clara Copper Mine Chimney, built around 1870, is registered on the National Estate database administered by the Australian Heritage Commission. The 16m high structure is located on Rossmore Road, near the end of two-wheel drive access, close to the national park boundary (Australian Heritage Commission 2002). Kilkivan Shire Council restored the Mt Clara Copper Smelter in 1978, using a National Estate grant.

Within Oakview National Park there are three unassessed non-Indigenous cultural sites. These sites are a Chinese market garden site (indicated by a signpost), the Oakview forestry camp site, and a slab hut.

## Tourism and visitor opportunities

Current recreational activities in the national park include nature study, bushwalking, four-wheel driving, mountain biking, horse riding and trail biking. The area provides remote-natural bushwalking experiences close to the high population centres of South East Queensland.

The Bicentennial National Trail traverses through the south-west corner of the park and is the location of the annual Kilkivan Great Horse Ride trail. The trail follows the gazetted road adjacent to the boundary of Oakview State Forest near Mt Sinai and traverses the park in three locations on gazetted road.

## Education and science

Oakview National Park provides potential opportunities for the public, school groups and other organisations to carry out research and educate others about the natural environment and associated values. These include opportunities to understand more about the vegetation communities, fauna and flora species, catchment systems, geological processes and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous history and values.

It is important that knowledge of the locations of Nangur spiny skink burrows is not publically available due to the potential for illegal collection.

## Partnerships

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service works in partnership with neighbours, Hancock Queensland Plantations and Gympie Regional Council in managing fire and pests across the landscape.

## Other key issues and responses

### Pest management

Feral animals recorded in Oakview National Park include feral pigs, cats, foxes and cane toads. Predation from these feral animals has the potential to significantly reduce numbers of Nangur spiny skink. A cooperative wild dog management program is in place with the Gympie Regional Council and other stakeholders with the aim to minimise the impacts of wild dogs.

Lantana *Lantana camara* is infesting areas where the Nangur spiny skink occur. It is especially prevalent along edges of vine scrubs adjacent to roads. It is suggested that lantana may alter the diversity and biomass of arthropods, reduce natural light and/or change the characteristics of forest floor litter (DERM 2010) thus impacting on the skink.

Cat's claw creeper *Macfadyena unguis-cati* also threatens the skink by smothering burrows and reducing light reaching the forest floor.

Oakview National Park has a current pest management strategy. However, the pest management strategy pre-dates the Nangur spiny skink recovery plan and may not reflect all the recommended actions in the recovery plan.

### Fire management

Fire management is conducted in accordance with the fire strategy for Oakview National Park. The strategy aims to balance the protection of life and property with the conservation of cultural values and various ecosystems.

Fire is an integral component of the Australian environment with many fauna and flora species depending on fire. The optimal timing, frequency and intensity of fire vary between ecosystems.

## Other management issues

There are seven apiary sites within the national park, established when the park was State forest. Under current QPWS operational policy and as part of the South East Queensland Forests Agreement, these sites will remain active until 31 December 2024.

## References

- Australian Heritage Commission 2002 Annual Report 2002–2003. Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.
- Borsboom A Smyth G and Rider E 2005 The rare Queensland skink *Nangura spinosa*: Surveys, distribution, habitat, threats, management and conservation status. Internal report. Environmental Protection Agency, Brisbane.
- DERM 2010 National recovery plan for the Nangur spiny skink *Nangura spinosa*, The State of Queensland, Department of Environment and Resource Management.
- Sattler PS and Williams RD (Eds) 1999 The Conservation Status of Queensland's Bioregional Ecosystems. Environmental Protection Agency and the Queensland National Parks Association, Brisbane.

