

Moogerah Peaks National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	927ha
Bioregion:	South Eastern Queensland
QPWS region:	South East
Local government estate/area:	Scenic Rim Regional
State electorate:	Beaudesert

Legislative framework

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

Plans and agreements

✓	Bonn Convention
✓	Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

Thematic strategies

✓	Fire Management Strategy
✓	Level 2 Pest Management Strategy

Vision

The four mountains of Moogerah Peaks National Park are regionally significant as natural habitat in an area that has been largely cleared of natural vegetation and will be managed to conserve their high biodiversity values including threatened regional ecosystems, native plants and animals. It provides a scenic location for a range of sustainable opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Conservation purpose

Moogerah Peaks National Park is made up of four sections—Mount French, Mount Edwards, Mount Greville and Mount Moon. The four peaks were combined to form Moogerah Peaks National Park in 1994 in recognition of their high scenic values and the conservation values of flora and fauna communities once widespread throughout the Fassifern valley.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

The Fassifern valley is interrupted by numerous mountainous intrusions of igneous rock composed of rhyolite, microsyenite or trachyte forming the peaks of the national park. They provide a natural setting of remnant vegetation in a landscape essentially cleared of native vegetation.

Moogerah Peaks National Park forms part of the Bremer and Logan rivers catchments with Moogerah Dam supplying irrigation and drinking water. All the park sections are bounded by rural properties with different types of vegetation ranging from undisturbed to cleared grazing country. Mount Moon in particular has boundaries that are accessible on foot only, making fire and pest plant management difficult.

Regional ecosystems

The present distribution of vegetation on each park has been determined by a variety of factors including topography, aspect, soil type, elevation, fire history and human influences. A large proportion of the vegetation is influenced by topography and aspect, providing a variety of micro habitats. Some plants are restricted to a single mountain and others have a wide range of distribution.

The regional ecosystems of the national park are listed in Table 1. These may be highly specific as in the case of the Fassifern scrub on Mount French or widespread like the tall eucalypt forests. The hoop pine *Araucaria cunninghamii* stands left by timber getters on the eastern slopes of Mount Edwards now represent one of the few native stands left in the region. The forest floor is heavily infested with cat's claw creeper *Macfadyena unguis-cati* impacting on native regeneration, including hoop pine seedlings.

Native plants and animals

Moogerah Peaks National Park is important for the conservation of local ecosystems and 14 endangered, vulnerable and near threatened plants have been identified on the park, several of which are endemic to the park (Table 2). They include *Phebalium gracile* and *Arundinella grevillensis*.

Endangered, vulnerable and near threatened animals includes the powerful owl *Ninox strenua*, black-breasted button-quail *Turnix melanogaster*, brush tailed rock wallaby *Petrogale penicillata* and koala *Phascolarctos cinereus*. These species rely on habitats that have generally been cleared in the surrounding area. Several bird species are listed under international agreements (Table 3).

Aboriginal culture

All the prominent peaks in the region have Aboriginal names—Mount Greville was referred to as Mebalboogan and Mount Moon was known as Moorm meaning 'walkabout mountain' because it appeared to follow Aboriginal people as they moved around the district. It is suggested that the Yuggera people named the mountain after a popular game murun-murun played while travelling. The game was named for it's resemblance to a goanna. Mount Edwards was known as Moogerah. Mount French north peak is known as Mee-bor-rum and the south peak is known as Punchagin.

There are no current native title claims over the park.

Shared-history culture

The region has a history of timber production. Hoop pine was logged from the lower slopes of Mount French as well as crow's ash *Flindersia australis*, tallwood *Eucalyptus microcorys*, ironbark and yellow stringy bark *Eucalyptus acmenoides* from other sections.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The recreational uses of Moogerah Peaks National Park include bush walking, rock climbing, camping, picnicking and bird watching. Mount French is recognised internationally for its cliff faces, and is valued for its numerous climbs of varying difficulty. There are a number of walking tracks ranging from easy to difficult which provide panoramic views of the region.

The management intent is to maintain the existing walking tracks in their current condition and monitor and minimise the impact on the natural environment from visitor activities, including rock climbing.

Education and science

Each year school groups visit Mount French to learn how to rock climb and use the national park for broader environmental education programs. University students conduct research programs on a wide range of topics from recreation management to habitat utilisation by native wildlife.

Partnerships

Partnership between QPWS neighbours, state and local government agencies and other interested parties need to be encouraged to ensure the values of the protected area are managed appropriately.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

A Level 2 pest management strategy identifies priority pests and control measures. Targeted pest plants include lantana *Lantana camara*, cat's claw creeper *Macfadyena unguis-cati* and giant rat's tail grass species. Pest plants often first appear at park entrances, boundaries and visitor sites. Early intervention and coordinated management with local governments and neighbours will help to stop pest plants from spreading into the park.

Fire management

Fire management is complicated by the steep topography of the land and the difficulty in controlling fires during unfavourable weather conditions. Escaped neighbour burns have had detrimental effects on the structure and composition of vegetation communities and this further compounds fire management in this difficult terrain. When conducting fuel reduction burns, ignition begins on the ridge tops first so that the fires can burn down hill and extinguish against natural barriers. Fuel reduction burns will reduce the severity of future wildfires.

A Level 2 fire management strategy for Moogerah Peaks National Park was reviewed in 2006. The camp ground at Mount French has a mitigation zone and the fire breaks throughout the park are maintained annually. Part of the strategy is to exclude wildfire from the Fassifern scrub on Mount French by using an appropriate fire regime in the adjacent country.

In conjunction with neighbouring landholders, the aim is to foster early detection systems and subsequent suppression of wildfires on park and neighbouring properties.

Appropriate fire management will continue to be used to control pest plants, such as lantana, at the landscape level. Future fire management should aim to assess the effect of planned burning on emerging pest plant species.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Fire management</p> <p>Fire management will balance protecting life and property with biodiversity conservation.</p>	A1. Review and implement 2006 Level 2 fire management strategy.
<p>Tourism and visitor opportunities</p> <p>Visitors enjoy a range of settings and opportunities for safe and sustainable outdoor recreation.</p>	<p>A2. Continue to provide a range of visitor opportunities that are sustainable, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintaining the existing infrastructure in good condition including walking tracks, camping grounds and day use areas monitoring the impact of rock climbing and implementing measures to mitigate any adverse impacts.
<p>Native plants and animals</p> <p>Biodiversity values are understood and protected.</p>	A3. Record observations of species of conservation significance to help inform fire and pest management programs.
<p>Pest management</p> <p>The impact of pest plants and animals on conservation values is minimised.</p>	A4. Continue to review and implement the Level 2 pest management strategy.
<p>Partnership</p> <p>Partnerships produce good outcomes for park management.</p>	A5. Build partnerships with Mount French rock climbing users to establish regular weed and rehabilitation programs.

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.8.9	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i> open-forest on Cainozoic igneous rocks.	Of concern
12.8.13	Araucarian complex microphyll vine forest on Cainozoic igneous rocks.	Of concern
12.8.19	Montane shrubland on Cainozoic igneous rocks.	Of concern
12.8.20	Shrubby woodland with <i>Eucalyptus racemosa</i> or <i>E. dura</i> on Cainozoic igneous rocks.	Of concern
12.8.24	<i>Corymbia citriodora</i> open-forest on Cainozoic igneous rocks especially trachyte.	Endangered
12.8.25	Open forest with <i>Eucalyptus acmenoides</i> or <i>E. helidonica</i> on Cainozoic igneous rocks especially trachyte.	Of concern
12.9-10.3	<i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i> on sedimentary rocks.	Of concern
12.9-10.7	<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> woodland on sedimentary rocks.	Of concern

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 status	Back on Track status
Plants				
<i>Bertya ernestiana</i>	-	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Croton mamillatus</i>	-	Endangered	-	Low
<i>Cupaniopsis tomentella</i>	boonah tuckeroo	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Gonocarpus hirtus</i>	-	Vulnerable	-	-
<i>Grevillea linsmithii</i>	-	Endangered	-	Low
<i>Leionema gracile</i>	-	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Marsdenia coronata</i>	slender milkvine	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Marsdenia hemiptera</i>	rusty vine	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Melaleuca groveana</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Medium
<i>Notelaea lloydii</i>	Lloyd's native olive	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Solanum mentiens</i>	-	Endangered	-	Low
<i>Syzygium hodgkinsoniae</i>	red lilly pilly	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Sophora fraseri</i>	brush sophora	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Thesium australe</i>	toadfax	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
Animals				
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathamii</i>	glossy black cockatoo	Vulnerable	-	-
<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	turquoise parrot	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	powerful owl	Vulnerable	-	Medium
<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	brush tailed rock wallaby	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	koala (South East Queensland bioregion)	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Turnix melanogaster</i>	black-breasted button-quail	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	Bonn	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	cicadabird	-	-	✓	-
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	monarch	✓	-	-	-
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater	-	-	✓	-
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	black-faced monarch	✓	-	-	-
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-
<i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i>	spectacled monarch	✓	-	-	-

Bonn – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement