

Currawinya National Park Management Plan



June 2021

This management plan has been prepared and co-designed by the Budjiti People and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service & Partnerships (QPWS&P), Department of Environment and Science

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June 2021



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1. INTRODUCTION



Figure 1. The Paroo River is the lifeblood of our land, it sustained our people from the beginning to the present. Caiwarro waterhole 1991, the year Currawinya was gazetted as a national park © Lorna McNiven and Wes Stacey 1991

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service & Partnerships works with First Nations peoples to ensure the protection of Country and culture. We pay our respects to all peoples, and to the Elders past, present and future, for land and sea on which we work, live and walk.

1.1 Approach to best practice management

Queensland's parks, forests and reserves are places we want to protect for future enjoyment and wellbeing. What makes these places special are the presence and diversity of natural, cultural, social and economic values. These areas experience natural cycles—they live and breathe—and therefore our management needs to be dynamic too. Over millennia, the Budjiti People managed the lands and waters as a cultural landscape and maintained the country according to kinship law, customs, practices and traditions. A partnership approach, drawing on both scientific knowledge and Budjiti traditional ecological knowledge, creates that dynamic management model. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service & Partnerships (QPWS&P), within the Department of Environment and Science, applies a contemporary management process that is based on international best practice and targets management towards the most important features of each park: their **key values**.

The **Values-Based Management Framework** (VBMF) is an **adaptive management** cycle that incorporates planning, prioritising, doing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting into all areas of our business. This enables the agency to be more flexible and proactive and to improve management effectiveness over time. We want to keep our parks, forests and reserves healthy by:

- managing and protecting the things that matter most—our key values
- strategically directing management effort towards priorities
- delivering our **custodial obligations** as a land manager
- setting a **level of service** for all parks, forests and reserves
- building systems that support decision-making for adaptive management
- building support for what we do through accountability and transparency
- striving for improvement through structured learning and doing.

As a land manager, QPWS&P has a custodial obligation to ensure our estate is managed to provide appropriate and safe access, protect life and property, be a good neighbour and work cooperatively with partners across the landscape. The agency does this as part of setting a level of service for each park. Level of service is a management standard that considers an area's values, threatening processes, custodial obligations, risks and overall management complexity. As native title holders, the Budjiti People as land managers also hold custodial obligations over the estate. They seek to protect their rights and interests in the park and work in partnership with QPWS&P in the management of the area's key values, including cultural heritage.

By assessing an area's key values and levels of service, QPWS&P in partnership with Budjiti People can prioritise management efforts, balancing the importance of values and threats with custodial obligations. Each year, the Budjiti People will work with QPWS&P in tracking work programs, monitoring the condition of values and evaluating performance across all aspects of management. The evaluation process documents how efficiently and effectively we are working toward achieving the objectives we set for managing parks, forests and reserves, and how the condition of key values is changing in response to our management efforts. This evaluation supports transparent and accountable reporting, enabling us to continuously improve park management and demonstrate outcomes to the community.

Figure 2 illustrates the phases of the VBMF cycle for management planning. A glossary of the key concepts (in **bold**) used throughout the document is listed in Appendix 2.

1.2 Management planning

Management plans are developed through a process of research, assessment and consultation to establish priorities and set **strategic management direction** for the park. They are legislative requirements under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld). Some planning areas may include forests and reserves (*Forestry Act 1959* (Qld)) and marine parks (*Marine Parks Act 2004* (Qld)). All plans are prepared in keeping with the legislation's management principles, supporting regulations, government policies and procedures, and international agreements.

Planning for each park is brought together and communicated through a number of planning documents:

- Management plans and management statements provide the high-level strategic direction for managing an area's key values, levels of service and custodial obligations. Management plans and statements are statutory documents and are generally reviewed every 10 years.
- Resource information documents support management plans and statements and provide a compendium of park information that tells the story of the park. These documents accompany management plans and statements, providing contextual information. They support information provided in the plan, but do not provide management direction.
- Thematic strategies provide specific objectives to achieve the strategic management directions identified in management plans and statements. While all parks and forests require a fire strategy and pest strategy, others are developed based on a protected area's management requirements and priorities. Thematic strategies are generally reviewed every three to five years to enable adaptive management.
- Action plans outline the work program for delivering on-ground actions.

Further information on the VBMF, copies of management plans/statements and resource information documents are available at www.des.qld.gov.au.

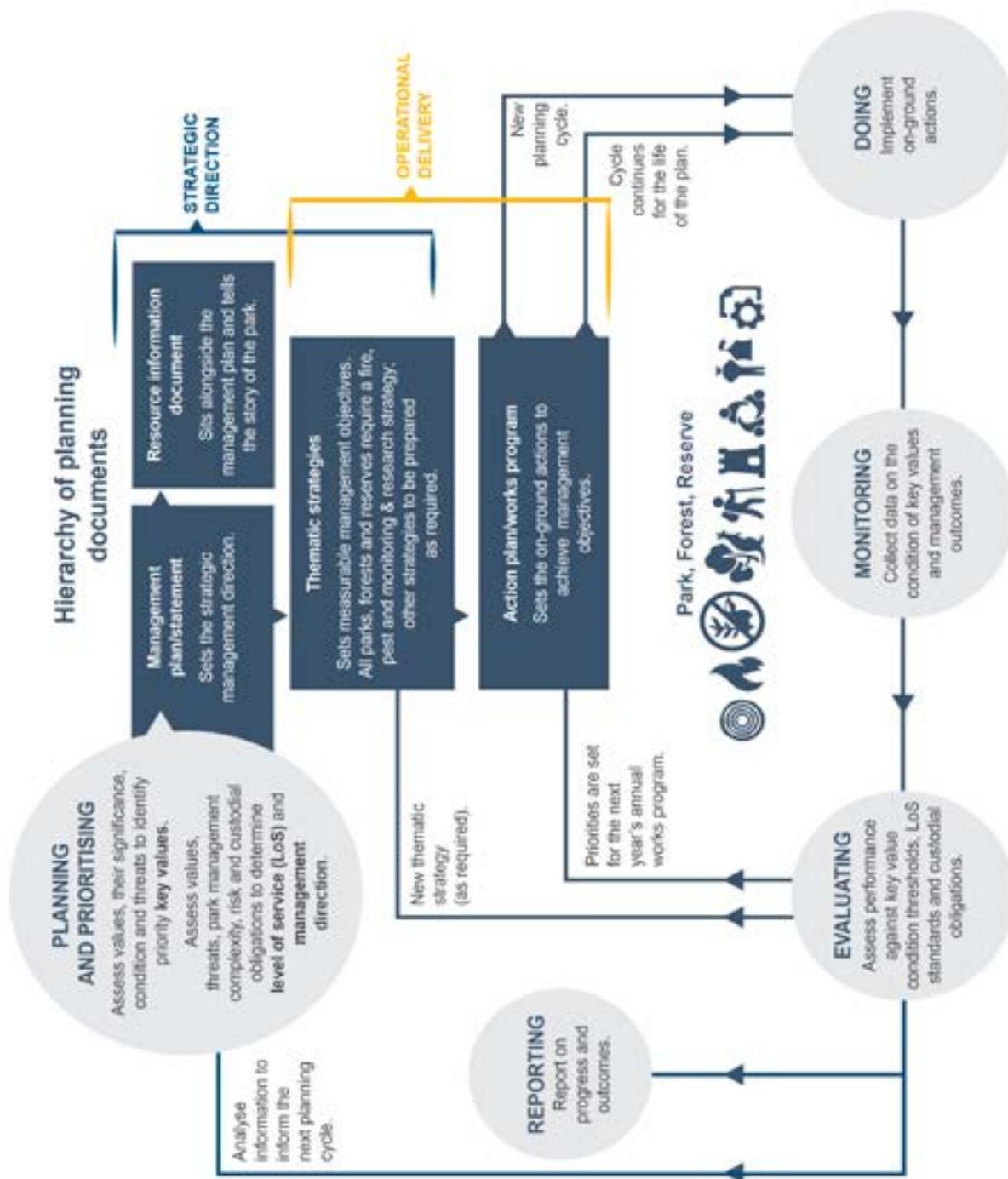


Figure 2. Phases of the VBMF cycle for planning and the hierarchy of planning documents

2. BUDJITI PEOPLE



*Figure 3. Budjiti People celebrating their native title determination at Currawinya, 3 July 2015
© Sue Akers, Bush Heritage 2015*

2.1 Budjiti People, Budjiti lands and waters – Ngapa Manti Gana Budjiti

Written by Margaret Hearn, Peter Seckold, Liz McNiven, Lorenda Hodges and Phillip Eulo
Budjiti National Park Working Group, Budjiti Aboriginal Corporation

We are the first people of the Paroo River watershed country, our ancestors made the first human footprints on this land. We are the Indigenous people of the Currawinya National Park, we are the Pademelon People. We are the Traditional Owners, we belong to this Country and it belongs to us, we are part of the fabric of this landscape. It is the resting place of our ancestors and the birthplace of our language, customs, traditions and practices.

We are the native title holders, with a Consent Determination in the Federal Court of Australia in 2015. An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) signed by the Budjiti Aboriginal Corporation covers about 3,568 km² of protected area estate, currently managed by QPWS&P. In seeking equal partnership with QPWS&P in management and decision-making processes, the Budjiti National Park Working Group, formed under the ILUA by the Budjiti Aboriginal Corporation and the QPWS&P, established terms of reference and began working together on native title matters within the Currawinya National Park, including the drafting of this management plan.

Our people read the night sky as we read the land, with the movement of the stars telling us about the nesting of the emu and indicating the right time to harvest the eggs. Holistically, our culture reflects the interconnection of everything on the manti (earth), in the ngapa (water) and in the sky.

Our language is Budjiti, it holds the roots of our stories and our cultural knowledge, it identifies us as the Paroo River People. We will use our language in naming and mapping our Country and interpreting our cultural landscape. We will maintain our practices and follow our traditions in protecting important, significant and sacred places within the national park.

The wetland environment, landscape and natural features of our Country are rich in natural and cultural heritage, with the archaeological site of Youlain Springs indicating occupation reaching back 13,000 years, and other cultural sites extending this date back much further. In protecting the river's natural and cultural heritage, Budjiti People and Barkandji People travelled to Uganda in 2007, successfully securing the listing of the Nocolche Nature Reserve and Peery in New South Wales under the Ramsar Convention, a combined landscape of 138,304 ha.

We will maintain our place on our Country through visiting and taking care of our physical cultural materials and sites, by telling our stories and remembering our ancestors. We will sit down on our Country, feel the earth beneath us and listen to the land. In practising our customs and traditions within the determination area, we will hunt and fish and gather our foods, use our medicines, teach our children and gather together as a people in ceremony.

To sustain us into the future, we will establish a Meeting Place, a Keeping Place and a Cultural Heritage Ranger Program, including land and water rangers. We will also explore other potential commercial and employment opportunities for Budjiti People within the Currawinya National Park. We will walk together with QPWS&P to develop and strengthen the partnership, and to realise the aspirations of our people.

2.2 Budjiti Aboriginal Corporation

The Federal Court of Australia determined that the Budjiti People's native title be held in trust by the Budjiti Aboriginal Corporation, as the prescribed body corporate. This corporation manages the native title rights and interests of the Budjiti People to land and waters covering approximately 16,730 km² of Paroo River watershed country extending from the town of Hungerford on the Queensland and New South Wales border in the south, to the Bindegolly Lakes in the west, the Moonjaree Waterhole in the east and above, and including the town of Eulo in the north (Map 1).



Map 1. Budjiti People's native title determination area, showing the significance of Currawinya National Park

NATIVE TITLE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS

Non-exclusive native title rights and interests recognised in relation to these lands and waters include the right to:

1. access, be present on, move about on and travel over the area
2. camp, and live temporarily on the area as part of camping, and for that purpose build temporary shelters
3. hunt, fish and gather on the land and waters of the area for personal, domestic and non-commercial communal purposes
4. take, use, share and exchange natural resources from the land and waters of the area for personal, domestic and non-commercial communal purposes
5. take and use the water of the area for personal, domestic and non-commercial communal purposes
6. conduct ceremonies and hold meetings on the area
7. be buried and bury native title holders within the area
8. maintain places of importance and areas of significance to the native title holders under their traditional laws and customs and protect those places and areas from physical harm
9. teach on the area the physical and spiritual attributes of the area
10. light fires on the area for domestic purposes including cooking, but not for the purpose of hunting or clearing vegetation
11. be accompanied onto the area by certain non-native title holders, being:
 - a. spouses and other immediate family members of native title holders, pursuant to the exercise of traditional laws and customs
 - b. people required under the traditional laws acknowledged, and traditional customs observed, by the native title holders for the performance of, or participation in ceremonies.



We, the Budjiti People

Written by

**Margaret Hearn, Peter Seckold, Liz McNiven, Lorenda Hodges and Phillip Eulo
Budjiti National Park Working Group, Budjiti Aboriginal Corporation**

We, the Budjiti People, have maintained our connection to Country for tens of thousands of years before colonisation and continue to maintain our connection through to the present, despite the brutal massacres perpetrated by agents of the new colony of Queensland during the frontier era, despite living under the Aboriginal Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act 1897 (Qld), and despite the systematic de-culturalisation of the assimilation policy and the unfulfilled periods of self-determination and reconciliation. Against these odds, the Budjiti People have doggedly maintained knowledge of our unique identity as the Pademelon People of the Paroo River watershed country, as well as our language, our foods and medicines, our stories and songs, and our traditions and practices. Armed with our heritage and our native title, we will negotiate the current and projected threats to our connection to Country with the same resilience and stubborn determination as our ancestors applied to this same challenge in their time.

The issues affecting our capacity to engage with our cultural heritage within the Currawinya National Park include the remote location, the socio-economics of the Budjiti People, lack of employment opportunities on the park, and the lack of a structural presence for Budjiti People to meet together as a native title community, as Traditional Owners and First Nations peoples.

The remoteness and the dirt roads render a visit to the Currawinya National Park akin to an expedition requiring well thought out provisions, as the closest cities and even the bigger towns are hundreds of kilometres away. For this reason, many Budjiti People are living, working and studying outside the area, with those living locally facing extreme disadvantage, including limited resources, health services and employment, education and training opportunities. These factors impact on an individual's capacity to physically connect with our Country. To retain our cultural knowledge as a people, we need to support Budjiti People returning to Country and walking in the footsteps of their ancestors.

Budjiti People need a reason to connect to our Country within the park, for example, if the fish are biting at the Caiwarro waterhole, if a cultural gathering is taking place, or if we are





involved in work either with the park or with a contractor. We don't visit sites or places on our Country as tourists, we visit for a purpose.

The proposed meeting place will enable and support Budjiti People visiting the park with their family by providing a place and giving it a purpose. That is, to practise our culture in community with our people, a place to heal and to restore a sense of belonging of intergenerational connectedness. This disability-accessible facility will be temperature-controlled and include an ablution block, laundry, accommodation, meeting room, dining and lounge room, and kitchen.

The narrow scope of the ILUA negotiation process, limited to the Budjiti National Park Working Group and the Budjiti Aboriginal Corporation, leaves other Budjiti native title holders, including Elders, outside the process. Based on a policy of inclusion, the Budjiti Cultural Heritage Ranger Program will reach out to all layers of Budjiti society, from the young ones to the Elders. It will provide a meaningful cultural experience for Budjiti People on our Country and support a partnership between science and traditional knowledge in managing the Budjiti cultural landscape. The program will support the Budjiti People's participation in researching, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating works within the park and provide a conduit for incorporating traditional knowledge into planning and management processes.

Designed to enable the maintenance of a meaningful connection to Country and as an employment pathway to working on the Currawinya National Park, the Ranger Program will develop skills and build capacity within our community through hands-on work, vocational education and training courses, and through educational institutions. The recruitment of Budjiti People will enable mutual support and understanding and increase the likelihood of retention. The program will include a mentoring process to develop skills, knowledge and confidence and to enhance employability. We will seek cadetships and employment of Budjiti People in land and water ranger programs.

Identified positions within the Currawinya National Park could extend this employment pathway to the QPWS&P's Currawinya National Park and give Budjiti People further opportunity to work on our traditional Country.



2.3 Currawinya National Park and the Budjiti People

Threats

This statement from the Budjiti National Park Working Group identifies the threats and concerns that Budjiti People have regarding the management of Currawinya National Park. It outlines their concerns and aspirations for the park and how their culture, cultural sites and landscapes, stories, food and medicinal resources are protected and managed, the recognition of their native title rights and interests, and ensures that all Budjiti People have the capacity and opportunities to benefit from the management of their land and waters.

Threats include:

Loss of access to Country: Budjiti People have never lost their connection to Country, but rather have lost their access to Country. This loss of access to Country has impacted on Budjiti People's abilities to undertake their custodial obligations to look after Country. Healthy Country, Healthy Budjiti People. **Threat rating: Very high**

Loss of control of Country: Budjiti People need to be involved and to have a say on how their Country is managed. Budjiti People want to improve the condition of Country by being on Country and involved in the management of their Country. This will allow Budjiti People to build capacity, develop commercial opportunities and improve the health of their people and Country. **Threat rating: Very high**

Loss of connection to Country: Budjiti People need to undertake traditional land management practices and custodial obligations to maintain their connection to Country. **Threat rating: Very high**

Desired outcome and strategic management direction

Desired outcome

The relationship between Budjiti People and QPWS&P and the protection of their cultural heritage will be managed by improved knowledge and co-stewardship, recognising their access, control and connection to Country, and their role in managing the cultural heritage values that occur across Currawinya National Park. The condition of Budjiti People's cultural heritage and values will be improved to *good* by implementing cooperative agreements, managing fire and reducing pest and visitor impacts.

Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
Loss of Budjiti People's access to Country	Maintain partnerships with Budjiti People to ensure co-stewardship of natural and cultural heritage values.	1
	Improve connection to Country by collaborating with the Budjiti Aboriginal Corporation in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating park management across Budjiti Country.	1
Loss of Budjiti People's control of Country	Enhance Budjiti People's connection to Country through the implementation of traditional land management practices and the use of cultural resources.	1
	Increase capacity and knowledge of both QPWS&P and the Budjiti Aboriginal Corporation through joint participation in park management activities.	1
Loss of Budjiti People's connection to Country	Increase support and provide opportunities for Budjiti People to get back on Country on Currawinya National Park.	1
	Build management capacity and opportunities for Budjiti People through employment, contracting and training opportunities.	1
	Support Budjiti People to develop ecologically and commercially sustainable cultural enterprises, including cultural interpretation, visitor management and tourism services.	1
	Improve access to Country by creating a 'Budjiti exclusive area' at Caiwarro for cultural heritage purposes.	1
	Investigate opportunities with the Budjiti Aboriginal Corporation to establish a meeting place for Budjiti People to stay on the park.	1
	In partnership with Budjiti People, develop a cultural awareness program to enhance visitor appreciation of Budjiti People's culture, through language and other cultural information.	1
	Increase capabilities of QPWS&P staff in cultural heritage management and cross-cultural engagement through training programs developed by Budjiti People.	1

See Appendix 2. Glossary for priority rating definitions.

3. CURRAWINYA NATIONAL PARK



Figure 4. Granite Springs, Toobooka section of Werewilka, Currawinya National Park © Stephen Peck 2012

3.1 Management plan and thematic strategies

The Currawinya National Park Management Plan provides the strategic management direction for managing its keys values (Section 4) in partnership with the Budjiti People and meeting our custodial obligations across eight **management elements** (Section 5). The plan is supported by the Currawinya Resource Information document, a compendium of park information that tells the story of the park. The strategic management direction set out in this management plan links to a set of thematic strategies that detail management objectives, providing the connection between high-level strategies and on-ground operations. The complexity of a park’s values and custodial obligations determines the requirements for specific strategies. Currawinya National Park has six thematic strategies:

- Budjiti cultural heritage strategy
- fire strategy
- pest strategy
- monitoring and research strategy
- visitor strategy
- cultural heritage strategy.

3.2 Park overview

Currawinya National Park is located 90 kilometres south of Eulo in south-western Queensland. It is in the state electorate of Warrego and the local government areas of Paroo and Bulloo shires (Map 2).

A Native Title Consent Determination was handed down to the Budjiti People by the Federal Court in June 2015 under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth). An ILUA with the Budjiti Aboriginal Corporation (QCD2015/007) details the responsibilities of the State and the native title holders. This agreement, registered with the National Native Title Tribunal, recognises the rights and interests of the Budjiti People as the native title holders of Currawinya National Park.

Currawinya National Park was gazetted in 1991 (Currawinya and Caiwarro sections). Further additions were made in 1992 (Kilcowera section) and 2015 (Boorara, Werewilka and Oolamon sections), making Currawinya National Park one of the largest national parks in Queensland, totalling 344,331 hectares. The park protects internationally important wetlands and representative examples of land systems and vegetation types within the Mulga Lands bioregion.

The park has a long pastoral history, represented by numerous post-settlement cultural heritage values. It is recognised as being internationally important under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. Lake Numalla (QLD123) and Lake Wyara (QLD124), Paroo River Paroo–Badu (Waterholes) – Caiwarro (QLD176) and the Eulo Artesian Springs Supergroup (QLD177) are listed as nationally significant in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia. These lakes, waterholes and wetlands support migratory bird species recognised under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) and international treaties.

The park protects two category 1a springs (Massey and Tunga), three category 2 springs (Little Granite, Fish and Poached Egg) and many other artesian springs that play an important role in supporting endemic or range limited threatened flora and fauna species. The springs also have significance to the Budjiti People and historical cultural links.



Map 2. Currawinya National Park location map

The protected area conserves 22 regional ecosystems (REs), including one 'endangered' and 10 'of concern' communities. The park protects 90 per cent of the state target for the mulga community (RE 6.12.1 – 'of concern') and is the only protected area where this regional ecosystem is found. The park protects 25 threatened species as well as excellent examples of both Budjiti and post-settlement cultural heritage.

In 2002, the Currawinya bilby fence was completed to protect the endangered greater bilby *Macrotis lagotis*. This electrified predator-exclusion fence protects 29 square kilometres of bilby habitat and is one of several fenced areas nationally.

Currawinya National Park has high visitor and tourism values and is a regionally important tourist destination providing a variety of natural and cultural experiences. Birdlife Australia lists Currawinya National Park as an Important Bird Area under its resident waterbirds and migratory shorebird categories. Currawinya National Park is internationally renowned for its birdwatching opportunities and includes a site within the East Asian–Australian Flyway Partnership Site Network.

3.3 Wetlands of international importance (Ramsar site)

Australia is a signatory to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) and has listed 66 wetland sites under the Convention, including five in Queensland. The Convention seeks to stop the global loss of wetlands and to conserve remaining wetlands through wise use and site-appropriate management. As signatory to the Convention, Australia agrees to manage these wetlands to protect their unique ecological character. The EPBC Act provides legislative protection for the Australian listed Ramsar wetland sites. The Australian Ramsar management principles are outlined in Schedule 6 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* and cover the preparation of a Ramsar site management plan and community consultation processes (Australian Government n.d.).

Australia is also a signatory to a number of international migratory bird agreements including the Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement, China–Australia Migratory Bird

Agreement, Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement and Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention). Migratory species identified in these agreements are also identified in the EPBC Act and provide further support for the protection of the critical ecosystem services and environmental benefits of the Currawinya Lakes (Currawinya National Park) Ramsar site.

Currawinya Lakes (Currawinya National Park) was listed under the Ramsar Convention on 11 March 1996. The area of the Currawinya Ramsar site aligns with the 1992 Currawinya National Park gazettal area of 151,300 hectares (Australian Government n.d.).

Currawinya National Park provides critical ecological services and environmental benefits including:

- a unique diversity of habitats with many different wetland types represented in a natural (unmodified) wetland
- wildlife refuge in drought conditions for amphibians, fish, reptiles and birds
- waterbird diversity, abundance and habitat values
- threatened wetland-dependent fauna (e.g. painted snipe, grey snake and freckled duck)
- notable diversity of native wetland fauna of the bioregion
- endangered regional ecosystems (artesian mound springs)
- rare and threatened plant species (e.g. *Sclerolaena walkeri*)
- Aboriginal cultural heritage values
- opportunities for education and research on wetlands (Fisk 2008).

Currawinya National Park satisfied all six of the nomination criteria available at the time of listing. Table 1 sets out the wetland assessment and key values that cover and protect these wetland features (NPRSR 2014).

Table 1. Wetland of International Importance criteria	Associated key value
<p>Contains representative, rare, or unique examples of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographical region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site contains one of the richest and most diverse examples of wetlands in inland Australia. These wetlands are relatively natural (unmodified), and include those with a range of saline, freshwater, lacustrine (lake) and palustrine (swamp) attributes. The site also includes the rare wetland type, Great Artesian Basin springs. The ecological community associated with these springs is listed as endangered under the EPBC Act. The wetlands occur in the Mulga Lands bioregion, which was poorly conserved until areas were selected as part of the protected area estate—Currawinya National Park was one of the first parks in the Mulga Lands, containing typical vegetation of the bioregion. 	<p>Artesian springs (category 1 and 2)</p> <p>Lakes, other wetland systems and catchment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lakes and other wetland systems Catchment (including creeks and rivers)
<p>Supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities (listed nationally or under international frameworks).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site contains Great Artesian Basin springs. The community of native species associated with these springs is listed as an endangered ecological community under the EPBC Act. The site supports the nationally and state threatened plant species, regal pumpkin burr <i>Sclerolaena walkeri</i>, listed as vulnerable under both the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> (Qld) (NCA) and the EPBC Act. The nationally threatened bird species, painted snipe <i>Rostratula australis</i>, listed as endangered under both the NCA and EPBC Act, has been recorded at the site. The silver perch <i>Bidyanus bidyanus</i> has also been observed on the site and is listed as critically endangered under the EPBC Act. 	<p>Artesian springs (category 1 and 2)</p> <p>Lakes, other wetland systems and catchment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lakes and other wetland systems Catchment (including creeks and rivers)
<p>Supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The diverse wetland types and range of habitats they provide are critical in supporting the high diversity of native wildlife associated with the bioregion—of particular note is the abundance and diversity of waterbird species supported by Lake Wyara, Lake Numalla, the smaller lakes and floodplain wetlands. No other wetlands in arid or southern Australia support such high numbers of waterbirds as consistently as Currawinya Lakes. More than 200 bird species, 17 amphibian species, 24 mammal species and 58 reptile species have been recorded at the site. The site also supports eight native fish species from seven families. This represents almost the entire known fish diversity of the Paroo River catchment. Poorly known within the bioregion is the silver perch <i>Bidyanus bidyanus</i>, which has been recorded at the site. Permanent water bodies, which provide a refuge at times of drought, play a vital role in maintaining biodiversity. 	<p>Artesian springs (category 1 and 2)</p> <p>Lakes, other wetland systems and catchment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lakes and other wetland systems Catchment (including creeks and rivers)
<p>Supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles or provides refuge during adverse conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site provides habitat for waterbirds for feeding and breeding. The size and storage capacity of the lakes at Currawinya make it an important habitat on a large regional scale. Islands within Lake Wyara are particularly important for colonial breeding waterbirds such as the Australian pelican <i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i> (up to 20,000 pairs) black swan <i>Cygnus atratus</i>, Caspian tern <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>, red-necked avocet <i>Recurvirostra novaehollandiae</i>, silver gull <i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae</i> and cormorants <i>Phalacrocorax</i> spp. Permanent lakes and waterholes provide a refuge for amphibians, fish, reptiles and birds during times of drought. The Currawinya Lakes form part of an inland route for migratory shorebirds, with Currawinya National Park being a listed site within the East Asian–Australasian Flyway Site Network. Species listed under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA), China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA) or Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (RoKAMBA) have also been recorded at the site. 	<p>Lakes, other wetland systems and catchment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lakes and other wetland systems Catchment (including creeks and rivers)
<p>Regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site, and in particular Lake Numalla and Lake Wyara, supports abundant populations of waterbirds, with counts in excess of 100,000 recorded. On occasions, more than 250,000 individuals have been recorded through aerial and ground surveys. 	<p>Lakes, other wetland systems and catchment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lakes and other wetland systems Catchment (including creeks and rivers)
<p>Regularly supports one per cent of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird. The one per cent population threshold has been exceeded for at least ten waterbird species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pink-eared duck <i>Malacorhynchus membranaceus</i> Eurasian coot <i>Fulica atra</i> black swan <i>Cygnus atratus</i> freckled duck <i>Stictonetta naevosa</i> grey teal <i>Anas gracilis</i> sharp-tailed sandpiper <i>Calidris acuminata</i> hardhead <i>Aythya australis</i> Australasian shoveler <i>Anas rhynchos</i> banded stilt <i>Cladorhynchus leucocephalus</i> red-necked avocet <i>Recurvirostra novaehollandiae</i>. 	<p>Lakes, other wetland systems and catchment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lakes and other wetland systems Catchment (including creeks and rivers)

4. KEY VALUES



Figure 5. Currawinya National Park is on the Ramsar list and is renowned for its diversity of wetland types © Stephen Peck 2012

All parks, forests and reserves have an array of natural, cultural, social and/or economic values that are important and contribute to the state’s comprehensive and representative protected area and forest estate. The VBMF supports a process for identifying and protecting the most important values, the key values, and this directs the allocation of resources.

In this section, a **key value statement** is provided for each key value, identifying the current **condition and trend**, and a desired condition. The main threatening processes are identified and rated from high to low. A strategic management direction provides a broad strategy to address the threatening process to achieve the **desired outcome** over time. Each strategic management direction is prioritised according to the need for action to prevent further decline, stabilise current condition, or restore and enhance the value (refer to **priority rating** in Appendix 2). The condition of all key values is (or will be) assessed through regular **health checks** or other monitoring. The monitoring and research strategy outlines opportunities and needs for scientific monitoring and research programs that will enhance our knowledge. Any change to a key value’s condition will be identified through health checks and/or monitoring, enabling QPWS&P to act quickly, applying best practice adaptive management.

Summary of Currawinya National Park’s key values

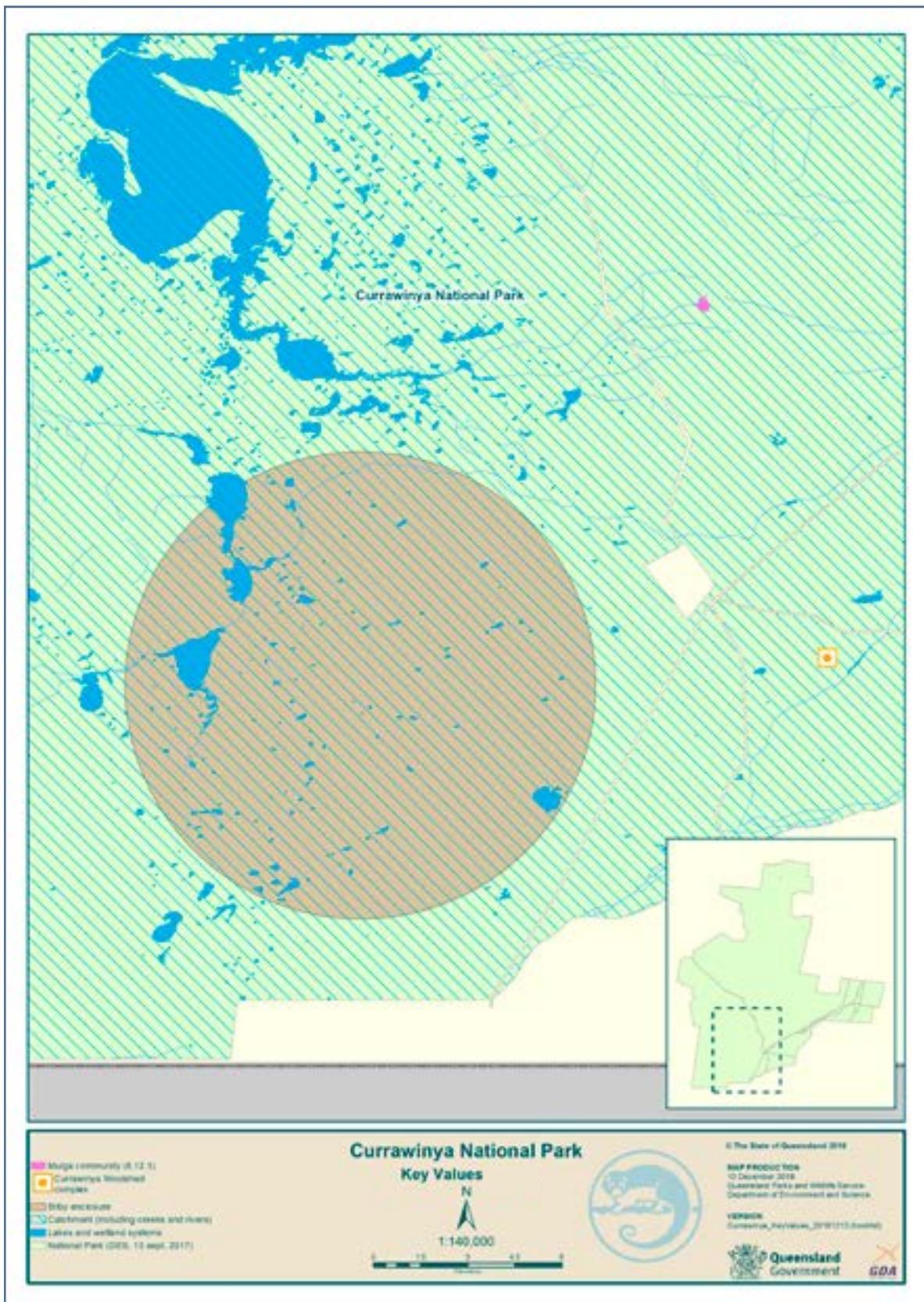
A summary of the key values for Currawinya National Park is detailed below. The location of each key value is shown in Maps 3, 4 and 5. Figure 6 provides a key to interpreting the condition and trend icons used in this section.

	Current condition	Confidence in condition assessment	Current trend	Confidence in trend assessment	Desired condition
4.1 Budjiti People’s cultural values and connection to Country	*	*	*	*	●●●●
4.2 Artesian springs (category 1 and 2)	●●●●	Adequate ●	↑	Adequate ●	●●●●
4.3 Mulka (mulga) community	●●●●	Inferred ○	↑	Inferred ○	●●●●
4.4 Lakes, other wetland systems and catchment a. Lakes and other wetland systems	●●●●	Inferred ○	↑	Inferred ○	●●●●
4.4 Lakes, other wetland systems and catchment b. Catchment (including creeks and rivers)	●●	Inferred ○	↔	Inferred ○	●●●●
4.5 Greater bilby	●	Adequate ●	↑	Adequate ●	●●●●
4.6 Post-settlement pastoral landscape	●●●●	Adequate ●	↔	Adequate ●	●●●●

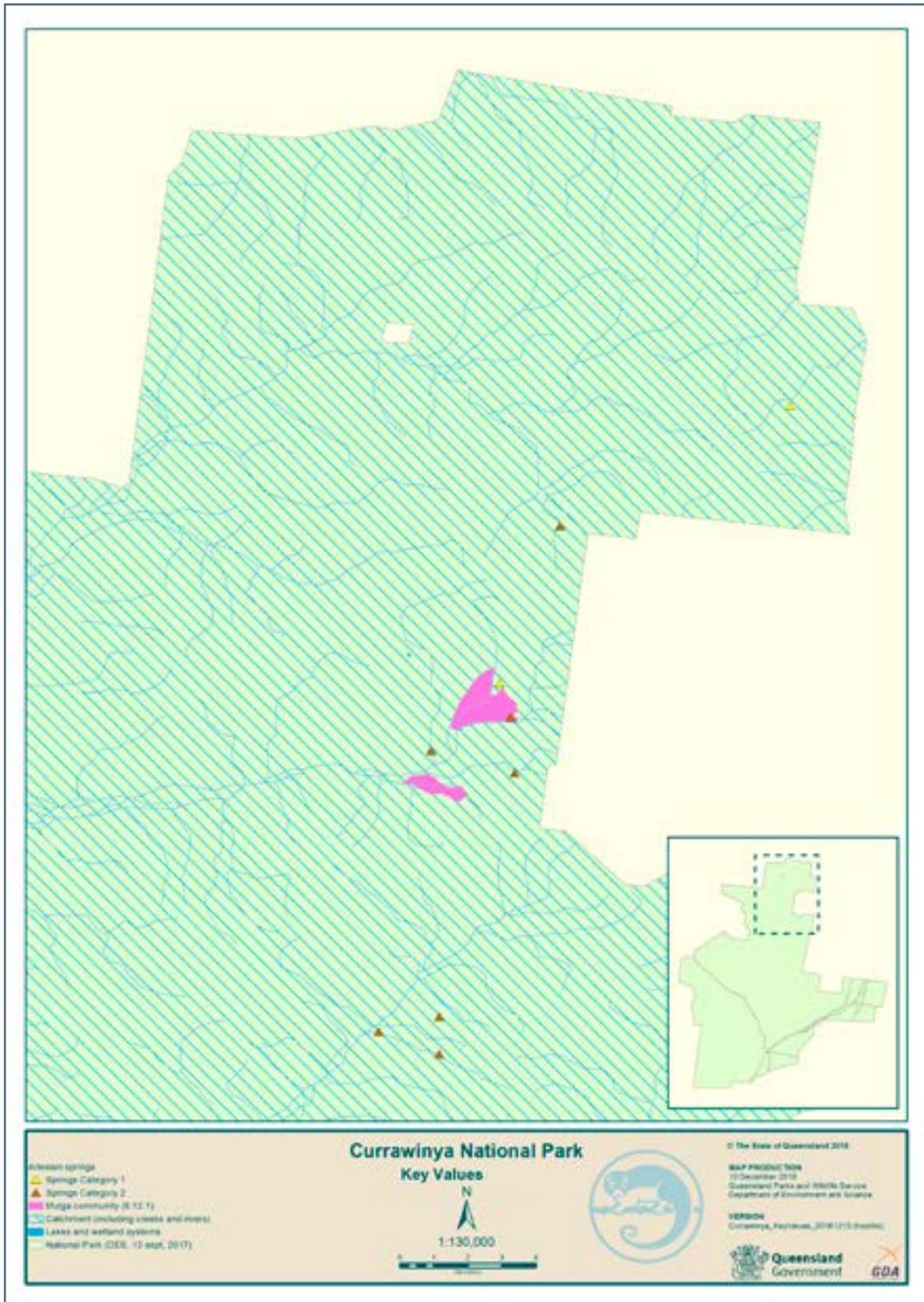
* Not assessed as part of the planning process

Condition of key value	Good ●●●● The value is in good condition and is likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, provided that current measures are maintained	Good with some concern ●●●● The value is likely to be maintained over the long term with minor additional conservation measures to address existing concerns	Significant concern ●● The value is threatened by a number of current and/or potential threats. Significant additional conservation measures are required to preserve the value over the medium to long term	Critical ● The value is severely threatened. Urgent additional large-scale conservation measures are required or the value may be lost
Trend rating of condition	Improving ↑	Stable ↔	Deteriorating ↓	No consistent trend ⊖
Confidence in assessment	Inferred ○	Limited ◐	Adequate ●	

Figure 6. Key values condition, trend and confidence



Map 3. Currawinya National Park key values



Map 4. Currawinya National Park key values

4.1 Budjiti People’s cultural values and connection to Country

Key value statement

Currawinya National Park is considered very significant to Budjiti People. It is considered a cultural landscape, containing highly significant tangible and intangible cultural values.

Budjiti People have a long and deep cultural connection with their Country, which includes Currawinya National Park. The landscape is recognised as being an artefact of a long and complex association between the Budjiti People and the environment, formed through the implementation of their traditional land management practices. The importance of Currawinya National Park is highlighted by a rich abundance and diversity of both tangible and intangible cultural values.

A partnership with Budjiti People has been established and formalised through an ILUA. The partners will strive to protect the cultural landscape, story places and significant sites of Currawinya National Park and embrace the traditional knowledge and aspirations of Budjiti People.

Budjiti People have a meaningful contemporary connection to Currawinya National Park and its pastoral history. They have worked and lived on the former pastoral properties as ringers, cooks and shearers and developed a deep connection to the post-settlement pastoral landscape of Currawinya, which includes the homesteads, outstations, shearing sheds and yards (Figures 7 and 8).

Cultural materials and places are found throughout the park. Many of the known locations are not currently accessible and not publicised.

“Current data is insufficient to determine the exact processes threatening the value and condition of cultural places and artefacts. Currawinya National Park may provide a critical cultural heritage service to Budjiti and QPWS&P by developing and implementing a process for Budjiti knowledge holders to conduct an audit to determine the intactness of sites and places of significance and in deciding upon the maintenance of these sites. The data generated by this audit will create a baseline to support the identification of the exact processes threatening the value and condition of Budjiti cultural places and artefacts.”

Threats

Primary threat: The lack of baseline data on the exact processes threatening the values and condition of Budjiti People’s cultural places and artefacts. **Threat rating: Very high**

Secondary threat: Disturbance by feral animals of cultural materials and places. **Threat rating: Medium**

Other threat: Visitor disturbance of cultural materials and places. **Threat rating: Medium**

Desired outcome and strategic management direction

Desired outcome		
	The condition of Budjiti People’s cultural tangible and intangible sites will be improved to <i>good</i> by implementing cooperative agreements, managing fire and reducing pest and visitor impacts.	
	The condition of Budjiti People’s cultural sites and places will be improved by developing a cultural values research and monitoring strategy, involving Budjiti People in cooperative agreements to manage fire, pests and visitor impacts on Budjiti sites and places and Country.	
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
Loss of contemporary knowledge of sites and places	Reduce the loss and deterioration of Budjiti People’s tangible and intangible cultural sites and places through the loss of knowledge and access.	1
Pest animals	Reduce impacts of feral goats and pigs on Budjiti People’s cultural heritage and values.	3
	Reduce impacts of feral cattle and horses on Budjiti People’s cultural heritage and values.	3
Visitor impacts	Minimise visitor impacts to known Budjiti People’s cultural places.	2

See Appendix 2. Glossary for priority rating definitions.



Figure 7. Great-grandfather Toogler with Caiwarro owner Mr Lane (Davis) © The Davis family



Figure 8. Great-grandmother Amy Richardson working in the yard at Caiwarro, early 1900s © The Davis family

4.2 Artesian springs (category 1 and 2)

Key value statement

		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
Category 1 and 2 class artesian springs listed as 'endangered' under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth)	Condition and trend			
	Assessment confidence	Adequate 	Adequate 	

Artesian springs (category 1 and 2, see definitions) including mound springs (RE 6.3.23, BVG_1M 34e) are an endangered community and support both endemic and range limited threatened species. Massey and Tunga are category 1a, Poached Egg, Fish and Little Granite are category 2 springs.

Spring category definitions

Category 1 springs: Category 1a springs contain at least one endemic species not known from any other location. Category 1b springs contain endemic species known from more than one springs complex; or have populations of threatened species listed under state or Commonwealth legislation that do not conform to Category 1a.

Category 2 springs: Provide habitat for isolated populations of plant and/or animal species; populations of species not known from habitat other than spring wetlands within 250 km.

The springs have important tangible and intangible significance to Budjiti People. Understanding the cultural importance of the springs can be improved through the respectful acknowledgement and sharing of Budjiti People's traditional knowledge of these communities, where deemed appropriate by Budjiti People.

"Budjiti Elders recall hearing the explosive sounds of the mud springs blasting through the silence of the night and seeing water shoot up to eighty feet into the air after the sinking of a bore. As time went on the mud springs lost pressure and the artesian springs lost water."

A high number of endemic species such as plants and invertebrates are associated with the springs. The springs provide habitat for threatened plant species including *Calocephalus glabratus*, *Utricularia fenshamii*, *Eragrostis fenshamii*, *Myriophyllum artesium*, *Hydrocotyle dipleura* and the endemic spring snails *Jardinella cf eulo* and *Jardinella eulo* (Figure 9).

The Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative, which ended on 30 June 2017, progressively capped uncontrolled flowing bores across the entire basin. Uncontrolled bores can contribute to the depressurisation of groundwater aquifers, and result in degradation of groundwater-dependent ecosystems and reduced water availability for other water users.

Threats

Primary threat: Disturbance caused by pest animal species such as feral pigs, goats, cattle and horses, which can cause a significant amount of damage in a small period of time. **Threat rating: Very high**

Secondary threat: Lack of Budjiti People’s traditional management of springs wetlands. **Threat rating: Very high**

Other threat: Modified hydrological processes caused by water use and associated groundwater drawdown at a number of uncapped or leaking bores within the new acquisition area. **Threat rating: Very high**

Other threat: Annual beard-grass *Polypogon monspeliensis* is a known threat to artesian springs and has been recorded from springs in the Eulo supergroup. If it establishes in the Currawinya springs, it has the potential to out-compete endemic and other species and choke open areas of water. **Threat rating: Medium**

Other threat: Increased visitation could result in increased trampling of fragile wetland vegetation and the spread of invasive pest plants. **Threat rating: Medium**

Desired outcome and strategic management direction

Desired outcome		
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
	The condition of category 1 and 2 artesian springs will be improved to <i>good</i> by the use of Budjiti People’s traditional knowledge, reducing pest plant and animal threats, reducing the impacts of hydrological modification and managing visitor impacts.	
Loss of Budjiti People’s control of Country	Improve the condition of the category 1 and 2 springs through the use of Budjiti People’s traditional knowledge and land management practices.	1
Pest animals	Reduce impacts of goats, cattle, pigs and horses on category 1 and 2 artesian springs and adjacent communities.	1
Visitor impacts	Minimise visitor impacts and manage visitor safety around springs.	1
Hydrological modification	Decommission or cap bores on the park to deter feral animals and reduce groundwater drawdown.	1
Pest plants	Prevent the establishment of annual beard-grass <i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i> on category 1 and 2 artesian springs.	5

See Appendix 2. Glossary for priority rating definitions.



Figure 9. Category 1a Massey Springs provides habitat for *Utricularia fenshamii*, *Eragrostis fenshamii*, *Myriophyllum artesium*, *Hydrocotyle dipoleura* and the artesian spring snail *Jardinella eulo* © Stephen Peck 2012

4.3 Mulka (mulga) community

Key value statement

		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
Scattered mulga <i>Acacia aneura</i> around granite boulders	Condition and trend			
	Assessment confidence	Inferred 	Inferred 	

The mulka (mulga) community outcrops are a dominant landscape feature and are of cultural significance to the Budjiti People. This community (RE 6.12.1, BVG_M1 23) is an ‘of concern’ regional ecosystem and Currawinya National Park is the only protected area where it is found, contributing 90 per cent of the state target for this ecosystem. These granite outcrops are often associated with the ‘endangered’ mound spring community (RE 6.3.23).

“Mulka (mulga) community is the home of bumbara, the mulga snake. Everything in the Budjiti cultural landscape has a place, a purpose, a reason for being and we are taught to leave things in their place. Nothing grew willy-nilly, our ancestors sculptured the environment by nurturing the growth of useful species including plant foods and medicines or those used for tool making. Mulka (mulga) provides a hard wood for making long spears and twisted roots to shape into boomerangs, it yields an edible insect gall known as Mulga apple, and the roots harbour succulent grubs. In supporting the protection of the park’s mulka (mulga) ecosystems the Budjiti will witness the restoration of this aspect of our cultural landscape.”

Threats

Primary threat: Lack of Budjiti People’s traditional management of mulka (mulga) community. **Threat rating: Very high**

Secondary threat: Disturbance and damage caused by pest animals, in particular feral goats that concentrate within and graze the boulder ecosystems. **Threat rating: Very high**

Desired outcome and strategic management direction

Desired outcome		
	The condition of the mulka (mulga) community will be improved to <i>good</i> by the use of Budjiti People’s traditional knowledge and reducing pest animal threats.	
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
Loss of Budjiti People’s control of Country	Improve the condition of the mulka (mulga) community through the use of Budjiti People’s traditional knowledge and land management practices.	1
Pest animals	Reduce impacts of feral goats on the mulka (mulga) community.	1

See Appendix 2. Glossary for priority rating definitions.

4.4 Lakes, other wetland systems and catchment: a. Lakes and other wetland systems

Key value statement

		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
Internationally and nationally significant lakes and wetlands, listed under the Ramsar Convention	Condition and trend			
	Assessment confidence	Inferred 	Inferred 	

Lakes and wetland systems are of great cultural importance to the Budjiti People and are an important source of food, medicines and material resources. These internationally and nationally recognised wetlands include lakes Wyara (saltwater), Numalla (freshwater), Kaponyee, Northern Kaponyee, Yumbararra and Karatta. These lakes and associated wetlands provide significant habitat for threatened migratory bird species. When inundated (Figure 10), vegetated swamps (RE 6.3.10, BVG_M1 34b) and herblands (RE 6.3.11, BVG_M1 34b)—both intermittent wetlands categorised as ‘of concern’—contain large numbers of aquatic invertebrates and waterbirds and provide important habitat for waterbirds that breed in colonies. The lakes and wetland systems provide habitat for significant species such as the nationally endangered Australian painted snipe *Rostratula australis*, and the critically-endangered curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*.

“The lakes and wetlands provide an environment rich in foods. Our old people built dikinj (camps) by the lakes and made nets to catch waterbirds including guturu (swan), yuli (wood duck), mingara (black duck) and gultaba (teal duck). They also collected the bird eggs and fished in the waters catching gupiri (black bream), bugili (crayfish) and birriri (turtle). With the abundance of protein, Budjiti hosted a large gathering similar to the bogong moth gathering on the south and the bunya pine gathering in the east. This time of ceremony and exchange brought together people from far and wide but this country also holds the scars of a frontier massacre and is a place of sadness and sorrow.”

The minimum flying height over Currawinya National Park is restricted to above 1,500 feet above ground level in the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2017* to limit disturbance to wildlife, especially waterbirds, and park visitors. Zones have been established to guide the use of the park and to protect the significant natural and cultural values, including the feeding and breeding habitat of waterbirds on the park’s lakes and wetlands.

Threats

Primary threat: Lack of Budjiti People’s traditional management of the lakes and other wetland systems. **Threat rating: Very high**

Secondary threat: Impacts caused by the presence of introduced species including cattle and feral goats, feral horses, feral pigs, feral cats and red foxes within the wetlands. **Threat rating: High**

Other threat: Visitation can disturb nesting waterbirds and damage fragile wetland ecosystems. **Threat rating: High**

Other threat: Climate change, as the region is predicted to experience an increase in temperatures, decrease in overall precipitation and increase in heavy rainfall events. **Threat rating: High**

Other threat: Fire encroachment into wetland vegetation. **Threat rating: Low**

Desired outcome and strategic management direction

Desired outcome		
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
	The condition of lakes, wetland systems and associated catchments will be improved to <i>good</i> by the use of Budjiti People’s traditional knowledge and reducing pest plant and animal threats and reducing the impacts of hydrological modification.	
Loss of Budjiti People’s control of Country	Improve the condition of the lakes and wetlands through the use of Budjiti People’s traditional knowledge and land management practices.	1
Pest animals	Reduce impacts of feral goats, pigs, cattle and horses around lakes and within the wetlands.	2
	Reduce the impacts of feral cats and red foxes on the biodiversity values of the lakes and wetlands.	2
Fire	Protect wetland communities through appropriate fire management of adjacent fire-adapted communities.	5
Climate change	Manage change and improve resilience of lakes and wetland systems by reducing impacts of non-climate stressors to reduce the rate of expected transition from climate change.	3
Visitor impacts	Minimise visitor impacts to waterbird breeding and fragile ecosystems (e.g. samphires).	1

See Appendix 2. Glossary for priority rating definitions.



Figure 10. Flooded Yapunyah Woodland © Stephen Peck 2012.

4.4 Lakes, other wetland systems and catchment: b. Catchment (including creeks and rivers)

Key value statement

		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
Local catchment within the protected area	Condition and trend			
	Assessment confidence	Inferred 	Inferred 	

The Budjiti People are the first people of the Paroo River watershed, which includes the Currawinya lakes catchment. The catchment is part of the Budjiti People’s cultural landscape and is rich in both tangible and intangible cultural values.

The Paroo River and its catchment is the only river system in the Murray–Darling not to be seriously impacted by water extraction. During large flood events, floodwaters from the Paroo River fill Lake Numulla via Carwarra Creek. However, during moderate flood events, Boorara Creek is the single most significant water source. Six creek systems feed into Lake Wyara, Werewilka Creek and estuary being the largest single water source (Timms 1997). These creeks and estuaries are represented by regional ecosystems 6.3.8 – *Eucalyptus largiflorens*/*Acacia cambagei* open woodlands on alluvium and 6.3.5 – *Eucalyptus ochrophloia*/*Acacia cambagei*/*Eucalyptus coolabah* woodlands on alluvium (BVG_1M 16c).

The catchment provides important feeding habitat for waterbirds that nest on Lake Wyara. In 2015, QPWS&P acquired Boorara, Werewilka and Oolamon in an attempt to better manage the catchment of the Currawinya Lakes system.

Threats

Primary threat: Loss of Budjiti People’s traditional management of the catchment. **Threat rating: Very high**

Secondary threat: Impacts caused by the presence of introduced species including cattle and feral goats, feral horses, feral pigs, feral cats and red foxes within the channels, such as grazing, ground disturbance and reduction of water quality. **Threat rating: High**

Other threat: Impacts caused by invasive weeds such as: invasive grasses—buffel grass; annuals—Mexican poppy, saffron thistle, noogoora burr, Bathurst burr, spiny emex, sesbnaia pea; shrubs—African boxthorn, downy thorn apple; and cactus—rope cactus within the lake catchments. **Threat rating: High**

Other threat: Climate change, as the region is predicted to experience an increase in temperatures, decrease in overall precipitation and increase in heavy rainfall events. **Threat rating: High**

Desired outcome and strategic management direction

Desired outcome		
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
 <p>The condition of lakes, wetland systems and associated catchments will be improved to <i>good</i> by reducing pest plant and animal threats and reducing the impacts of hydrological modification.</p>		
Loss of Budjiti People’s control of Country	Improve the condition of the catchment through the use of Budjiti People’s traditional knowledge and land management practices.	1
Pest plants	Reduce impacts of invasive grasses, annuals, shrubs and cactus within the catchment located within the park.	4
Pest animals	Reduce impacts of goats, cattle, pigs and horses within the catchment located within the park.	2
	Reduce the impacts of feral cats and red foxes on the biodiversity values of the catchment within the park.	2
Climate change	Manage change and improve resilience of the catchment by reducing impacts of non-climate stressors to reduce the rate of expected transition from climate change.	2

See Appendix 2. Glossary for priority rating definitions.



Figure 11. Catchment area of the internationally significant Currawinya National Park © Stephen Peck 2012

4.5 Greater bilby

Key value statement

		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
The greater bilby <i>Macrotis lagotis</i>	Condition and trend			
	Assessment confidence	Adequate 	Adequate 	

The greater bilby *Macrotis lagotis* has suffered a major decline in its distribution since European settlement and now only occurs in ‘less than’ 20 per cent of its former distribution. It is listed as ‘endangered’ under the NCA and ‘vulnerable’ at a national level under the EPBC Act.

A key objective of both the *Greater Bilby Recovery Summit and Interim Conservation Plan 2015* and the *Greater Bilby National Recovery Plan* is the nomination of Currawinya National Park as a key management site for priority recovery actions. These management actions include (but are not limited to):

- management of introduced predators inside and outside the fenced area
- increasing the total number of bilbies, and increasing the current distribution of bilbies
- management of genetic and demographic parameters of the population
- habitat management
- monitoring and reporting of the above.

The Save the Bilby Fund was established in 1999 to fundraise for the construction of a predator-exclusion fence. This was erected in 2001, enclosing a habitat of 29 square kilometres in which to release breeding bilbies, once the feral cats and foxes had been eradicated.

In 2005, the first captive-bred bilbies were released, but in 2009, feral cats breached the fence and the entire enclosure population was lost. QPWS&P, in partnership with the Save the Bilby Fund, has invested significant resources to upgrade the fence and increase pest management and site monitoring activities. While there have been significant gains, the project is still considered in its early stages of recovery. With a growing bilby population established within the enclosure, the focus is now on significant and intensive predator management that needs to be undertaken outside the fence to support a self-sustaining population of greater bilbies on Currawinya National Park over the longer term.

“Currawinya National Park is pademelon country and we are pademelon people. For this reason, Budjiti People would like to see the pademelon protected alongside the bilby, within the enclosure. Being compatible species, the pademelon and the bilby share the same habitat within Currawinya National Park. This project led by Budjiti would nurture the pademelon population within pademelon country by developing a research and monitoring strategy to identify the condition, trend and threats to the pademelon population and to build a case for their inclusion within the enclosure as part of the protection of this culturally significant species.”

Threats

Primary threat: Predation by feral cats and red foxes on bilbies, bilby prey species and other biodiversity values within the bilby enclosure and across the greater Currawinya landscape. **Threat rating: Very high**

Secondary threat: Deterioration of the bilby fence will allow feral cats to access the enclosure. **Threat rating: Very high**

Desired outcome and strategic management direction

Desired outcome		
	The condition of the greater bilby population will be improved to <i>good</i> through pest, fire and fence management.	
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
Pest animals	Ensure the enclosure remains free of feral cats and red foxes.	1
	Reduce feral cat and red fox numbers to allow for the establishment of a self-sustaining population of greater bilby within the Currawinya National Park.	1
Natural deterioration	Minimise natural deterioration by upgrading and maintaining the bilby fence.	1

See Appendix 2. Glossary for priority rating definitions.

4.6 Post-settlement pastoral landscape

Key value statement

		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
Physical remains of historic pastoral activities, including homesteads, woolsheds, shearers' quarters, holding yards, water wells and fencing	Condition and trend			
	Assessment confidence	Adequate 	Adequate 	

The post-settlement pastoral landscape of Currawinya National Park represents historical pastoral activities undertaken within the semi-arid rangelands of south-west Queensland. The national park is made up of several former pastoral stations and the key value includes the Currawinya Homestead complex and associated infrastructure including the Woolshed (Figure 12); Boorara Station including the pise home; timber lined-wells; Chinese dam walls: Caiwarro Homestead ruins and the historical property boundary fences.

Threats

Primary threat: Natural deterioration of the historical pastoral infrastructure. **Threat rating: High**

Secondary threat: Removal and damage of artefacts associated with historical cultural sites as a result of uncontrolled visitor use. **Threat rating: High**

Other threat: Deterioration of timber-lined wells and pastoral property fences resulting in a loss in material evidence of grazing history. **Threat rating: Low**

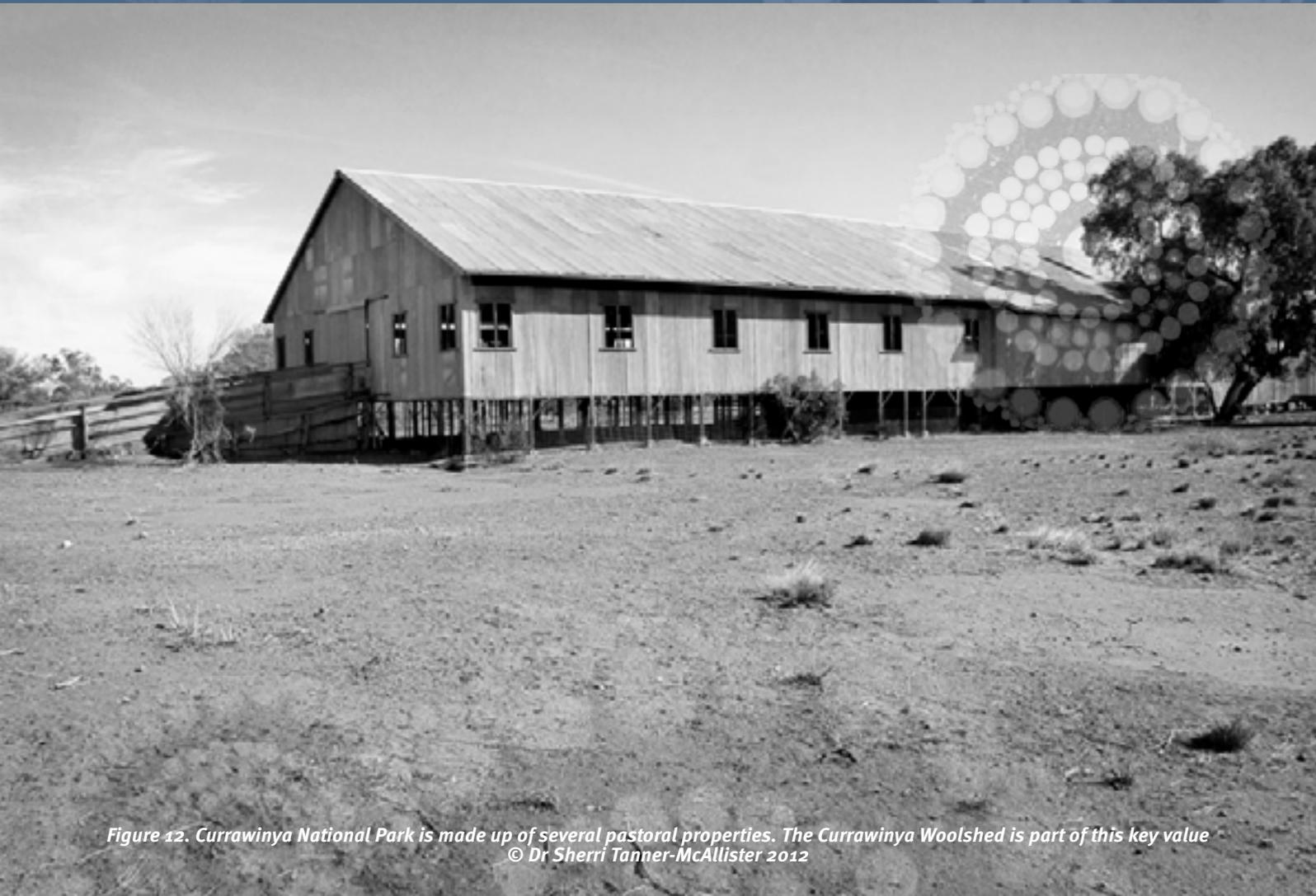
Desired outcome and strategic management direction

Desired outcome		
	The condition of the historical cultural landscape will be maintained as <i>good with some concern</i> , identifying key representative examples of the park's pastoral history for conservation and the pastoral history of Currawinya, Werewilka, Oolamon, Boorara and Caiwarro is documented and presented.	
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
Natural deterioration	Conserve key buildings and cultural landscape values at the Currawinya woolshed complex, Caiwarro, Boorara homestead, Boorara woolshed complex and the beefwood hut as a representative example of the park's pastoral history.	2
	Preserve indicative examples of historical pastoral property boundary fences, yards and timber-lined wells.	3
Visitor impacts	Minimise visitor impacts caused by vandalism and theft of artefacts on historical heritage.	3
	Minimise visitor impacts and manage safety around timber-lined wells.	1

See Appendix 2. Glossary for priority rating definitions.



5. MANAGEMENT DIRECTION



*Figure 12. Currawinya National Park is made up of several pastoral properties. The Currawinya Woolshed is part of this key value
© Dr Sherri Tanner-McAllister 2012*

QPWS&P manages protected areas and forests to protect their values and deliver our custodial obligations as a land manager. Levels of service (LoS) assessment allows QPWS&P to consider the management of each park in a state-wide context and determine desired levels of management effort for each park in a consistent and equitable way.

LoS assessment lets QPWS&P staff and the public know what type or level of management activity to expect on each park, forest and/or reserve. There are five LoS ratings ranging from ‘acceptable’ to ‘exceptional’: an acceptable rating is the minimum standard required to deliver good management and meet our legislative and custodial obligations.

The key areas for management in Currawinya National Park are the aspirations for Budjiti People to manage their traditional country; protecting natural values; pests; and visitors. This section provides a **management direction statement** for each management element, identifying its current LoS, desired LoS and the strategic management direction for management.

Summary of Currawinya National Park’s management direction

A summary of the current and desired LoS for Currawinya National Park is shown below. Figure 13 provides a key to the LoS icons.

	Current LoS	Desired LoS			
1. Budjiti People’s cultural heritage and traditional land management	 High	 Exceptional			
2. Wiji (fire) management	 Acceptable	 Acceptable			
3. Pest management	 Very high	 Exceptional			
4. Natural values management	 Very high	 Very high			
5. Historic cultural heritage management	 Medium	 High			
6. Visitor management	 High	 Very high			
7. Community, partnerships and other interests	 High	 High			
8. Field management capability	 Very high	 Very high			
9. Operational planning and management support	 Very high	 Very high			
	Acceptable	Medium	High	Very high	Exceptional
					
Based on an assessment of values, risks and threats, community interface challenges, custodial obligations and requirement for special management intervention, best practice management is achievable at either an ‘acceptable’, ‘medium’, ‘high’, ‘very high’ or ‘exceptional’ level of service (LoS).					

Figure 13. Key to condition, trend and confidence icons

5.1 Budjiti People’s cultural heritage and traditional land management

Management direction statement

Budjiti People’s cultural heritage and traditional land management for Currawinya National Park	<p>Current level of service</p> 
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The Budjiti People’s rights and interests are key to the co-stewardship arrangements with QPWS&P. The Budjiti Aboriginal Corporation, with QPWS&P, will manage the Budjiti People’s native title within Currawinya National Park, in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) and other relevant legislation. Threatening processes will be managed through the implementation of the *Budjiti Cultural Heritage Strategy*.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Co-stewardship arrangements and cultural heritage management will be managed at an ‘exceptional’ LoS through enhancing knowledge and management capacity and partnerships, to protect and enhance the Budjiti People’s rights, interests, cultural values and aspirations.
Strategic management directions	Priority*

Level of service

Support Budjiti People to develop and resource a cultural heritage keeping place.	1
Support Budjiti People in their endeavours to establish a Cultural Heritage Ranger Program.	1
Continue to work with Budjiti People to establish a Budjiti meeting place at Caiwarro.	1
Work with Budjiti People to improve the design and location of existing Caiwarro waterhole campsite.	1
Investigate opportunities and support Budjiti People to conduct research into pademelon species on the Paroo.	1
Improve the capacity of Budjiti People to develop and run cultural heritage projects and activities.	1
Investigate opportunities and support Budjiti People to conduct research into Budjiti garden villages, and to develop and implement a gardening project.	1
Improve the level of use of Budjiti People’s traditional knowledge in future land management practices.	1
Support Budjiti People to conduct a cultural audit of the Currawinya National Park to create a baseline for monitoring and evaluation processes.	1
Investigate opportunities for improved benefit-sharing for Budjiti People within Currawinya National Park procurement processes (e.g. goat contract).	1

*KEY: Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

5.2 Wiji (fire) management

Management direction statement

Fire management for Currawinya National Park	<p>Current level of service</p> 
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Fire management is core business for QPWS&P to protect life and property, mitigate wildfires and maintain natural diversity in accordance with the NCA and the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* (Qld) for the control and prevention of fires. QPWS&P works cooperatively with First Nations peoples, state and local government agencies, rural fire brigades, adjoining landholders and local communities to manage fire across the landscape.

“The Budjiti People and QPWS&P consider wiji (fire) critical to managing Country and maintaining their culture. The old people used wiji (fire) to clean the country, to manage species and to create good hunting grounds and we seek to bring this cool burning practice back to our country as an effective land management tool.”

The *Currawinya National Park Fire Strategy* aligns with the strategic direction set out in this plan, Budjiti People’s knowledge of traditional burning practices, and the Queensland Government’s *Planned Burn Guidelines: Mulga Lands Queensland Bioregion of Queensland*. It details QPWS&P’s custodial obligations for protecting life and property, and fire management objectives for maintaining key values through the use of fire management zones and cultural burn practices.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Fire will be managed to an <i>acceptable</i> LoS through maintaining knowledge, partnerships, and a strategic approach to manage, protect and enhance the park’s natural and cultural values and reduce the risk to life and property.
Strategic management directions Priority*	

Custodial obligations

Mitigate the potential severity and impacts of wildfire on neighbouring properties.	1
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Level of service

Facilitate reciprocal fire training (contemporary and traditional) for Budjiti People and QPWS&P staff as opportunities arise.	2
Increase the current understanding and knowledge of the role of fire in the Currawinya landscape.	3
Implement a proactive approach to introducing fire into the landscape when appropriate burning conditions occur.	3
Continue to engage with Budjiti People to ensure cultural fire management obligations are being met.	2

*KEY: Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

5.3 Pest management

Management direction statement

	Current level of service
Pest management for Currawinya National Park	

Pest management is core business for QPWS&P to mitigate the threats to biodiversity in accordance with the NCA. QPWS&P has a responsibility under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Qld) to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with plant and animal pests on lands under our control. Recognising that effective management of pests across the landscape is a shared responsibility, QPWS&P works cooperatively with First Nations peoples, other state and local government agencies, landholders and natural resource management groups.

The *Currawinya National Park Pest Strategy* aligns with the strategic direction set out in this plan and details management objectives for preventing and mitigating pest impacts on key values and QPWS&P's custodial obligations for managing pests and priority pest species.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Pests will be managed to an <i>exceptional</i> LoS through increased knowledge, partnerships and a more strategic approach to manage, protect and enhance the park's exceptional natural and cultural values.
Strategic management directions	Priority*

Custodial obligations

Maintain the current level of engagement with stakeholders to mitigate the potential impacts of pests on neighbouring properties and the protected area estate.	2
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Level of service

Implement an adaptive management approach to the control and removal of feral goats within the park.	1
Continue to engage with Budjiti People and other relevant stakeholders with regard to pest management.	2
Improve knowledge of the distribution and population structure of feral cats, red foxes, wild dogs and other vertebrate pests within the park.	3
Investigate control strategies for feral cats, red foxes, wild dogs and other vertebrate pests in order to establish a self-sustaining population of greater bilbies, and other reintroduced threatened species, within the park.	3
Improved knowledge of the distribution and impacts of Buffel grass within the park.	3
Investigate control strategies for Buffel grass within the park.	3

*KEY: Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

5.4 Natural values management

Management direction statement

Current level of service	
Natural values management for Currawinya National Park	

QPWS&P manages natural values with consideration of Budjiti People’s traditional knowledge, the NCA, *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld), *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth), and relevant international agreement guidelines.

Currawinya National Park has significant values including endangered regional ecosystems, threatened species and species listed in international agreements. Of note is the recovery plan for the community of native species dependent on natural discharge of groundwater from the Great Artesian Basin (2007). The condition of natural values will be monitored through the implementation of the *Currawinya National Park Monitoring and Research Strategy*.

Threatening processes will be managed through the implementation of Currawinya National Park’s fire, pest and visitor strategies and by incorporating the traditional knowledge of the Budjiti People.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Natural values will be managed in partnership with Budjiti People to a <i>very high</i> LoS through improved knowledge, partnerships, and a more strategic approach to manage, protect and monitor the park’s flora and fauna.
Strategic management directions	
	Priority*

Level of service

Contribute to the QPWS&P’s priority state-wide artesian spring project.	2
In partnership with Budjiti People, increase knowledge and baseline information on the natural values of the park including incorporating traditional knowledge.	2
Maintain current knowledge of the natural values of the park through monitoring and external research.	3

Health check monitoring

Monitor the condition of natural key values through health check monitoring.	1
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*KEY: Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

5.5 Historic cultural heritage management

Management direction statement

Current level of service	
Historic cultural heritage management for Currawinya National Park	

QPWS&P manages historical sites in accordance with the NCA and the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (Qld).

Several south-west Queensland historical pastoral properties are within Currawinya National Park, providing excellent insights into the mid-1800s pastoral industry. These are highly significant to both Budjiti People and the local community. No sites are listed on the Queensland Heritage Register or Australian National Heritage List.

Threatening processes will be managed through the implementation of Currawinya National Park’s visitor and cultural heritage strategies.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Historic cultural heritage will be managed to a <i>high</i> LoS through improved knowledge and a more strategic approach to protect the park’s key historical sites.
Strategic management directions	Priority*

Level of service

Improve knowledge of historic cultural heritage values by documenting their significance, prioritising their management and presenting, as appropriate, the park’s pastoral history.	1
Support Budjiti People keeping place in telling the stories of the pastoral industry and in interpreting these historical sites.	2
Maintain current level of engagement with external stakeholders.	2
Maintain current level of historic cultural heritage management capacity.	3

*KEY: Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

5.6 Visitor management

Management direction statement

Visitor management for Currawinya National Park	Current level of service
	

Queensland’s parks, forests and reserves provide local communities and visitors from around the world with opportunities to experience our rich natural and cultural heritage as well as a diverse range of recreational and ecotourism opportunities. QPWS&P and the Budjiti Aboriginal Corporation seek a responsible balance between visitor opportunities and protecting the natural and cultural values of the area. Permitted commercial tour activities, agreements and events are administered in accordance with the NCA.

The *Currawinya National Park Visitor Strategy* aligns with the strategic direction set out in this plan and details operational management objectives for key values, visitor opportunities and other values, as well as management actions for sites within specified visitor management zones. The zones consider the physical, social and managerial impacts of the visitor experiences and sustainability of the sites. Visitor strategies clearly state the desired site capacity to provide a diversity of experiences for visitors and achieve site sustainability. The strategy explores visitor opportunities that complement other experiences in the landscape and region.

The condition of, and visitor satisfaction with, visitor experiences will be monitored through the implementation of the *Currawinya National Park Monitoring and Research Strategy*.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Visitor values will be managed to a <i>very high</i> LoS to provide a quality outback experience through improved knowledge, partnerships and a strategic approach to manage and protect the park’s visitor values.
Strategic management directions	Priority*

Level of service

Improve knowledge of visitor opportunities and expectations.	1
Enhance the visitor experience by presenting the historical cultural heritage story of the Currawinya Woolshed complex, historical property boundaries and timber-lined wells.	2
Culturally appropriate material is endorsed by Budjiti People.	1
Enhance visitor appreciation of Currawinya National Park as a Budjiti cultural landscape.	2
Improve visitor management by ensuring quality, setting-appropriate facilities that enhance visitor experience.	4
Maintain the approach to visitor sites and asset management.	1

Health check monitoring

Monitor the condition of visitor key values through health check monitoring.	1
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*KEY: Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

5.7 Community, partnerships and other interests

Management direction statement

Community, partnerships and other interests associated with Currawinya National Park	<p>Current level of service</p> 
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Queensland’s parks and forests provide sustainable environmental, economic and social benefits. The agency is committed to working with the community and its partners to ensure activities and infrastructure are suitable for the site and ecologically sustainable, and continue to benefit Queensland’s economic and social wellbeing as outlined in *A Master Plan for Queensland’s Parks and Forests (2014)*. Permitted activities are administered in accordance with the requirements of the NCA and other relevant legislation.

Currawinya National Park is an important park for tourism, remote area recreation and nature-based activities.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Community, partnership and other interests will be managed to a <i>high</i> LoS through collaboration to ensure the continuing relationship with neighbours and agreement holders.
Strategic management directions	Priority*

Level of service

Continue to improve the partnership with the Budjiti National Park Working Group.	1
Investigate opportunities for Budjiti People to conduct a cultural audit of the Currawinya National Park extension area.	1
Maintain relationships with stakeholders, in particular with respect to significant species, ecosystems, pest management and tourism.	1
Engage key stakeholders to develop the Currawinya greater bilby enclosure management plan.	1
Maintain ongoing relationships with external researchers for lake, wetland and climate change-associated impact monitoring.	3

*KEY: Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

5.8 Field management capability

Management direction statement

	Current level of service
Field management capability for Currawinya National Park	

Managing natural and cultural areas has varying degrees of complexity. Field management capability is a measure of this complexity and considers the significance of the planning area’s values, potential threats, intensity of visitor use and community expectations. It considers the required proximity, frequency and intensity of on-ground management that is needed to manage key values and meet custodial obligations. The rating provides QPWS&P with a means for gauging resource requirements and staff training needs.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Field management capacity will be managed to a <i>very high</i> LoS through additional support to manage, protect and enhance the park’s values.
Strategic management directions	Priority*

Level of service

Continue to improve knowledge of the Currawinya extension area.	1
Maintain the current approach to field management capability.	2
Continue to provide departmental infrastructure to support field management capabilities.	2

*KEY: Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

5.9 Operational planning and management support

Management direction statement

Operational planning and management support for Currawinya National Park	<p>Current level of service</p> 
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Operational planning and management support covers all aspects of management direction including information, assessments, systems, tools and monitoring. As with field management capability, the area’s values, potential threats, intensity of visitor use and community expectations are considered when determining the appropriate levels of service.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Operational planning and management support will be managed to a <i>very high</i> LoS through increased awareness of resources and priorities to manage, protect and enhance the park’s values.
Strategic management directions	Priority*

Level of service

Improve the involvement of Budjiti People in operational planning and management.	1
Maintain current levels of operational planning, management support and review effectiveness, while implementing field-based operations.	2

*KEY: Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

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Appendix 1. Summary of strategic management directions

A summary of strategic management directions for Budjiti People (Table 2), key values (Table 3) and management direction (Table 4).

Table 2. Summary of strategic management direction for Budjiti People

Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
Loss of Budjiti People's access to Country	Maintain partnerships with Budjiti People to ensure co-stewardship of natural and cultural heritage values.	1
	Improve connection to Country by collaborating with the Budjiti Aboriginal Corporation in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating park management across Budjiti Country.	1
Loss of Budjiti People's control of Country	Enhance Budjiti People's connection to Country through the implementation of traditional land management practices and the use of cultural resources.	1
Loss of Budjiti People's connection to Country	Increase capacity and knowledge of both QPWS&P and the Budjiti Aboriginal Corporation through joint participation in park management activities.	1
	Increase support and provide opportunities for Budjiti People to get back on Country on Currawinya National Park.	1
	Build management capacity and opportunities for Budjiti People through employment, contracting and training opportunities.	1
	Support Budjiti People to develop ecologically and commercially sustainable cultural enterprises, including cultural interpretation, visitor management and tourism services.	1
	Improve access to Country by creating a 'Budjiti exclusive area' at Caiwarro for cultural heritage purposes.	1
	Investigate opportunities with the Budjiti Aboriginal Corporation to establish a meeting place for Budjiti People to stay on the park.	1
	In partnership with Budjiti People, develop a cultural awareness program to enhance visitor appreciation of Budjiti People's culture, through language and other cultural information.	1
Increase capabilities of QPWS&P staff in cultural heritage management and cross-cultural engagement through training programs developed by Budjiti People.	1	

See Appendix 2. Glossary for priority rating definitions.

Table 3. Summary of strategic management direction for key values

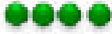
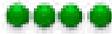
Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
Budjiti People’s cultural values and connection to Country Current  Desired 		
Loss of contemporary knowledge of sites and places	Reduce the loss and deterioration of Budjiti People’s tangible and intangible cultural sites and places through the loss of knowledge and access.	1
Pest animals	Reduce impacts of feral goats and pigs on Budjiti People’s cultural heritage and values.	3
Pest animals	Reduce impacts of feral cattle and horses on Budjiti People’s cultural heritage and values.	3
Visitor impacts	Minimise visitor impacts to known Budjiti People’s cultural places.	2
Artesian springs (category 1 and 2) Current  Desired 		
Loss of Budjiti People’s control of Country	Improve the condition of the category 1 and 2 springs through the use of Budjiti People’s traditional knowledge and land management practices.	1
Pest animals	Reduce impacts of goats, cattle, pigs and horses on category 1 and 2 artesian springs and adjacent communities.	1
Visitor impacts	Minimise visitor impacts and manage visitor safety around springs.	1
Hydrological modification	Decommission or cap bores on the park to deter feral animals and reduce groundwater drawdown.	1
Pest plants	Prevent the establishment of annual beard-grass <i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i> on category 1 and 2 artesian springs.	5
Mulka (mulga) community Current  Desired 		
Loss of Budjiti People’s control of Country	Improve the condition of the mulka (mulga) community through the use of Budjiti People’s traditional knowledge and land management practices.	1
Pest animals	Reduce impacts of feral goats on the mulka (mulga) community.	1
Lakes, other wetland systems and catchment		
a. Lakes and other wetland systems Current  Desired 		
Loss of Budjiti People’s control of Country	Improve the condition of the lakes and wetlands through the use of Budjiti People’s traditional knowledge and land management practices.	1
Pest animals	Reduce impacts of feral goats, pigs, cattle and horses around lakes and within the wetlands.	2
Pest animals	Reduce the impacts of feral cats and red foxes on the biodiversity values of the lakes and wetlands.	2
Fire	Protect wetland communities through appropriate fire management of adjacent fire-adapted communities.	5
Climate change	Manage change and improve resilience of lakes and wetland systems by reducing impacts of non-climate stressors to reduce the rate of expected transition from climate change.	3
Visitor impacts	Minimise visitor impacts to waterbird breeding and fragile ecosystems (e.g. samphires).	1
b. Catchment (including creeks and rivers) Current  Desired 		
Loss of Budjiti People’s control of Country	Improve the condition of the catchment through the use of Budjiti People’s Traditional knowledge and land management practices.	1
Pest plants	Reduce impacts of invasive grasses, annuals, shrubs and cactus within the catchment located within the park.	4
Pest animals	Reduce impacts of goats, cattle, pigs and horses within the catchment located within the park.	2
Pest animals	Reduce the impacts of feral cats and red foxes on the biodiversity values of the catchment within the park	2
Climate change	Manage change and improve resilience of the catchment by reducing impacts of non-climate stressors to reduce the rate of expected transition from climate change.	2

Table 3. Summary of strategic management direction for key values *continued*

Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority
Greater bilby Current  Desired 		
Pest animals	Ensure the enclosure remains free of feral cats and red foxes.	1
Pest animals	Reduce feral cat and red fox numbers to allow for the establishment of a self-sustaining population of greater bilby within the Currawinya National Park.	1
Natural deterioration	Minimise natural deterioration by upgrading and maintaining the bilby fence.	1
Post-settlement pastoral landscape Current  Desired 		
Natural deterioration	Conserve key buildings and cultural landscape values at the Currawinya woolshed complex, Caiwarro, Boorara homestead, Boorara woolshed complex and the beefwood hut as a representative example of the park's pastoral history.	2
Natural deterioration	Preserve indicative examples of historical pastoral property boundary fences, yards and timber-lined wells.	3
Visitor impacts	Minimise visitor impacts caused by vandalism and theft of artefacts on historical heritage.	3
Visitor impacts	Minimise visitor impacts and manage safety around timber-lined wells.	1

See Appendix 2. Glossary for priority rating definitions.

Table 4. Summary of strategic management direction for management directions

Strategic management directions	Priority
Budjiti People’s cultural heritage and traditional land management Current HIGH Desired EXCEPTIONAL	
Support Budjiti People to develop and resource a cultural heritage keeping place.	1
Support Budjiti People in their endeavours to establish a Cultural Heritage Ranger Program.	1
Continue to work with Budjiti People to establish a Budjiti meeting place at Caiwarro.	1
Work with Budjiti People to improve the design and location of existing Caiwarro waterhole campsite.	1
Investigate opportunities and support Budjiti People to conduct research into pademelon species on the Paroo.	1
Improve the capacity of Budjiti People to develop and run cultural heritage projects and activities.	1
Investigate opportunities and support Budjiti People to conduct research into Budjiti garden villages, and to develop and implement a gardening project.	1
Improve the level of use of Budjiti People’s traditional knowledge in future land management practices.	1
Support Budjiti People to conduct a cultural audit of the Currawinya National Park to create a baseline for monitoring and evaluation processes.	1
Investigate opportunities for improved benefit-sharing for Budjiti People within Currawinya National Park procurement processes (e.g. goat contract).	1
Wiji (fire) management Current ACCEPTABLE Desired ACCEPTABLE	
Mitigate the potential severity and impacts of wildfire on neighbouring properties.	1
Facilitate reciprocal fire training (contemporary and traditional) for Budjiti People and QPWS&P staff as opportunities arise.	2
Increase the current understanding and knowledge of the role of fire in the Currawinya landscape.	3
Implement a proactive approach to introducing fire into the landscape when appropriate burning conditions occur.	3
Continue to engage with Budjiti People to ensure cultural fire management obligations are being met.	2
Pest management Current VERY HIGH Desired EXCEPTIONAL	
Maintain the current level of engagement with stakeholders to mitigate the potential impacts of pests on neighbouring properties and the protected area estate.	2
Implement an adaptive management approach to the control and removal of feral goats within the park.	1
Continue to engage with Budjiti People and other relevant stakeholders with regard to pest management.	2
Improve knowledge of the distribution and population structure of feral cats, red foxes, wild dogs and other vertebrate pests within the park.	3
Investigate control strategies for feral cats, red foxes, wild dogs and other vertebrate pests in order to establish a self-sustaining population of greater bilbies, and other reintroduced threatened species, within the park.	3
Improved knowledge of the distribution and impacts of Buffel grass within the park.	3
Investigate control strategies for Buffel grass within the park.	3
Natural values management Current VERY HIGH Desired VERY HIGH	
Contribute to the QPWS&P’s priority state-wide artesian spring project.	2
In partnership with Budjiti People, increase knowledge and baseline information on the natural values of the park including incorporating traditional knowledge.	2
Maintain current knowledge of the natural values of the park through monitoring and external research.	3
Monitor the condition of natural key values through health check monitoring.	1

Table 4. Summary of strategic management direction for management directions *continued*

Strategic management directions	Priority
Historic cultural heritage management Current MEDIUM Desired HIGH	
Improve knowledge of historic cultural heritage values by documenting their significance, prioritising their management and presenting, as appropriate, the park’s pastoral history.	1
Support Budjiti People keeping place in telling the stories of the pastoral industry and in interpreting these historical sites.	2
Maintain current level of engagement with external stakeholders.	2
Maintain current level of historic cultural heritage management capacity.	3
Visitor management Current HIGH Desired VERY HIGH	
Improve knowledge of visitor opportunities and expectations.	1
Enhance the visitor experience by presenting the historic cultural heritage story of the Currawinya Woolshed complex, historical property boundaries and timber-lined wells.	2
Culturally appropriate material is endorsed by Budjiti People.	1
Enhance visitor appreciation of Currawinya National Park as a Budjiti cultural landscape.	2
Improve visitor management by ensuring quality, setting-appropriate facilities that enhance visitor experience.	4
Maintain the approach to visitor sites and asset management.	1
Monitor the condition of visitor key values through health check monitoring.	1
Community, partnerships and other interests Current HIGH Desired HIGH	
Continue to improve the partnership with the Budjiti National Park Working Group.	1
Investigate opportunities for Budjiti People to conduct a cultural audit of the Currawinya National Park extension area.	1
Maintain relationships with stakeholders, in particular with respect to significant species, ecosystems, pest management and tourism.	1
Engage key stakeholders to develop the Currawinya greater bilby enclosure management plan.	1
Maintain ongoing relationships with external researchers for lake, wetland and climate change-associated impact monitoring.	3
Field management capability Current VERY HIGH Desired VERY HIGH	
Continue to improve knowledge of the Currawinya extension area.	1
Maintain the current approach to field management capability.	2
Continue to provide departmental infrastructure to support field management capabilities.	2
Operational planning and management support Current VERY HIGH Desired VERY HIGH	
Improve the involvement of Budjiti People in operational planning and management.	1
Maintain current levels of operational planning, management support and review effectiveness, while implementing field-based operations.	2

*KEY: Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

Appendix 2. Glossary

Interpreting key values-based management framework concepts

Adaptive management	The process of adjusting and improving how we manage parks, forests and reserves after assessing the outcomes of previous strategies and on-ground actions.
Condition and trend	The condition of a key value is assessed as either <i>good</i> , <i>good with some concern</i> , <i>significant concern</i> or <i>critical</i> . Trend describes what is happening to the condition: is it improving, stable or deteriorating? A key value's current condition is determined during the planning process. A desired condition is a realistic goal for the future condition of the key value. The ongoing condition of key values is assessed with regular health checks, monitoring and scientific assessment.
Custodial obligations	The requirements in legislation and government policies are that we, as the land management agency, have to ensure QPWS&P's parks, forests and reserves are lawfully managed and good neighbours. Management provides for the protection of life and property, biosecurity and positive relationships with adjacent communities and landholders, as well as enhancing and protecting our values.
Desired outcome	A statement in the key value and management direction statements about moving from the current status (condition or LoS) to a desired status—the goal for management.
Health check	Basic form of monitoring that uses indicators and visual assessments to regularly evaluate the condition of key values. Regular health checks ensure QPWS&P can respond quickly to adverse change and redirect management priorities.
Key value	A natural, cultural, social and/or economic value that is of most significance to that area. It is what makes the area special and if lost, would diminish what makes the area distinct from others.
Key value statement	A statement in the management plan/statement that is developed for each key value. It describes the key value, current condition, desired condition, current threats and threat ratings, strategic management direction and priorities for further thematic strategy planning and on-ground management action.
Level of service (LoS)	A planning tool used to identify the acceptable management standard, or level of resourcing that is required to maintain an area based on its values, threats and the complexity of management. There are five LoS ratings ranging from 'acceptable' to 'exceptional', noting that an acceptable rating is the minimum standard required to deliver good management and meet our custodial obligations under law as a land manager. A 'current' LoS rating is the level at the time of planning, the 'desired' LoS is where we want to be.
Management direction	How we manage each management theme to protect and enhance our key values and meet our custodial management obligations.
Management direction statement	A statement in the management plan/statement, developed for each management theme that describes the current LoS, desired LoS, custodial obligations, strategic management direction and priorities for further thematic strategy planning and on-ground management action.
Management instrument	A management plan or management statement.
Management theme	QPWS&P has identified a number of management themes that are common to most of the parks, forests and reserves in our estate: fire management; pest management; natural values management; historic cultural heritage management; visitor management; community, partnerships and other interests; field management capability; operational planning and management support.
Priority rating (key value)	<p>A rating given to a strategic management direction according to the need for action to prevent further decline, stabilise current condition, or restore and enhance values, with consideration given to legislative obligations, cost and social, economic and political factors.</p> <p>Critical (1) – Loss or very significant decline in the condition of key value/s is highly likely if action not taken OR significant improvement in the condition of key value/s is highly likely if action is taken.</p> <p>Very high (2) – Significant decline in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is not taken OR significant improvement in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is taken.</p> <p>High (3) – Decline in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is not taken OR improvement in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is taken.</p> <p>Moderate (4) – Some decline in the condition of key value/s is possible if action is not taken OR some improvement in the condition of key value/s is possible if action is taken.</p> <p>Desirable (5) – While decline in the condition of key value/s is not likely in the short term, the action, if taken, would help build long-term resilience of key value/s.</p>
Priority rating (LoS)	A rating given to a LoS or custodial obligation strategic management direction. A scale from 1 (extremely urgent) – 5 (not urgent or optional) is assigned, with consideration given to legislative obligations, cost and social, economic and political factors.
Strategic management direction	A broad strategy aimed at mitigating or removing a threat to a key value and maintaining or improving the condition of a park's value; or addressing the gap between the current LoS and desired LoS for a management theme.
Threat or threatening process and threat rating	Based on International Union for Conservation of Nature's classifications, QPWS&P has identified threatening processes that have the potential to affect Queensland's values (e.g. natural systems modifications, invasive species). Current threats to key values are identified and given a threat rating based on a combination of the extent of the impact, the severity of the impact and the urgency of action.