## Management directions

| Desired outcomes  | Actions and guidelines   |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Native plants and animals</b></p> <p>Ecological communities are conserved and habitat diversity maintained.</p> <p>Knowledge of native animal species distribution and habitat requirements are increased and used for future management decisions.</p> | <p>A1. Conduct flora and fauna surveys to establish population sizes and community health to establish baselines to monitor ecological trends and inform management.</p> <p>A2. Facilitate development and implementation actions from management programs and recovery plans for significant species.</p> <p>A3. Undertake further research into the endangered gecko <i>Phyllurus kabikabi</i> to assist with its conservation management.</p> |
| <p><b>Aboriginal culture</b></p> <p>Aboriginal cultural values of the conservation parks are identified and protected.</p>  | <p>A4. Encourage and support Traditional Owners in conducting a comprehensive cultural heritage survey of the parks across the Sunshine Coast region including recording stories, language names and cultural heritage places.</p>   |
| <p><b>Pest management</b></p> <p>Pest management improves the integrity of communities and species</p>  | <p>A5. Update and implement the pest management strategy taking into account relevant recommendations in the recovery plan for the Nangur spiny skink.</p>   |
| <p><b>Fire management</b></p> <p>Fire is managed to protect natural and biodiversity values of the park.</p>  | <p>A6. Continue to update and implement the fire management strategy and appropriate fire regimes (including fire exclusion) to protect conservation significant species, including the Nangur skink.</p>  |

## Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

| Regional ecosystem number | Description   | Biodiversity status |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 12.11.8                   | <i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i> , <i>E. crebra</i> woodland on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics                    | Of concern          |
| 12.11.12                  | Araucarian complex microphyll vine forest on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics; usually northern half of bioregion | Of concern          |
| 12.11.13                  | Semi-evergreen vine thicket on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics; usually northern half of bioregion               | Of concern          |
| 12.11.14                  | <i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> , <i>E. tereticornis</i> woodland on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics                    | Of concern          |

| Regional ecosystem number | Description  | Biodiversity status |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 12.12.12                  | <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> , <i>E. crebra</i> or <i>E. siderophloia</i> , <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest on granite | Of concern          |
| 12.12.17                  | Semi-evergreen vine thicket on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks; usually in southern half of bioregion                        | Endangered          |
| 12.12.24                  | <i>Angophora leiocarpa</i> , <i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> woodland on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks                            | 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 |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| <b>Plants</b>   |                          |                                     |  |                      |
| <i>Bosistoa transversa</i>                                      | three-leaved bosistoa    | -                                   | Vulnerable   | -                    |
| <i>Choricarpia subargentea</i>                                  | giant Ironwood           | Near threatened                     | -  | Low                  |
| <i>Rhodamnia pauciovulata</i>                                   | -                        | Near threatened                     | -  | Low                  |
| <b>Animals</b>  |                          |                                     |  |                      |
| <i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>                                | grey goshawk             | Near threatened                     | -  | Low                  |
| <i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>                                  | glossy black-cockatoo    | Vulnerable                          | -  | -                    |
| <i>Erotoscincus graciloides</i>                                 | elf skink                | Near threatened                     | -  | -                    |
| <i>Kerivoula papuensis</i>                                      | golden-tipped bat        | Near threatened                     | -  | Medium               |
| <i>Nangura spinosa</i>  | Nangur skink             | Endangered                          | Critically endangered  | Medium               |
| <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (South East Queensland bioregion) | koala                    | Vulnerable                          | Vulnerable   | -                    |
| <i>Phyllurus caudiannulatus</i>                                 | ringed thin-tailed gecko | Vulnerable                          | -  | Medium               |
| <i>Phyllurus kabikabi</i>                                       | -                        | Endangered                          | -  | -                    |

**Table 3: Species listed in international agreements**

| Scientific name                  | Common name         | Bonn | CAMBA | JAMBA | ROKAMBA |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|------|-------|-------|---------|
| <i>Merops ornatus</i>            | rainbow bee-eater   | -    | -     | ü     | -       |
| <i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>       | black-faced monarch | ü    | -     | -     | -       |
| <i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i> | spectacled monarch  | ü    | -     | -     | -       |
| <i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>       | rufous fantail      | ü    | -     | -     | -       |

BONN – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement