

# Clump Mountain National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	312ha
Bioregion:	Wet Tropics
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
State electorate:	Hinchinbrook



Looking south from Bicton to Clump Point.

Photo: NPRSR.

## Vision

Clump Mountain National Park conserves a small network of lowland rainforest and vegetation representative of pre-European settlement and subsequent development. Habitat for the endangered southern cassowary *Casuarius casuarius johnsonii* is maintained.

Management focuses on the recovery of vegetation communities from severe tropical cyclones Larry (2006) and Yasi (2011) and on maintaining the resilience and connectivity of the disjunct sections of the park.

## Conservation purpose

Clump Mountain National Park comprises a small network of scenic coastal areas that conserve some of the last remaining tropical lowland rainforest in the Wet Tropics. It is the traditional country of the Djiru Aboriginal People and exhibits both a rich indigenous and shared cultural heritage. Together with the neighbouring Djiru National

### Legislative framework

✓	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>
✓	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Land Protection Act (Pest and Stock Route Management) 2002</i>
✓	<i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>
✓	<i>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993</i>

### Plans and agreements

✓	Bonn Agreement
✓	China—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Draft recovery plan for the red goshawk <i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>
✓	Japan—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	National Recovery Plan for the Northern Quoll ( <i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i> )
✓	National recovery plan for the southern cassowary <i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> 2007
✓	Republic of Korea—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005

### Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 fire management strategy
✓	Level 2 pest management strategy

Park, Clump Mountain National Park provides essential habitat and movement corridors for the endangered southern cassowary *Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*.

Located on the park, the Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Facility plays an important role in cassowary conservation in the Mission Beach area.

## Protecting and presenting the park's values

### Landscape

Clump Mountain National Park is comprised of four separate sections. The Bicton Hill section is adjoined to the west by Djiru National Park. The remaining three sections consist of small disjunct patches of rainforest and coastal dune complex. The park is typified by small coastal forested hills that rise from sea level to approximately 150 metres (m).

Surrounding land use includes agriculture—particularly bananas and sugar cane—and urban development. While agriculture remains relatively static around the park, urban development is steadily expanding.

Although there is currently some habitat continuity between the different sections of Clump Mountain National Park, these corridors are not contained within protected estate and may be subject to clearing for development in future.

### Regional ecosystems

Of the seven regional ecosystems mapped for Clump Mountain National Park, six are considered to be of conservation concern based on the regional ecosystem biodiversity status ranking (Table 1). Of the six, three (complex mesophyll vine forest, mesophyll vine forest and coastal dune complex) are listed as endangered. The advent of two category five cyclones in five years has caused these regional ecosystems to evolve as highly disturbed systems. However, the vegetation structure has been severely impacted. The canopy may take many years or even decades to fully recover.

### Native plants and animals

Clump Mountain National Park conserves important foraging habitat and a refuge for the southern cassowary. It forms part of a system of reserves and protected areas that provide movement corridors and protect the species at a landscape level.

The vulnerable arenga palm *Arenga australasica* occurs in large stands on Bicton Hill and Clump Point—one of the most accessible places to see this species within its range.

Plants and animals of conservation significance are listed in Table 2. Species listed in international agreements are shown in Table 3.

### Aboriginal culture

The Djiru Aboriginal people were the original inhabitants of the Mission Beach–Bingil Bay area. The Djiru People have a successful Native Title claim (Djiru #2; QC03/003) over much of Clump Mountain National Park.

Bingil Bay was a favourite camping spot for the Djiru People. Here people camped in *mijas*—single, cone-shaped shelters with fronds of lawyer cane or saplings covered with bark and palm leaves. *Bingil* is a Djiru word describing a good camping ground with fresh water.

### Shared-history culture

The summit of Bicton Hill was used as a ship lookout by the area's first permanent European residents, the Cutten brothers, who arrived on 1 April 1882. They developed one of the first major agricultural ventures in North Queensland, growing bananas, coffee, tea, sugar, tobacco, coconuts, citrus and pineapples in the fertile valleys and foothills around Bingil Bay. They named their property 'Bicton' after the town in Devon, England.

In the late 1800s, a timber mill was built not far from the foreshore. Trees such as red cedar and northern silky oak were logged from surrounding hills. The mill was destroyed by a cyclone in 1918.

## Tourism and visitor opportunities

Clump Mountain National Park is a highly visible and scenic reserve typified by densely covered rainforest hills that meet the ocean. The Bicton Hill circuit track is the only formal access track within the park. The circuit track showcases the rainforest—much of which is cyclone-affected—and includes a lookout with spectacular views of the surrounding landscape, islands and ocean. Track users may encounter wildlife such as the southern cassowary.

The Bicton Hill section of the park has an interpretive program that includes landscape maps, information about cyclone recovery and regeneration as well as Indigenous and shared cultural history information.

Bicton Hill is north of Mission Beach on the Bingil Bay Road and is used primarily by backpackers and self-drive visitors, but also by local people.

## Education and science

James Cook University is currently undertaking a research project which investigates recovery dynamics.

## Partnerships

Opportunity exists for volunteers to prepare food at the Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Facility, to assist in feeding sick and injured cassowaries and to assist the cassowary rehabilitation program following cyclone damage.

## Other key issues and responses

### Pest management

Infestations of three class 1 pest plant species occur in the Bicton Hill section of the park, namely Siam weed *Chromolaena odorata*, mikania vine *Mikania micrantha* and laurel clock vine *Thunbergia laurifolia*. Canopy damage and seed spread following Cyclone Yasi in 2011 has created favourable conditions for these species and hence increased the spread and severity of these infestations. Other weeds of concern are lantana *Lantana camara* and giant bramble *Rubus moluccanus*.

Feral pigs *Sus scrofa* occur in Clump Mountain National Park. They are a vector for weed seed and cause widespread soil disturbance, creating favourable conditions for the establishment of pest plants and retarding the regeneration and recovery of forests following disturbance events such as cyclones. They are also known to eat southern cassowary eggs and prey on a number of frog species.

Domestic cats and dogs *Canis* spp. from surrounding agricultural and urban properties may also impact the local wildlife. Feral cats *Felis catus* have been observed killing native wildlife at Bicton Hill on a number of occasions.

### Fire management

Fire on Clump Mountain National Park is managed under a Level 2 fire management strategy.

## Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p><b>Landscape</b></p> <p>Park ecosystems are connected to adjacent habitats, and resilient to disturbance factors such as cyclones.</p>	A1. Support external agencies and organisations to protect and improve habitat linkages between the various sections of the park and nearby forested areas.
<p><b>Native plants and animals</b></p> <p>Staff are continually building their understanding of the values and threats to species of conservation significance.</p>	A2. Support monitoring of key species such as the southern cassowary, Boyd's forest dragon and the Bingil Bay palm.
<p><b>Pest management</b></p> <p>A collaborative and practical approach to pest management has been adopted.</p>	<p>A3. Work cooperatively with community groups and other government departments to control pest plants and animals across the landscape.</p> <p>A4. Work with the Cassowary Coast Regional Council to educate park neighbours and local residents of the impact that domestic animals have on native wildlife.</p>
<p><b>Science</b></p> <p>Park management is adapted in response to improved knowledge resulting from evidence-based research.</p>	A5. Encourage and support research programs focussed on the recovery and regeneration of natural ecosystems from threatening processes such as tropical cyclones and invasive species.

## Tables—Conservation values management

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

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.2.7a	Shrubland, grassland, woodland and open-forest, on strand and foredunes, with species including <i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i> , <i>Acacia crassicaarpa</i> , <i>Syzygium forte</i> subsp. <i>forte</i> , and <i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i>	Endangered
7.3.10a	Mesophyll vine forest on moderately to poorly-drained alluvial plains, of moderate fertility	Endangered
7.8.1a	Complex mesophyll vine forest on lowlands and foothills on basalt	Endangered
7.12.12a	<i>Acacia mangium</i> and <i>A. celsa</i> open to closed forest of lowlands and foothills on granite and rhyolite	Of concern
7.12.40b	Mesophyll to notophyll vine forest suffering from extreme wind damage where at least half the canopy has been destroyed, on granite and rhyolite	Of concern
7.2.3b	<i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> and <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> (or <i>C. intermedia</i> ), woodland to open-forest on dune sands.	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>Arenga australasica</i>	arenga palm	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Ichnanthus pallens</i> var. <i>major</i>	a grass	Near threatened	n/a	Low
<b>Animals</b>				
<i>Casuaris casuaris johnsonii</i>	southern cassowary (southern race)	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	red goshawk	Endangered	Vulnerable	High
<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	little tern	Endangered	-	High
<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana</i>	Macleay's fig-parrot	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>	sooty oystercatcher	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	northern quoll	Least concern	Endangered	Medium

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

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Bonn	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
Accipitridae	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	white-bellied sea-eagle	-	-	-	✓
Laridae	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	little tern	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meropidae	<i>Merops ornatus</i> Merops ornatus	rainbow bee-eater	-	rainbow bee-eater	-	✓
Monarchidae	<i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i>	spectacled monarch	✓	-	-	-
Rhipiduridae	<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-
Scolopacidae	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	common sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scolopacidae	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scolopacidae	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	whimbrel	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scolopacidae	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>	grey-tailed tattler	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sulidae	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	brown booby	-	✓	✓	✓

BONN: Bonn Convention

JAMBA: Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

CAMBA: China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement