

Girramay National Park Management Statement 2013

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Park size: | 33,730ha |
| 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 Management and Protection Act 1993</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i> |



Top of Murray Falls looking east. Photo: NPRSR.

Plans and agreements

| | |
|---|---|
| ✓ | Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005 |
| ✓ | Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan and Management Program 2007–2017 |
| ✓ | Recovery Plan for the southern cassowary <i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> 2001–2005 |
| ✓ | Recovery Plan for the stream-dwelling rainforest frogs of the Wet Tropics biogeographic region of north-east Queensland 2000–2004 |
| ✓ | Recovery Plan for the endangered cave-dwelling bats, <i>Rhinolophus philippinensis</i> , <i>Hipposideros semoni</i> and <i>Taphozous troughtoni</i> 2001–2005 |
| ✓ | National recovery plan for the spectacled flying-fox <i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i> |
| ✓ | National recovery plan for the bare-rumped sheath-tail bat <i>Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus</i> |
| ✓ | Mahogany Glider Recovery Plan 2000–2004 |
| ✓ | Bonn Agreement |
| ✓ | China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement |
| ✓ | Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement |
| ✓ | Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement |

Thematic strategies

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| ✓ | Level 1 Fire Strategy |
| ✓ | Draft Level 2 Pest Strategy |
| ✓ | QPWS Wet Tropics Pest Strategy |

Vision

Girramay National Park continues to conserve coastal habitats, foothills and coastal ranges. Traditional Owners for country maintain connection to the lands within the park.

Conservation purpose

Girramay National Park was gazetted 20 July 2007 with an area of 240ha and then re-gazetted 5 June 2009 to its current extent. This re-gazetted included the addition of Edmund Kennedy National Park and Murray Upper National Park into Girramay National Park.

The park was gazetted to protect remnant areas of coastal forests and wetlands, foothills and coastal ranges along with their associated fauna.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

The park contributes to the green mountainous back-drop of the coastal range rising from the coastal plain. The coastal sections of the park retain areas of floodplain representative of the wider area now cleared for agriculture. The coastal sections of the park are dominated by areas of impeded drainage creating perennial and ephemeral swamps.

The boundary of the western section of the park follows the ridge line and passes across a number of named and unnamed mountain peaks including Mount Pershouse 876m, Mount Hosey 929m; Mount Wyruna 964m; Mount Smoko 1,054m; Mount Marsey 961m and Mount Jones 1,032m. This section contains the North Murray Gorge and Murray Falls.

The Edmund Kennedy Wetlands on the coastal section of the protected area and the Tully–Murray Floodplain area—that includes the western part of the coastal section—are both listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands of Australia. The Yuccabine Creek catchment adjacent to the park between Mount Smoko, Mount Wyruna and Mount Hosie within Kirrama National Park is also a wetland of national significance. The park contains sections of many coastal catchments including the Murray River headwaters, Deep Creek, Dowse Rocks, the North Murray Gorge, Wreck Creek, Dallachy Creek, Meunga Creek, the Murray River mouth and the Tully River mouth.

Girramay National Park adjoins agricultural neighbours producing bananas, sugar cane, grazing, horticulture and private forestry.

Regional ecosystems

There are 49 regional ecosystems mapped within the protected area. Regional ecosystems of significant biodiversity status are listed in Table 1. These are generally those regional ecosystems from the coastal plain that have been extensively cleared for agricultural purposes. Extensive saline and dune freshwater plains and lagoons still form a complex hydrological network of the lower estuary of the Murray floodplain.

The national park area protects these remnants. However, isolated sections such as Skardon's Crossing and Barretts Lagoon have tentative wildlife linkages. The communities in the protected area have considerable regional significance, including coastal littoral rainforest listed as critically endangered under *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, mahogany glider *Pteraurus gracilis* and cassowary habitats.

Native plants and animals

Of the plant species known from the park two are listed as vulnerable in the *Nature Conservation Act 1993* and two are considered to be near threatened.

The plant and animal species of conservation significance on Girramay National Park are listed in Table 2 along with the Back on Track ratings. Species listed under international agreements are listed in Table 3.

Aboriginal culture

Girramay National Park has very significant cultural heritage values.

The park is within the Djirbalngan and Wargamaygan language group areas. The Girramay and Gulgany people are the Traditional Owners for the park and they are represented by the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation.

The coastal section of the park south of Cardwell is within the boundaries of the Girramay native title determination. An Indigenous Land Use Agreement has been negotiated in this area.

Shared-history culture

Records of shared-historical value on the protected area include sections of an old telegraph line.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The key tourism and visitor opportunities on Girramay National Park are the Murray Falls day-use and camping area, the Edmund Kennedy day-use area and the Society Flats circuit walk. A boardwalk takes visitors to the top of Murray Falls and the Murray Falls Rainforest walk provides information and an easy walk while swimming is enjoyed off the camping area. The Edmund Kennedy boardwalk circuit and the Wreck Creek walks are on the coastal sections of Girramay National Park.

The Wet Tropics Walking Strategy identifies three historic tracks that cross the western section of Girramay National Park. The Bilyana track is open for school groups and mountain hikers. Walkers can also use Kents Track.

Education and science

Girramay National Park offers the opportunity for day-use educational group activities from Tully and Cardwell.

Partnerships

The 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.

QPWS and the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation have signed Memorandum of Understanding for management options on Girramay National Park. The Giringun rangers and volunteer groups assist with park management activities.

The park shares a significant boundary with HQ Plantations who assist QPWS to manage issues including fire, pest, recreation and illegal uses.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Aquatic weeds such as hymenachne *Hymenachne amplexicaulis* and pond apple *Annona glabra* are present on the Murray floodplain and pose an invasive risk to Girramay National Park. Snakeweed *Stachytarpheta* spp., lantana *Lantana camara* and guinea grass *Megathyrsus maximus* are associated with disturbed areas across the park. Singapore daisy *Sphagneticola trilobata* is prevalent across the fore-dune section.

A Siam weed *Chromolaena odorata* infestation occurs at Yingalinda near the mouth of Tully River. Adjoining infestations require ongoing vigilance and hygiene. Other threats include pest incursions from the adjoining agricultural cropping lands.

Animal pests include feral cats *Felis catus*, pigs *Sus scrofa*, cattle *Bos* spp., horses *Equus caballus*, dogs *Canis familiaris* and cane toads *Rhinella marina*. Feral cats are an identified threat to the mahogany glider. Feral pigs threaten wetlands and may compete with cassowaries for food and act as a disease vector. Cattle and horses spread weeds andacerbate erosion. Siam weed, lantana and a number of high-biomass, introduced grasses have been recorded on the park. The most urgent threat is a thickening process within the ecosystems that leads to habitat loss.

The Giringun rangers are increasingly becoming involved in pest management and rehabilitation activities within the park.

Fire management

Wildfire is known to cause significant damage across the coastal section, as witnessed in the October 2009 season. Maintaining firebreaks within the coastal section of the park always presents a challenge, due to the difficulties associated with gaining access to re-open fire breaks for early season burning.

There is a level 1 fire management strategy for the coastal section of the protected area. The remaining area is managed in conjunction with Girringun National Park and is incorporated in the approved level 1 Girringun Aggregation Fire Management Strategy.

The park has a significant area of open forest that requires an active fire management regime. The gradual transition from open to a more closed forest structure is attributed to a lack of appropriate fire intervals and a lower than desirable fire intensity.

Prescribed burning and the effect of smoke on the adjacent Cardwell township and the Bruce Highway is an ongoing management issue requiring careful planning and community engagement.

Management directions

| Desired outcomes | Actions and guidelines |
|---|--|
| <p>Aboriginal culture</p> <p>Traditional Owners are involved in cooperative park management.</p> | <p>A1. Support the involvement of the Traditional Owners in park management.</p> |
| <p>Tourism and visitor opportunities</p> <p>Safe and sustainable visitor opportunities are provided and maintained.</p> | <p>A2. Continue to assess opportunities that will improve visitor management experiences and that utilise the involvement of Traditional Owner and private-enterprise interests.</p> |
| <p>Fire management</p> <p>The integrity of native plant and animal communities is maintained through strategic, sustained fire management.</p> | <p>A3. Review the fire strategy for the park, with a focus on the appropriateness of fire intervals and fire intensities.</p> |

