1 Management directions and purposes

1.1 Management directions
Coalston Lakes National Park lies 211 km southwest of Biggenden and covers an area of approximately 360,000 hectares. The park was gazetted in 1929 to conserve an area of geological significance. The park contains flora which is a valuable remnant of a now rare vegetation type. The park will be managed to conserve the remnant vegetation by reducing current threats such as weeds, cattle grazing and wildfires. Degraded areas will be rehabilitated and revegetated. Visitor access will be upgraded in liaison with the local authority, and the park’s unique geological and scenic values will be interpreted to the public.

1.2 Purposes
The major purposes of management will be to ensure that:
- the park is kept free from disturbance caused by the encroachment of cattle;
- areas which have suffered degradation from weed invasion, cattle grazing and passing are rehabilitated;
- areas of dry vine thicket are conserved;
- problem weeds are actively managed and their spread significantly reduced;
- appropriate fire management regimes protect plants and animal communities from the adverse effects of wildfires;
- visitor access to the park is provided and the park’s natural and cultural values are interpreted;
- Aboriginal groups, neighbours and the local community are aware of management issues and provided with opportunities to be involved in management.

2 Basis for management
Coalston Lakes National Park is gazetted under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 as a national park and will be managed in accordance with s 17 of the Act which sets out the following principles for management:
- to provide, to the greatest possible extent, for the permanent preservation of the area’s natural condition and the protection of the area’s cultural resources and values;
- to present the area’s cultural and natural resources and their values; and
- to ensure that the only use of the area is nature-based and ecologically sustainable.

The requirements of other legislation administered by the Service and other State and Commonwealth agencies will be met where necessary.

2.1 Bioregional context
Coalston Lakes National Park lies within the Biggenden Shire. The park is located in the South East biogeographic region which contains some of the richest and most diverse flora and fauna species in Australia.

The park’s mountain has two well-developed streams containing shallow lakes. The lakes were named in 1891 by Willy Brum, manager of 869 Ben Sexton, after Coalston, his ancestral home in Scotland. While local Aborigal legend tells of the lakes’ existence, their location remained a mystery to Brum for several years. Each year during quiet periods, Brum sent a few indigenous employees to search for the lakes, and eventually they were located and shown to him.

The original vegetation of the area appears to have been various types of vine scrub, but now only small isolated patches of this survive among cultivated farmland, and the significant remnant lies within the craters. Coalston Lakes is listed on the Register of the National Estate maintained by the Australian Heritage Commission. The nearest protected area to Coalston Lakes is Mt Welsh National Park which lies 15 km to the north.

The small farming township of Coalston Lakes, which is 2 km southwest of the park, lies in the centre of a broad valley floor with fertile red soil which supports intensive farming operations for grain, peaches and cattle.

2.2 Values of Coalston Lakes National Park

Geology and landform
The park contains the centre of Mt Le Brun which is a volcanic cone with a double crater. Mt Le Brun is a prominent local landmark. The craters, which contain shallow semi-permanent circular lakes, are elongated along a north-west south-east line and their rims intersect. The composite crater rim is lowest on the south-east side where it has been breached by a basalt flow forming a ramp which extends to the valley floor. Upper Convirona alluvial-terrasols have been traced approximately 100 km from several centres near Coalston Lakes down the valleys of Burnt Creek and the Burnt Creek. These flows contain other significant geological formations such as the Durlambah basalt which was responsible for most of the volcanic activity in this area, which ceased possibly only 600,000 years ago. This makes Mt Le Brun one of Australia’s youngest volcanoes and the site of the most recent volcanic eruption in southern Queensland.

Plants and animals
Within the craters vegetation type varies with slope and position. The lakes contain reeds and grasses. A distinct band of river reeds Akadina bracteata with scattered bluegum Eucalyptus oxiderma occurs on the lake shores. The slopes above support some softwood scrub, a type of dry rainforest. This scrub has 3 layers of emergent trees 10-20 m tall. A dense closed canopy 4-12 m tall. The most common tall species is southern wax Acacia podalyriae and the species are readily distinguished by its small compound leaves and creamy-brown scaly bark. Other emergents include the broad-leaved tree Betula alba, swamp cypress Podocarpus oblongifolius, red gums Eucalyptus camaldulensis, creosote bushes Opuntia acanthocarpa, coast wood Peltophorum elegans, native persimmon Gephyrea urbana and casuarina trees Casuarina equisetifolia. Shrubs present include Lomatia tinctoria and some native species. Small leafed fig Ficus sundaicus. The closed canopy is very diverse. Some of the more abundant species include the white-tailed Ruprechtia labiata, native hops Haplophyllum lucens and black-eyed Susan Bidewingtonia vanderburgii. Many species can be seen flowering at various times of the year.

Cultural heritage
Coalston Lakes has significance to local Aborigal people. The park falls within an area subject to native title claim applications made by the Walka Wala people and the Wailka Wala Janda people.

Scenic and aesthetic
Mt Le Brun is a prominent feature on the local landscape. Excellent views of the surrounding countryside can be gained from the edge of the craters within the park. The crater lakes are unique to the area and when they contain water attract birds and other wildlife.

Scientific and educational
The unique geology and presence of remnant dry rainforest means the park has considerable scientific and educational value.
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**Desired Outcomes:**

- Incorporate the new learning materials into the curriculum.
- Ensure all students are engaged with the content.
- Provide opportunities for students to apply new knowledge.
- Monitor student progress and make adjustments as needed.

**Management Strategies:**

- Develop a comprehensive implementation plan.
- Identify key stakeholders for support and collaboration.
- Allocate resources for materials and training.
- Establish clear timelines and milestones.

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**Current Situation:**

- Existing curriculum and materials need to be updated to reflect the new learning standards.
- Teacher training is necessary to effectively teach the new content.
- Student resources should be updated to align with the new learning objectives.

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**Policies, Guidelines, and Actions:**

- Review and update the curriculum guide.
- Develop new instructional materials.
- Provide professional development workshops for teachers.
- Establish a system for ongoing evaluation of student progress.

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**Desired Outcomes:**

- Students demonstrate improved understanding of the new content.
- Teacher feedback indicates increased effectiveness in teaching the new curriculum.
- Student performance in assessments shows improvement.

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**Management Strategies:**

- Establish a governance committee to oversee the implementation process.
- Conduct regular audits to ensure compliance with the new guidelines.
- Solicit feedback from stakeholders for continuous improvement.
- Maintain an open communication channel with all parties involved.