

# Japoon National Park

## Management Statement

2013



Prepared by: **Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS), Department of Environment, Science and Innovation**

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*The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation acknowledges Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land. We recognise their connection to land, sea and community, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.*

*The department is committed to respecting, protecting, and promoting human rights, and our obligations under the Human Rights Act 2019.*

*This management statement does not intend to affect, diminish, or extinguish native title or associated rights.*

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The Japoon National Park Management Statement 2013 has been extended in 2024 in line with the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (s120G). Minor amendments have been made. There has been no change to the statement's original management intent and direction.

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Park size:	24,799.4ha
Bioregion:	Wet Tropics
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
State electorate:	Hinchinbrook

**Legislative framework**

✓	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>
✓	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>
✓	<i>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993</i>

**Plans and agreements**

✓	Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005
✓	Recovery plan for the stream-dwelling rainforest frogs of the Wet Tropics biogeography region of north-east Queensland 2000–2004.
✓	National recovery plan for the spectacled flying-fox <i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>
✓	National recovery plan for the southern cassowary <i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> 2007

**Thematic strategies**

✓	Draft Level 2 Pest Strategy
✓	QPWS Wet Tropics Pest Strategy
✓	Level 2 Fire Strategy

## Vision

Japoon National Park continues to maintain and enhance the natural values and to protect significant animal and plant communities on a large reserve within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

## Conservation purpose

Japoon National Park is an elevated landscape located approximately 10km north-west of the township of Tully.

This former State forest was dedicated as a national park in 4 June 2010. The park was gazetted to protect conservation values including its role as essential southern cassowary habitat.

## Protecting and presenting the park's values

### Landscape

Japoon National Park is located adjacent to Tully Gorge, Wooroonooran and Basilisk Range national parks and Meingan and Walter Hill conservation parks. It falls totally within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The eastern boundary is adjacent to intensively farmed, agricultural land. The western, northern and southern boundaries adjoin the boundaries of large protected areas.

### Regional ecosystems

Of the 27 regional ecosystems mapped in Japoon National Park, five have an endangered biodiversity status while 14 are considered to have an of concern status (Table 1).

### Native plants and animals

Japoon National Park is known to protect plant and animal species of conservation significance, their status and Back on Track ratings is shown in Table 2. Species listed in international agreements are listed in Table 3.

### Aboriginal culture

A native title claim (QC01/015) covers the park. The North Queensland Land Council Aboriginal Corporation is the representative body.

### Shared-history culture

No known shared-history is recorded for this park.

### Tourism and visitor opportunities

The Gorrell Track—part of the Misty Mountains trail network—crosses the northern section of Japoon National Park before entering Wooroonooran National Park.

### Partnerships

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) is legislatively responsible for the day-to-day management of the national park and the Wet Tropics Management Authority regulates activity in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The goal of both agencies is to present the area's values while protecting its natural and cultural values.

Traditional Owners are involved in cooperative park management.

## Other key issues and responses

### Pest management

Pest animals on the park are managed by the Innisfail Level 2 Pest Management Strategy.

Infestations of Siam weed (a Class 1 species) occur on the park.

### Fire management

Fire is managed under the Palmerston Level 2 Fire Management Strategy.

### Other management issues

The Commonwealth of Australia have a term lease over Japoon National Park for defence training. Their activities

include ground defence camping and blank firing.

Four water intake pipelines once existed on Japoon National Park. These areas were converted to forest reserve during the forest transfer process and will likely convert back to State forest.

A gazetted road—Nyleta Road—provides access to a council reserve located within the park. This in-holding is owned by the Cassowary Coast Council and provides the town water supply for the rural community south of Innisfail.

## Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p><b>Fire and pest management</b></p> <p>Natural systems are conserved through the appropriate management of fire and pests.</p>	<p>Implement fire regimes that will maintain an appropriate mix of age classes and the structural integrity of native ecosystems on the park.</p> <p>Manage pest plant species, with a particular focus on Class 1 pests such as Siam weed to minimise spread of these weeds into surrounding habitats.</p>
<p><b>Aboriginal culture</b></p> <p>Traditional Owners are involved in cooperative park management.</p>	<p>Support the involvement of Traditional Owners in park management.</p>
<p><b>Management issues</b></p> <p>The national park boundary is consolidated to protect the natural values.</p>	<p>Ensure water intakes are identified and properly licensed.</p>

## Tables – Conservation values management

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

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.3.10	Simple to complex mesophyll to notophyll vine forest on moderate to poorly drained alluvial plains of moderate fertility	Endangered
7.3.17	Complex mesophyll vine forest on well drained alluvium of high fertility	Endangered
7.3.19	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> or <i>C. tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on well drained alluvium	Of concern
7.3.25	<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> +/- vine forest species, open to closed forest, on alluvium fringing streams	Of concern
7.3.28	Rivers and streams including riparian herbfield and shrubland on river and stream bed alluvium, and rock within stream beds	Endangered
7.3.49	Notophyll vine forest on rubble terraces of streams	Of concern
7.8.1	Complex mesophyll vine forest on well drained basalt lowlands and foothills	Endangered
7.8.2	Complex notophyll to mesophyll vine forest of high rainfall, cloudy uplands on basalt	Of concern
7.11.10	<i>Acacia celsa</i> open to closed forest on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.18	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and/or <i>C. tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> medium to tall open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on coastal metamorphic headlands and near-coastal foothills	Of concern
7.11.23	Complex mesophyll vine forest on fertile, well drained metamorphics of very wet and wet footslopes	Of concern
7.11.24	Closed vineland of wind disturbed vine forest, on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.27	Simple microphyll vine-fern forest or microphyll vine-sedge forest of wet metamorphic uplands and highlands	Of concern
7.11.28	Wind-sheared notophyll vine forest of exposed metamorphic ridge crests and steep slopes	Of concern
7.12.5	<i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> +/- <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest, or <i>Acacia mangium</i> and <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on granites and rhyolites	Endangered
7.12.37	Rock pavements and see areas of wet lowlands, uplands and highlands of the eastern escarpment and central range (excluding high granite areas of Hinchinbrook Island and Bishops Peak) on granite and rhyolite, with <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp. shrublands and/or sedgeland	Of concern
7.12.39	Complex mesophyll vine forest on fertile, well drained granites and rhyolites of very wet and wet lowlands, foothills and uplands	Of concern
7.12.40	Closed vineland of wind disturbed vine forest, on granites and rhyolites	Of concern
7.12.48	Wind-sheared notophyll vine forest of exposed granite and rhyolite ridge-crests and steep slopes	Of concern

**Table 2: Species of conservation significance**

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 status	Back on Track status
<b>Plants</b>				
<i>Endiandra globosa</i>	ball-fruited walnut	Near threatened		Low
<i>Hyperzia phlegmaria</i>	coarse tassel fern	Near threatened	Least concern	High
<i>Haplostichanthus submontanus</i> subsp. <i>sessiliflorus</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Ichnanthus pallens</i> var. <i>major</i>		Near threatened		Low
<b>Animals</b>				
<i>Litoria rheocola</i>	common mistfrog	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Litoria serrata</i>	tapping green eyed frog	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
<i>Nyctimystes dayi</i>	Australian laceid	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	grey goshawk	Near threatened		Low
<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana</i>	Macleay's fig-parrot	Vulnerable		Low
<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened		Low
<i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>	spectacled flying-fox	Least concern	Vulnerable	High

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

Scientific name	Common name	BONN	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
<i>Pandion cristatus</i>	eastern osprey	✓	-	-	-
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	white-bellied sea-eagle	-	-	-	✓
<i>Acrocephalus australis</i>	Australian reed-warbler	✓	-	-	-
<i>Hirundapus caudacutis</i>	white-throated needletail	-	✓	✓	✓
<i>Ardea ibis</i>	cattle egret	-	✓	-	✓
<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	cicadabird	-	✓	-	-
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater	-	✓	-	-
<i>Monarcha trivirgatus</i>	spectacled monarch	✓	-	-	-
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-

BONN – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement