

Wild Cattle Island National Park and Adjacent State Marine Park

Management Statement

2013

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 Wild Cattle Island National Park and Adjacent State Marine 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 plan's original management intent and direction.

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| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Park size: | 580ha (national park) |
| Bioregion (IBRA 6.1): (IMCRA 4.0) | South Eastern Queensland Shoalwater Coast |
| QPWS region: | Great Barrier Reef |
| Local government estate/area: | Gladstone Regional Council |
| State electorate: | Gladstone |

IMBRA – Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia

IMCRA – Integrated Marine and Coastal Regionalisation of Australia

Legislative framework

| | |
|---|--|
| ✓ | Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 |
| ✓ | <i>Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 (Cwlth)</i> |
| ✓ | Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area |
| ✓ | <i>Marine Parks Act 2004</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i> |
| ✓ | • <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> |

Plans and agreements

| | |
|---|--|
| ✓ | Bonn Convention |
| ✓ | China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement |
| ✓ | Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement |
| ✓ | Nature Conservation (Dugong) Conservation Plan 1999 |
| ✓ | Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006 |
| ✓ | Nature Conservation (Whales and Dolphins) Conservation Plan 1997 |
| ✓ | Recovery plan for marine turtles in Australia |
| ✓ | Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement |

Thematic strategies

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| ✓ | Level 1 fire strategy |
| ✓ | Level 1 and 2 pest strategies |

Vision

Wild Cattle Island National Park and the adjacent Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park preserves habitats and species of state, national and international conservation significance.

The area is managed with an increased understanding of the natural environment, to protect significant species and communities and minimise impacts.

Visitor experiences and recreation opportunities are in keeping with the area's natural environments.

Partnerships with the Traditional Owners, local community, neighbours, research institutions and conservation groups are established and contribute to the area's ongoing management.

Conservation purpose

Wild Cattle Island National Park was gazetted as a national park in 1992, following an assessment by the former Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1984, which identified its importance for migratory birds and as a turtle rookery. It was originally declared a resources reserve under the *Land Act 1962* in 1989.

Wild Cattle Island National Park and the adjacent Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park will be managed to protect and, where possible, enhance ecosystem processes and protect habitats and species of conservation significance. Cooperative relationships with Traditional Owners, park neighbours, natural resource management groups and other interested groups will be enhanced. The area will provide for recreational use that is consistent with protection of natural and cultural values; promotes community awareness, appreciation and understanding of the area; and provides opportunities for involvement in management.

Wild Cattle Island National Park and the immediately adjacent State marine park are part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. However, they are not part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Commonwealth), which commences slightly further to the south-east, at Hummock Hill Island.

Protecting and presenting the area's values

Landscape

Wild Cattle Island National Park is located in Gladstone Harbour, approximately 25km south-east of Gladstone near Tannum Sands Beach, at the mouth of Colosseum Inlet. The national park comprises two sections with a combined area of about 580ha, separated by mangrove intertidal areas. Wild Cattle Creek is located on the western side, running between the mainland and the national park. An esplanade extends around most of the two sections of park and is believed to be managed by Gladstone Regional Council. The eastern beaches provide views of Gladstone Harbour.

The adjacent mainland supports the rapidly growing communities of Tannum Sands and Boyne Island. The township of Bangalee is situated at the south-east end of Wild Cattle Island and consists of 18 residential freehold blocks. Property owners generally visit Bangalee for weekends and holidays, with one family residing permanently.

The Central Queensland coast is one of Australia's most aesthetic coastlines and Wild Cattle Island National Park, combined with Colosseum Inlet, provides an attractive scenic backdrop to Tannum Sands.

Wild Cattle Island is predominately a low sand island surrounded by tidal vegetation and mangrove flats. This sand island is highly significant, as it is the first sand island north of Fraser Island. It represents different vegetation systems than those found on other Queensland islands, and is part of a significant wildlife corridor between Rodds Peninsula and Boyne Island. The eastern beaches are a dynamic environment and are vulnerable to natural erosion and accretion cycles.

Wild Cattle Island's coastline is in an erosion prone area and most erosion is a natural cyclic occurrence. Access to Bangalee and camping activities involves driving along beaches and over the sand island in erosion prone areas, which has the potential to impact upon the fragile and dynamic island systems if not managed appropriately.

The national park is within the Baffle Creek catchment. Wetlands filter run-off water, assist in maintaining fresh and marine water quality, have the ability to replenish groundwater aquifers, and provide habitat and food to a range of animals. Water quality and habitat for aquatic and riparian species is diminished where coastal aquifers are unable to function naturally through interference from development, vegetation loss and water extraction. As such, the relatively undeveloped island helps protect the ecological function of freshwater and intertidal ecosystems.

The Colosseum Inlet – Rodds Bay Wetland (QLD129) includes part of the national park and State marine park and is listed in a directory of important wetlands in Australia (Environment Australia 2001). The wetland meets five of the six criteria used to identify important wetlands.

Regional ecosystems

The national park contains six regional ecosystems—two are endangered (Table 1) and four have a biodiversity status of no concern at present. The endangered microphyll/notophyll vine forest on beach ridges (12.2.2) comprises almost 73 per cent (387ha) of the park. The endangered *Casuarina glauca* open forest on margins of marine clay pans (12.1.1) is a much smaller area, comprising just two per cent (11ha) of the park. The other dominant regional ecosystem is *Corymbia*, *Eucalyptus* and *Acacia* open forest to low closed forest on beach ridges which comprises 24 per cent (128ha) of the park.

The endangered microphyll/notophyll vine forest supports significant beach scrub communities. These communities provide critical habitat and protection for the survival of the island's native animals and help to stabilise the dynamic dune systems. These beach scrub riparian communities fringe the dune system on the island and are often susceptible to impacts from recreational activities and pest plant infestation, and need to be monitored and managed to ensure visitor use is sustainable.

Plants and animals

Wild Cattle Island acts as a valuable buffer between industrial development at Port Curtis and the important wetland and fish habitat areas (FHA-037) of Wild Cattle Creek and Colosseum Inlet.

A small inshore coral community is present in Colosseum Inlet, off the south end of Wild Cattle Island (Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities 2012).

Plants

The eastern shoreline of the national park is a sandy beach with dune vegetation of *Spinifex hirsutus*, beach morning glory *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and beach sheoak *Casuarina equisetifolia*. Sclerophyll woodland/vine forest covers the drier interior, comprising *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and *E. tessellaris* and *Acacia aulacocarpa* in association with *Alphitonia excelsa* and *Banksia integrifolia*.

The western side of the island is a mosaic of intertidal waters and mangroves. The intertidal habitats support many mangrove species including *Avicennia marina*, *A. eucalyptifolia*, *Osbornia octodonta*, *Bruguiera cylindrica*, *B. parviflora*, *B. exaristata*, *B. gymnorhiza* and *Acanthus ilicifolius*.

Seagrass beds, particularly those on the eastern side of the island, provide vital habitat for commercially fished crustaceans such as tiger, endeavour and king prawns. Dredging activity in the north of Gladstone Harbour and sea disposal of dredge spoil east of the national park, as well as factors such as erosion, flooding and development in the Gladstone area, has led to higher turbidity causing loss of seagrass which impacts on marine animals (Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities 2012).

Animals

Wild Cattle Island National Park supports a range of species of conservation significance, including migratory species (Tables 2 and 3). The national park is important for conservation, particularly as the island's sandy eastern beaches and primary dune systems are used by marine turtles such as the endangered loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta*, vulnerable flatback turtle *Natator depressus* and vulnerable green turtle *Chelonia mydas* for nesting. Marine areas also provide inter-nesting habitat for these species. There is currently no monitoring of turtle nesting on the island, however anecdotal reports suggest nesting has declined to only 10 nesting turtles each season.

The area is just 25km south of Gladstone, close to Port Curtis and within Gladstone Harbour. Increasing industrial development with associated illuminated work areas, dredged channels and increased shipping traffic have the potential to result in increased negative impacts on turtles that migrate annually to the area to breed. The main threats to these species are coastal development, water pollution, marine debris ingestion, disturbance from recreation activities, predation of eggs by introduced species, entanglement from discarded nets and fishing gear, shark nets, boat strikes, changed light horizons, sea level rise and smothering of seagrass beds by sediment, all of which are likely to occur in this area. Visitor disturbance is also a threat in summer and autumn during the turtle nesting and hatching season.

The State marine park estuarine systems are nationally important for shorebirds, including migratory species. Migratory birds make long annual flights between their international breeding grounds in China, Japan, Korea and northern Russia, and travel to Australia where they spend their non-breeding season (typically September to April). Threats known to affect migratory coastal birds include coastal development, human disturbance and predation.

Migratory shorebirds such as grey-tailed tattler *Tringa brevipes*, near threatened eastern curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*, whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* and bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica*, and resident coastal birds such as vulnerable beach stone-curlews *Esacus magnirostris* and near threatened sooty oystercatchers *Haematopus fuliginosus* inhabit foreshore and beach habitats on the island.

Vegetation communities that offer roosting and feeding sites provide critical habitat and protection for the survival of birds including the sharp-tailed sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*, curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* and other migratory birds. Intertidal areas are the preferred feeding grounds for migratory waders such as eastern curlew, grey-tailed tattler, terek sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* and bar-tailed godwit (Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities 2012).

In addition to protecting all coastal birds, protecting nesting, roosting and feeding sites from human disturbance is vital. Disturbance of roosting shorebirds often leads to loss of critical energy and fatigue which impacts their ability to make the return migration. The impact of disturbance will need to be considered and managed into the future as visitors to the island increases.

Rising sea levels will affect tidal lands and coastlines which may provide new conditions and sites for turtle and bird nesting. Should a loss of beach occur, turtle nesting options will be reduced. Sea level rise and a change in river flows in Wild Cattle Creek may also impact on turtle populations through increased destruction of eggs, loss of critical nesting beaches, gender balance changes (given their temperature-dependant sex determination) and disturbance to coastal foraging grounds.

Records indicate that the brigalow scaly-foot lizard *Paradelma orientalis* and koala *Phascolaractos cinereus* were sighted on the island; however, these species have not been observed for several years. This is potentially due to predation from wild dogs *Canis lupus familiaris*, foxes *Vulpes vulpes* and feral cats *Felis catus* as the island is accessible at low tide from the mainland.

A significant flying-fox *Pteropus sp.* roosting site is located at Wild Cattle Creek (Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities 2012).

The Port of Gladstone – Rodds Bay Dugong Protection Area (Type B) surrounds most of Wild Cattle Island and protects dugongs and their habitat. The main threats to dugongs and many marine species are seagrass decline, coastal development, vessel strike and commercial fishing.

Mangroves and estuarine areas provide habitat for the vulnerable water mouse *Xeromys myoides*, vulnerable estuarine crocodile *Crocodylus porosus* and many fish species. Estuarine crocodiles have potential to occur in the waters surrounding the island; however no confirmed sightings have yet been recorded. Crocodiles are top order predators and contribute to healthy ecosystems. If present, crocodiles will be managed according to the management program for the species to ensure public safety and the species survival.

Other threats to the island's native plants and animals include fragmentation, pest invasion, competition and predation by pest species.

Aboriginal culture

There is an active native title claim by the Port Curtis Coral Coast Native Title Claimant Group Federal Court number QUD6026/2001, tribunal number QC2001/029 which covers a large area of the adjacent mainland and some islands to the north such as Curtis Island. This claim does not extend to Wild Cattle Island National Park or the immediately adjacent State marine park. The claim combines previous applications by the Bailai (QC1997/029), Gooreng Gooreng (QC1999/019, QC1997/035), Gurang (QC1999/020) and Taribelang Bunda (QC1997/037) peoples.

A memorandum of understanding exists between Gidarjil Development Corporation (on behalf of the Gurang and Gooreng Gooreng peoples) and the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI). This memorandum of understanding was established in March 2010 to foster a coordinated and cooperative partnership in the use and management of DESI-managed lands within the Port Curtis Coral Coast Native Title Claim Area.

The Port Curtis Coral Coast Regional Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement extends over Commonwealth and State marine park waters. It covers a large area extending from Burrum Heads north to Curtis Island. It was accredited in August 2011 and describes how traditional use activities like hunting will be managed in sea country.

There is evidence of Aboriginal use throughout the park including shell midden, quarry, fish trap and scar tree sites. Three significant shell middens are located in the park. One of these sites is considered highly important due to its Aboriginal cultural significance and research potential as some of the shell coverage is dense (Burke 1993). Additional cooperative investigations are required to gain a more comprehensive understanding of Aboriginal use in the area such as walking the country and mapping cultural sites. Given the antiquity of some of the island's dune formations, it is possible that archaeological material located may be of considerable age.

The main threats to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in the area include natural coastal erosion processes, inappropriate vehicle or pedestrian access and illegal removal of artefacts. It is anticipated that Traditional Owners and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) will cooperatively develop and implement measures to manage threats to cultural heritage sites.

Shared-history culture

The national park displays no visual evidence of sites or structures that indicate historic resource, commercial or recreation use. However, the island has consistently been used for many years by the local communities of Tannum Sands and Bangalee for recreation, such as picnicking, wildlife appreciation and fishing. As with many of the coastal islands in the area, Wild Cattle Island was initially accessed by vessel and became a weekend and holiday destination for local residents.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The Gladstone region's tourism industry continues to be significant to the local economy. Gladstone is a central location for local, regional, interstate and international visitors to explore the greater Gladstone region. The region is undergoing a period of rapid industrial development, mainly from the gas and mineral resource industry expansion, and the associated coastal and urban development. This will potentially increase recreation demand over the next 10 years.

Wild Cattle Island National Park and the State marine park are popular recreation destinations for visitors and the local community in the Gladstone region, particularly for Boyne Island, Tannum Sands and Bangalee residents. The area's natural vegetation, wetlands, sandy beaches, oceanic and estuarine elements provide for interesting recreation opportunities.

With the significant increase in urban development in and around Boyne Island and Tannum Sands, it is important that the national park and State marine park continues to provide a low-key and natural setting for the community to undertake outdoor nature-based recreation. Currently the island is relatively undisturbed. Monitoring visitor impacts at specific natural attractions such as waterways, beaches and open woodlands will provide baseline information on visitor use and impacts to inform development of appropriate management responses.

Wild Cattle Island National Park is separated from Millennium Esplanade at Tannum Sands by Wild Cattle Creek, a 600-metre wide tidal creek. The island's close proximity to the mainland makes access easy by vessel and people can also walk and four-wheel drive across during low tides.

There are no formed walking tracks in the national park. Visitors to the island can access the beaches, estuaries and creeks for fishing, picnicking or remote camping. Bush camping is permitted in the national park. There are no facilities provided. The park offers a low-key recreation experience that complements Gladstone Regional Council's Millennium Esplanade nearby, where visitors have access to facilities such as barbeques and toilets.

The island's pest plants such as Guinea grass *Megathyrsus maximus var maximus*, green panic grass *Megathyrsus maximus var pubiglumis* and Mossman River grass *Cenchrus echinatus* are indicators of disturbance from visitor use. Some island visitors light illegal fires on the beach or in the national park that can result in impacts such as wildfires and vegetation destruction. Generators, campfires and domestic animals are not permitted on the island. Other impacts of recreational use include the disturbance of wildlife, particularly feeding and roosting birds and nesting turtles, and the dumping of rubbish.

The State marine park surrounding the island is popular for swimming, fishing, boating, and motorised and non motorised water sports. Motorised, high-speed water sport activities can negatively impact on the visitor experience, disturb roosting and feeding coastal birds, and strike marine animals. Where monitoring indicates that increased or inappropriate vessel use is impacting on coastal birds or turtles, protection measures will be taken, particularly for species preparing for migration or resident breeding birds. This may include restricting vessels from accessing significant habitats during important life cycle periods for these birds.

Under the Marine Parks Regulation 2006, domestic animals such as dogs are not permitted on State marine park beaches adjacent to island national parks. Anecdotal reports indicate that some people are illegally walking their dogs on the beach at Wild Cattle Island.

Commercial tourism activities currently being offered include organised vessel-based tours and guided activities like walking, diving and fishing. Proposals that bring tourism operators, Traditional Owners and QPWS together as partners will be encouraged. It is essential that this be achieved without comprising the area's core natural and cultural values.

Education and science

The area offers opportunities to study migratory birds and endangered regional ecosystems. Due to its conservation values and ease of access, the area is visited regularly by universities and other tertiary institutions. The area may provide opportunities to present island management practices to the broader community, as well as present opportunities for further study for students. Activities will be permitted if they are part of scientific research or monitoring considered appropriate for the area. Efforts will be taken to ensure research results are shared and utilised to provide management direction.

The area also presents an important educational opportunity to study shoreline dynamics and changing coastal processes, which could be useful in informing management response to erosion.

At the time of preparing this management statement there was no information about the national park on the department's website.

Partnerships

Central to the effective management of the area is a cooperative partnership between DESI and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. This close partnership has been formalised through an intergovernmental agreement.

The support of the local community, visitors, interest groups, tourism organisations, other government departments, Gladstone Regional Council and Traditional Owners is important if the area's vision is to be achieved. Plants, animals, fire, air and water affect the landscape without regard for boundaries, and a cooperative relationship is fundamental. The area's future depends on the cooperation of these groups to protect its special values.

The local community, particularly Bangalee residents, have a significant interest and have played an active role in helping with on-ground management. These relationships and partnerships need to be further developed to increase a sense of stewardship, and to harness knowledge and skills that guide management and greatly benefit the area.

A strong working relationship with the Port Curtis Coral Coast Traditional Owners is essential so their views and aspirations can be included in planning and management. Traditional Owners have an important role to protect cultural heritage and educate QPWS, visitors and the wider community on the area's cultural heritage values.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

A pest management strategy has been developed to prioritise regional pest plant and animal controls, guide operational work plans and evaluate program effectiveness on managed estates. The Level 1 pest management strategy for the Central Queensland Marine Region (2009) guides pest management programs across the Central Queensland Coast. A Level 2 pest management strategy for Curtis Island protected areas, Garden Island Conservation Park and Wild Cattle Island (2010) provides more detailed direction for scheduling pest management activities across the park. Gladstone Regional Council's pest management plans will also assist in prioritising pest plant and animal control actions.

Cooperation with neighbours, other agencies and community groups is considered vital to achieve effective and integrated pest management across the park, particularly as pests move between the mainland and the island. Authority holders on QPWS estate also have responsibility for the implementation of pest management actions.

Pest plant species in the park include three Weeds of National Significance—Class 3 lantana *Lantana camara*, Class 2 prickly pear *Opuntia stricta* and Class 2 rubbervine *Cryptostegia grandiflora*—and locally significant grass species such as Guinea grass and green panic grass. Whilst containment of lantana and rubbervine is a high priority, management of Guinea and green panic grasses is important after fire events.

Cane toads *Rhinella marina* and two Class 2 pest animals—red foxes and cats—have been recorded on the island. Controlling red foxes is particularly important as fox predation on marine turtles is a key threatening process (Environment Australia, 2003).

Anecdotal evidence also suggests the presence of wild dogs on the island. Wild dogs prey on native animals and are a safety concern for neighbouring landholders. Wild dog management will aim to reduce the threat to public safety, be coordinated with Gladstone Regional Council and will be outlined and implemented in an approved pest management strategy.

These pests compete with and often eventually displace native species, thereby threatening the area's biodiversity and significant natural and cultural values.

A number of other factors that affect island and coastal communities are naturally occurring processes which may exacerbate pest issues or enable pest spread—for example, cyclones, migratory animal species and coastal processes such as sand accretion and erosion.

Fire management

The island contains regional ecosystems which are fire sensitive or do not require fire for ecological purposes, including microphyll and notophyll vine thickets (QPWS 2003). Specific fire management regimes are required to protect the vegetation communities and the animals reliant on these habitats. Fire will be excluded from the island as inappropriate fire regimes may irreversibly alter the species composition and structure and cause further

invasion by exotic plants.

Fire management is primarily focused on the protection of life and property, particularly at Bangalee. QPWS works with the Bangalee Township and local Queensland Fire and Rescue Service to address fire management preparedness and wildfire response through integrated chemical and mechanical methods to reduce fuel loads adjacent to the township. Wildfires could develop as a result of illegal fires originating from campers or Bangalee residents.

The Level 1 Wild Cattle Island National Park fire management strategy (2003) guides fire management in the national park and adjoining esplanade.

Other management issues

Bangalee Township access

Bangalee Township has 18 freehold properties adjacent to Wild Cattle Island National Park. The legal access to these properties is via a low tide creek crossing of Wild Cattle Creek to the northern end of the national park, then across the park to the eastern beach and then travelling the length of the beach south to the township. The Bangalee residents constructed an inland track for use by residents when wind and tides made the beach access impassable. The track commences near an informal boat ramp on the western side of the island. It travels east to the other side of the island and then in a southerly direction to Bangalee. While most of the track is in the esplanade it is likely that sections encroach into the national park.

Bangalee residents in consultation with QPWS installed a locked gate on the mainland side of the island to restrict access to residents, emergency services and management traffic only. The Bangalee residents in consultation with QPWS maintain the track. Due to natural coastal processes the island is slowly eroding along the east side and it is likely that the inland track on that side of the island will be eroded. If this occurs, vehicles will need to traverse the beach to access Bangalee Township. Constructing a new access track in the national park is not supported as it will further fragment the small sand island and provide open corridors for pest plants and animals, such as wild dogs and foxes, to penetrate further into the endangered casuarina forests and vine thickets and prey on native species.

Rising sea levels will affect the island's beach and fore-dune areas, and affect vehicle access to the island. Similarly other changes to Wild Cattle Creek that result in increased water depth would also affect access.

Infrastructure and authorities

The Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads have a section 35 authority under the Nature Conservation Act to operate and maintain a shipping navigation leads tower and associated solar power equipment, a firebreak, a sight line of trimmed vegetation and a vehicle access track within the sight line. This infrastructure is critical to operation of the Port of Gladstone. While the infrastructure and vegetation clearing is visible, it does not impact to any significant extent from the amenity of the natural landscape.

A telecommunication digital radio tower is located in the Bangalee Township outside the national park.

References

Burke C 1993, *A survey of Aboriginal Archaeological Sites on the Curtis Coast*. A report to the Department of Environment and Heritage.

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Information sheet, Colosseum Inlet-Rodds Bay-QLD129.

Environment Australia 2001, A directory of important wetlands in Australia, third edition. Environment Australia, Canberra.

Environment Australia 2003, Recovery plans for marine turtles in Australia. Canberra.

Management directions

| Desired outcomes | Actions and guidelines |
|---|---|
| <p>Landscape</p> <p>The area's natural scenic values and landscape dynamics are maintained.</p> | <p>Ensure activities and infrastructure are consistent with the area's natural scenic values and the low-key amenity of the area.</p> |
| <p>Plants and animals</p> <p>The biological diversity and ecological processes of the area are maintained.</p> | <p>Minimise disturbance to native plants and animals of significance from pests, visitors and management activities. Mitigate these disturbances where monitoring demonstrates unacceptable impacts are occurring.</p> <p>Monitor vessel and vehicle use, including motorised water sports activity and if they are causing unacceptable impacts to coastal birds or other species, restrict such access in significant habitats during the breeding season, which is typically October to March.</p> |
| <p>Aboriginal cultural heritage</p> <p>Cultural values are identified, protected and cooperatively managed with Traditional Owners.</p> | <p>Establish protocols and procedures with Traditional Owners to maintain and manage cultural places, materials and information.</p> <p>Support opportunities to induct and train park staff in Aboriginal cultural heritage awareness.</p> <p>Undertake cooperative investigations with Traditional Owners to gain a more comprehensive understanding of Aboriginal use in the area, such as walking the country and mapping cultural sites.</p> |
| <p>Tourism and visitor opportunities</p> <p>The area offers sustainable, low-key, nature-based outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities that meet and adapt to visitor needs with minimal impact on natural and cultural values.</p> | <p>Continue to monitor visitor use to ensure impacts do not compromise the low-key, natural setting.</p> <p>Participate in developing and implementing relevant regional and strategic tourism plans to ensure consistency with the area's management intent.</p> |
| <p>Education and science</p> <p>Research and education activities provide a greater understanding of the area's values, the impact of recreational, commercial and industrial use and management requirements.</p> | <p>Provide information about the national park on the department's website.</p> <p>Build networks, encourage and support the involvement of Traditional Owners, relevant research institutions, other government agencies, community groups and study groups undertaking research into QPWS-identified research priorities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the presence, distribution, abundance and management requirements of species of conservation significance • the area's cultural values; and • coastal bird population data and monitoring. |
| <p>Partnerships</p> <p>Communication occurs and cooperation exists between Traditional Owners, agencies, individuals, neighbours and groups with interest in, or who have responsibilities for, managing the area.</p> | <p>Continue to build relationships and encourage strategic and holistic landscape management through partnerships with Traditional Owners, local community, organisations, visitors and interest groups to improve knowledge of the area, and to highlight its significance to the region and broader Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.</p> <p>Encourage, support and guide the activities of volunteer interest groups that help protect and enhance the area.</p> |
| <p>Pest management</p> <p>Concentrate pest control efforts on those species that pose the greatest</p> | <p>Implement and regularly review the Level 1 and 2 pest management strategies in consultation with Gladstone Regional Council and neighbours.</p> |

| Desired outcomes | Actions and guidelines |
|---|---|
| threat to native plants and animals. | |
| <p>Fire management</p> <p>Fire management arrangements are coordinated with public and private authorities and individuals, Traditional Owners and stakeholders.</p> | <p>Review the 2003 Level 1 fire strategy in collaboration with relevant interested parties and Traditional Owners. Ensure the ecological requirements of species of conservation significance are considered.</p> <p>Develop a Bangalee Community Fire Plan in consultation with the Bangalee residents, Gladstone Regional Council and Queensland Fire and Rescue Service.</p> <p>Continue the restriction on campfires on the island to protect vegetation communities and the animals reliant on these habitats.</p> |
| <p>Other key issues</p> <p>Bangalee property owners have vehicle access to their land.</p> | <p>Support continued vehicle access to Bangalee via the existing alignment of the access track for property owners. Investigate how much of the track extends into the national park and identify whether use of the track should be authorised under the Nature Conservation Act.</p> <p>Decline support for any new access tracks to Bangalee that extend into the national park. If the current track erodes encourage property owners to access their property via the beach.</p> |

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

| Regional ecosystem number | Description | Biodiversity status |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 12.1.1 | Microphyll/notophyll vine forest on beach ridges | Endangered |
| 12.2.2 | Casuarina glauca open forest on margins of marine clay pans | Endangered |

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

| Scientific name | Common name | <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> status | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> status | Back on Track status |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|----------------------|
| <i>Caretta caretta</i> | loggerhead turtle | Endangered | Endangered | Critical |
| <i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i> | glossy black-cockatoo | Vulnerable | - | - |
| <i>Chelonia mydas</i> | green turtle | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | Critical |
| <i>Dugong dugon</i> | dugong | Vulnerable | - | Critical |
| <i>Esacus magnirostris</i> | beach stone-curlew | Vulnerable | - | High |
| <i>Natator depressus</i> | flatback turtle | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | Critical |
| <i>Paradelma orientalis</i> | brigalow scaly-foot | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | Medium |
| <i>Phascolaractos cinereus</i> | koala | Vulnerable | - | - |
| <i>Xeromys myoides</i> | water mouse | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | High |
| <i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i> | sooty oystercatcher | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i> | cotton pygmy-goose | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> | eastern curlew | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Tadorna radjah</i> | radjah shelduck | Near threatened | - | Low |

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

| Scientific name | Common name | Bonn | CAMBA | JAMBA | ROKAMBA |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|-------|-------|---------|
| <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | ruddy turnstone | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Calidris acuminata</i> | sharp-tailed sandpiper | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Calidris canutus</i> | red knot | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> | curlew sandpiper | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Caretta caretta</i> | loggerhead turtle | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Charadrius mongolus</i> | lesser sand plover | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Chelonia mydas</i> | green turtle | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Dugong dugon</i> | dugong | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i> | white-throated needletail | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> | white-bellied sea-eagle | - | ✓ | - | - |
| <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> | Caspian tern | - | ✓ | ✓ | - |
| <i>Limosa lapponica</i> | bar-tailed godwit | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Merops ornatus</i> | rainbow bee-eater | - | - | ✓ | - |
| <i>Monarcha melanopsis</i> | black-faced monarch | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Natator depressus</i> | flatback turtle | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> | eastern curlew | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> | whimbrel | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Tringa brevipes</i> | grey-tailed tattler | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Tursiops aduncus</i> | Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin | ✓ | - | - | - |

Bonn – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement