

# Paluma Range Regional Park Management Statement

## Park purpose

Paluma Range Regional Park was formally gazetted as Paluma Range Resources Reserve on 9 December 2011 under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

The park purpose was identified as part of the gazettal as enabling access to mineral resources while providing protection to natural and cultural values.

This regional park is declared as a resource use area to enable access to mineral resources to continue.

A small part of the park is situated within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Management must take account of the World Heritage Convention and appropriate legislation and policies relating to this designation.

Park size	589ha
Bioregion	Wet Tropics
Local government area	Townsville City Council
State electorate	Hinchinbrook
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, Paluma Range 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 and mineral resource management involving a proactive management effort at a moderate level to understand or protect known natural and mineral values.

Cultural values will be managed proactively to protect those values known to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services, (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 relatively low levels of visitor use. 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.

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.

## General park values, uses and management

### World Heritage

The park is protected and managed under the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* and the *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998*. Under section 27(i) of the *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* mining in the World Heritage area section, is only allowed under a licence, permit or other authority under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*.

## Regional ecosystems

The park protects nine regional ecosystems, one of which has endangered biodiversity status and three are of concern, Table 1.

## Species of conservation significance

There are currently no records of species of conservation significance on Queensland Government wildlife databases for this park.

## 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*.

## Resource Use

Paluma Range Regional Park enables access to tungsten, molybdenum and bismuth resources.

## Priorities for park management

For the small area of the park in the world heritage area, the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the World Heritage Area, as adopted by the World Heritage Committee, will be the key reference for the future effective protection and management of the Area as identified in paragraph 51 of Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention 2013. Where the World Heritage area applies, this park will be managed in a manner consistent with the protection of the Area's Outstanding Universal Value and its integrity.

Other than being an integral component of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, the regional ecosystems and the resources 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 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 these regional ecosystems.

## Appendix 1

### Conservation values inventory

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

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.3.40	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest on well-drained alluvial plains of lowlands.	Endangered
7.12.11a	Complex notophyll vine forests south of the Herbert River. Foothills and uplands of the moist rainfall zone.	Of concern
7.12.11b	Simple notophyll vine forest. Rocky areas including unstable rock talus slopes. Foothills and uplands of the moist rainfall zone.	Of concern
7.12.61a	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest to tall open forest and woodland. Includes communities ranging from those dominated by <i>E. tereticornis</i> to mixtures of that species with <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> , <i>E. drepanophylla</i> , <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> and <i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i> . Foothills and uplands on granite and rhyolite, of the moist and dry rainfall zones.	Of concern