This management plan was prepared in July 1999 and, in accordance with section 125 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992, will be reviewed not later than 10 years after its approval. For further information on this plan or the planning process, please contact the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Southern Regional Centre in Moggill, Brisbane, on (07) 3202 0200 during business hours.

This management plan was prepared by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff. Thanks are due to those groups and individuals who made submissions in response to the draft plan.
1. Management directions and purposes

1.1 Management directions

King Island Conservation Park is located approximately 1 km from Wellington Point in Moreton Bay. The park will be managed in conjunction with Moreton Bay Marine Park, as a place of significance for migratory birds and to provide for environmentally sensitive recreation opportunities such as birdwatching and beach walking. The park will also be managed in accordance with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, the Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA), the China Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA) and the Bonn Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds and their Environments. The Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 1994 requires that the special cultural significance of the wildlife listed in the above agreements be recognised and that their populations and habitats be conserved through appropriate management. King Island will be maintained in its natural condition, with no developed facilities. The island’s native vegetation communities will be encouraged to regenerate naturally.

1.2 Purposes

The major purposes of management will be to ensure that:
• the mangrove and dune vegetation communities are conserved;
• natural regeneration of native vegetation is monitored and encouraged through protection from disturbance; native animals, particularly migratory wading birds are protected;
• low impact, self reliant, nature based recreational and educational day-use opportunities are provided for; and
• the local community, including Aboriginal groups are aware of park management strategies and provided with opportunities to be involved in the park’s management.

2. Basis for management

King Island Conservation Park is dedicated under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and must be managed under s 20 of the Act to:
• conserve and present the area’s cultural and natural resources and their values; and
• provide for the permanent conservation of the area’s natural condition to the greatest possible extent and
• ensure that any commercial use of the area’s natural resources, including fishing and grazing is ecologically sustainable.

The requirement of other legislation will be met when necessary.

2.1 Regional and management context

King Island Conservation Park was initially declared an environmental park in 1975 and subsequently gazetted as a conservation park in 1994. The park consists of about one hectare of mangroves and littoral dune vegetation and occurs within the southern coastal lowlands environmental province of the South East Queensland biogeographic region. Although small in size, the park acts as a nucleus for extensive sand flats, rubble banks and seagrass beds which are important feeding grounds for migratory wading birds. The conservation park is surrounded by Moreton Bay Marine Park and is included within the Moreton Bay Ramsar site, which is recognised as a wetland of international importance.

2.2 Values of King Island Conservation Park

Geology and landform

King Island is composed of calcareous sand, derived from weathered coral debris and shell grit. It is connected to Wellington Point by a narrow sand bar which is exposed at low tide. King, together with Green, St. Helena and Puf Islands form an island chain which extends into central Moreton Bay.

Plants and animals

A well developed stand of grey mangrove (Avicennia marina) subsp. subintegerrima on the eastern side of the island extends into Moreton Bay Marine Park. The vegetation on the higher, western side of the conservation park consists primarily of ground-cover species typical of coastal dune ecosystems, such as seabirds Austrosterca, sea purslane Suaeda portulacasterum, marina couch Spinobus viscosus and beach convolvulus Ipomoea pes-capre subsp. brasilensis. Other low growing species include warriagul spinach Nitotus tetragonoides, river lily Crinum pedunculatum and bush wattle Stenocarpus rupicola. Vexet infaia var subsectect and Queensland ebyon Dostayn's gemina which is a littoral rainforest species. Littoral forest originally covered most of the island, but this and the fringing mangroves were apparently cleared earlier this century (Phillips, 1980). However, the occurrence of another rainforest species, slender grape Calyptrium clavatum, is evidence of the natural regeneration of the island’s former vegetation.

Native animals found on the conservation park include birds such as the striated heron Butorides striata and the mangrove gerygone Gerygone fringilla. A species of skink inhabits the island’s dune vegetation. Fauna was formerly far more diverse and included possums, bandicoots, water rats, land rails, stone curfews, rainbow lorikeets and snakes (Phillips, 1980).

Numerous species of migratory wading birds feed on the extensive sand flats, rubble banks and seagrass beds surrounding King Island and may roost in the mangroves on the island at high tide. Wedgers and seaducks observed near King Island include the reddish tern (Sterna dominica), pied oystercatcher (Haematopus longirostris), bar-tailed godwit (Limosa lapponica), caspian tern (Sterna caspia) and crested tern (Sterna bergii). Bar-tailed godwit and pied oystercatcher are considered to be in the group of protected migratory birds listed in s 24 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

Cultural heritage

From 1904 to 1906, King Island was home to the Philips family who established a temporary dwelling there and gathered much of their food from the surrounding reefs. A letter from a family member is of historical interest,
### 3 Management strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current situation</th>
<th>Desired outcomes</th>
<th>Proposed policies, guidelines and actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Native plants</strong></td>
<td>The biological diversity of the native plant communities continues to develop through natural processes.</td>
<td>Undertake a vegetation survey and photographic monitoring program to determine the extent and condition of the vegetation communities in the park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Native animals</strong></td>
<td>The diversity of animal habitats is maintained and their integrity enhanced through natural processes.</td>
<td>Incidental fauna observations from the conservation park will be documented under the Moreton Bay Wildlife Atlas program. Assess the extent to which wading birds use the island as a high tide roost site.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Introduced plants</strong></td>
<td>The numbers and distribution of prickly pear plants on the island are reduced gradually and in conjunction with the regeneration of native plant species.</td>
<td>Consolidate the program of manual removal of prickly pear from part of the island. Encourage biological control by retaining patches of prickly pear infested with Cactoblastis. Monitor the effects of prickly pear removal on visitor usage patterns and native plant regeneration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural heritage</strong></td>
<td>The cultural heritage values of the park are recognised and protected.</td>
<td>Conduct a cultural heritage assessment of the park in conjunction with local historical societies and Aboriginal people with traditional links to the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recreation</strong></td>
<td>Nature based recreational opportunities are provided on a day-use basis, with minimal impact on natural and cultural values.</td>
<td>Provide information to the public, on the values of King Island and surrounding Marine Park, and on appropriate behaviour, particularly in relation to restraining dogs from disturbing shorebirds. Monitor recreational use patterns and impacts on shorebirds, island ecosystems and any identified cultural heritage values.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education and interpretation</strong></td>
<td>Educational opportunities are provided and encouraged to support conservation strategies.</td>
<td>Provide local schools with information on the values of King Island and surrounding Marine Park, and on the management strategies being used to protect the areas from human impact. Develop interpretive signage for placement at Wellington Point, subject to district signage priorities and endorsement by Redland Shire Council. Keep King Island free of signage to maintain its scenic and aesthetic values.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plan implementation and monitoring</strong></td>
<td>Resources are made available for the implementation of this management plan on the basis of recognised priorities.</td>
<td>Develop a plan implementation schedule, with reference to: • coordinated management with adjacent areas; • opportunities for community involvement; and • opportunities for work experience students and volunteer involvement. Conduct a review of the management plan within 10 years of its approval, as prescribed under s 125 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Complementary management of adjoining areas</strong></td>
<td>King Island is managed in coordination with other areas in central Moreton Bay to ensure complementary outcomes are achieved.</td>
<td>Maintain close management coordination with Moreton Bay Marine Park. Implement relevant strategies from the Regional Coastal Management Plan for south-east Queensland and the Shorebird Habitat Management Plan. Liaise with the Department of Natural Resources regarding complementary management of Green and Mud Islands.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bibliography