Tables - Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

| Regional ecosystem number | Description | Biodiversity status |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 7.1.2 | <i>Sporobolus virginicus</i> grassland, samphire open forbland to sparse forbland, and bare salt pans, on plains adjacent to mangroves | Of concern |
| 7.1.3 | <i>Schoenoplectus litoralis</i> and/or <i>Eleocharis dulcis</i> sparse sedgeland, or <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> shrubland to open forest, in swamps which fluctuate periodically between freshwater and estuarine | Endangered |
| 7.1.4 | Mangrove and vine forest communities of the brackish zone | Endangered |
| 7.2.1 | Mesophyll vine forest on beach ridges and sand plains of beach origin | Endangered |
| 7.2.2 | Notophyll to microphyll vine forest on beach ridges and sand plains of beach origin | Endangered |
| 7.2.3 | <i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> and/or <i>Acacia crassicarpa</i> and/or <i>C. intermedia</i> and/or <i>C. clarksoniana</i> closed forest to woodland, of beach ridges, predominantly of Holocene age | Of concern |
| 7.2.4 | <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. (often <i>E. pellita</i> or <i>Corymbia intermedia</i>) open forest and/or <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest on swampy sand plains of beach origin, and Pleistocene beach ridges | Of concern |
| 7.2.5 | Mesophyll/notophyll vine forest of <i>Syzygium forte</i> subsp. <i>forte</i> on beach ridges and sand plains of beach origin | Of concern |
| 7.2.7 | <i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i> +/- <i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> open forest +/- groved vine forest shrublands of the beach strand and foredune | Endangered |
| 7.2.8 | <i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> open forest to woodland on sands of beach origin | Endangered |
| 7.2.9 | <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> shrubland to closed forest, or <i>Lepironia articulata</i> open to closed sedgeland on dune swales and swampy sand plains of beach origin | Endangered |
| 7.2.11 | <i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i> +/- <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> +/- emergent <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. woodland to open forest, or <i>Melaleuca</i> sp. aff. <i>viridiflora</i> open forest to woodland, on swampy sand plains of beach origin | Of concern |
| 7.3.3 | Mesophyll vine forest with <i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i> on poorly drained alluvial plains | Endangered |
| 7.3.4 | Mesophyll vine forest with <i>Licuala ramsayi</i> on poorly drained alluvial plains and alluvial areas of uplands | Endangered |
| 7.3.5 | <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> and/or <i>Melaleuca cajuputi</i> closed forest to shrubland on poorly drained alluvial plains | Endangered |
| 7.3.6 | <i>Melaleuca dealbata</i> +/- <i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> open forest on poorly drained alluvial plains | Endangered |
| 7.3.7 | <i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> and <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest to woodland (or vine forest with emergent <i>E. pellita</i> and <i>C. intermedia</i>), on poorly drained alluvial plains | Endangered |

| Regional ecosystem number | Description | Biodiversity status |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 7.3.8 | <i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. +/- <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest to open woodland on alluvial plains | Endangered |
| 7.3.10 | Simple to complex mesophyll to notophyll vine forest on moderate to poorly drained alluvial plains of moderate fertility | Endangered |
| 7.3.12 | Mixed eucalypt open forest to woodland, dominated by <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> and <i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Melaleuca dealbata</i> , (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on alluvial plains of lowlands | Endangered |
| 7.3.20 | <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> , or <i>C. intermedia</i> and <i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> or <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> and <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp., or <i>E. cloeziana</i> or <i>C. torelliana</i> open forests (or vine forests with these species as emergents), on alluvial fans at the base of ranges | Of concern |
| 7.3.21 | <i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> +/- <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest to woodland on 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 |
| 7.3.35 | <i>Acacia mangium</i> and/or <i>A. celsa</i> and/or <i>A. polystachya</i> closed forest on alluvial plains | Endangered |
| 7.3.40 | <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> medium to tall open forest on well drained alluvial plains of lowlands | Endangered |
| 7.3.45 | Simple notophyll vine forest dominated by <i>Dryadodaphne</i> sp. (Mt Lewis B.P. Hyland+RFK1496) of wet highlands on granite | Of concern |
| 7.3.46 | <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest to woodland on alluvial plains | Endangered |
| 7.3.49 | Notophyll vine forest on rubble terraces of streams | Of concern |
| 7.12.4 | <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> open forest of granites and rhyolites, on deep soils | Endangered |
| 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 |
| 7.12.9 | <i>Acacia celsa</i> open to closed forest on granites and rhyolites | Of concern |
| 7.12.12 | <i>Acacia mangium</i> and <i>A. celsa</i> open to closed forest, or <i>A. polystachya</i> woodland to closed forest on granites and rhyolites | Of concern |
| 7.12.21 | <i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> open forest to woodland, or <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> , <i>E. pellita</i> and <i>E. grandis</i> open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on granites and rhyolites | Endangered |
| 7.12.22 | <i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> +/- <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> tall open forest to tall woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on moist to wet granite and rhyolite uplands and highlands | Endangered |

| Regional ecosystem number | Description | Biodiversity status |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 7.12.23 | <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 granite and rhyolite headlands and near-coastal foothills | 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 |
| 7.12.40 | 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 |
| 7.12.50 | Simple microphyll vine-fern forest on granite and rhyolite, of wet highlands | Of concern |
| 7.12.61 | <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> +/- <i>E. granitica</i> woodland to open forest of moist and dry foothills and uplands on granite and rhyolite | Of concern |
| 7.12.66 | Exposed rocky slopes on granite and rhyolite, with <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> low shrubland or low to medium closed forest | 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>Rourea brachyandra</i> | | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Myrmecodia beccarii</i> | ant plant | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | High |
| <i>Livistona drudei</i> | Halifax fan palm | Vulnerable | Least concern | Medium |
| <i>Liparis simmondsii</i> | orchid | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| Animals | | | | |
| <i>Hypochrypsops apollo apollo</i> | Apollo jewel | Vulnerable | Least concern | High |
| <i>Crocodylus porosus</i> | estuarine crocodile | Vulnerable | Listed marine | Low |
| <i>Litoria nannotis</i> | waterfall frog | Endangered | Endangered | Low |
| <i>Litoria nyakalensis</i> | mountain mistfrog | Endangered | Critically endangered | Low |
| <i>Litoria rheocola</i> | common mistfrog | Endangered | Endangered | Low |
| <i>Litoria serrata</i> | tapping green eyed frog | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |

| Scientific name | Common name | Nature Conservation Act 1992 status | Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 status | Back on Track status |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| <i>Nyctimystes dayi</i> | Australian laceid | Endangered | Endangered | Low |
| <i>Taudactulus acutirostris</i> | sharp snouted dayfrog | Endangered | Extinct | Low |
| <i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i> | grey goshawk | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Lophoictinia isura</i> | square-tailed kite | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i> | Australian swiftlet | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Esacus magnirostris</i> | beach stone-curlew | Vulnerable | Listed marine | High |
| <i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> (southern population) | southern cassowary (southern population) | Endangered | Endangered | Critical |
| <i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i> | black-necked stork | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Sternula albifrons</i> | little tern | Endangered | Listed marine | High |
| <i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana</i> | Macleay's fig-parrot | Vulnerable | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> | eastern curlew | Near threatened | Marine | Low |
| <i>Ninox rufa queenslandica</i> | rufous owl (southern subspecies) | Vulnerable | Near threatened | Low |
| <i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i> | spectacled flying-fox | Least concern | Vulnerable | High |
| <i>Hipposideros diadema</i> | diadem leaf-nosed bat | Near threatened | Least concern | Low |
| <i>Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus</i> | bare-rumped sheath-tail bat | Endangered | Critically endangered | High |
| <i>Taphozous australis</i> | coastal sheath-tail | Vulnerable | Near threatened | High |
| <i>Murina florium</i> | tube-nosed insectivorous bat | Vulnerable | Near threatened | High |
| <i>Macroderma gigas</i> | ghost bat | Vulnerable | Near threatened | Critical |
| <i>Dendrolagus lumholtzi</i> | Lumholtz's tree-kangaroo | Near threatened | Near threatened | Low |
| <i>Pteraurus gracilis</i> | mahogany glider | Endangered | Endangered | Critical |
| <i>Pseudochirulus herbertensis</i> | Herbert River ringtail possum | Near threatened | Near threatened | Low |

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

| Scientific name | Common name | Bonn | JAMBA | ROKAMBA | CAMBA |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------|-------|---------|-------|
| <i>Crocodylus porosus</i> | estuarine crocodile | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> | white-bellied sea-eagle | | - | - | ✓ |
| <i>Pandion cristatus</i> | eastern osprey | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Ardea modesta</i> | eastern great egret | - | ✓ | - | ✓ |
| <i>Egretta sacra</i> | eastern reef egret | - | - | - | ✓ |
| <i>Coracina tenuirostris</i> | cicadabird | - | ✓ | - | - |
| <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i> | greater sand plover | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Cuculus optatus</i> | oriental cockoo | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> | Caspian tern | - | ✓ | | ✓ |
| <i>Sternula albifrons</i> | little tern | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Merops ornatus</i> | rainbow bee-eater | - | ✓ | - | - |
| <i>Monarcha melanopsis</i> | black-faced monarch | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i> | satin flycatcher | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i> | spectacled monarch | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i> | rufous fantail | ✓ | - | - | |
| <i>Calidris acuminata</i> | sharp-tailed sandpiper | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Calidris ruficollis</i> | red-necked stint | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> | eastern curlew | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Bonn – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement