1. Management directions and purposes

1.1 Management directions

Mt Hector Conservation Park lies near the township of Louisa Creek, approximately 23km south of Mackay. It will be managed to maintain its vegetation diversity and associated animal communities. This will be achieved through the appropriate use of fire and the minimisation of external impacts. The identification of cultural resource values will also be a high priority. Recreational and scenic values will be protected.

No visitor facilities are provided on the park, although use of the area for low impact and self sufficient recreational, educational or scientific use will be allowed.

1.2 Purposes

The major purposes of management of Mt Hector Conservation Park will be to ensure that:

- the park's vegetation is maintained in its natural condition and is protected from grazing and weed infestations;
- fire management is conducted where appropriate;
- rare and threatened plant and animal species are identified and monitored to ensure their protection from potential threats;
- Aboriginal artefacts are identified and protected from potential threats;
- self- reliant recreational, scientific and educational use of the park is allowed, provided that these activities do not threaten the area's ecological integrity;
- neighbours, local government, Aboriginal people with traditional links to the area and other interested parties are made aware of park management issues and are provided with opportunities to contribute to management; and
- continued access is provided to the electricity authority for maintenance of the existing powerline.

2. Basis for management

Mt Hector Conservation Park is gazetted under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and must be managed under s 28 of the Act so:

- conserve and present the area’s cultural and natural resources and their values;
- 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.

2.1 Regional and management context

Mt Hector Conservation Park is located within the Sarina-Proserpine Lowlands natural province of the Mackay Central Coast biogeographic region. It is located along the south-eastern foreshore and the park's natural vegetation ensureMt Hector is of high scenic value. A number of Aboriginal artefacts have been reported within the park. The park provides opportunities for low-impact, nature-based recreation, mainly for the local community. Access to the park is by boat, or by walking across Louisa Creek at low tide.

Management of the park is undertaken by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Mackay District Office.

2.2 Values of Mt Hector Conservation Park

Geology and landform

The majority of the park lies on the Campwyn Beds formation, which consists of intermediate, basic and acid volcanics, silts, sandstone, conglomerate and limestone. The headland is tuff, clay and intermediate flows and pyroclastics, with minor tuffs and sandstone.

The rocky headland of Mt Hector reaches an elevation of 59 metres.

Plants and animals

The park contains a number of vegetation associations, including areas of:

- beach scrub;
- grassy Eucalyptus harbourovii headland vegetation;
- woodland Corymbia clunesiana with grasses and banksia Banksia integrifolia subsp camporum understorey and occasional rocky apple Pemphium convexus;
- eucalypt/paperbark woodland Eucalyptus phyloglypta, Corymbia clunesiana, Malalaria waldenii and
- semi-arid Haloxylon pycnantha and saltwater couch Spartina virginica, these leading into mangroves.

Both the beach scrub and eucalypt/paperbark woodland have important conservation value. Beach scrub vegetation consists of rainforest floristics (including tanjung tree Mimosas elegans, red alth Abalantus albicans, mango Pouteria sericea, Burdellia plum Pugionium tenuiflorus, peacock tree Sterculia quadrifida and native cherry Exocarpus latus) on coastal dune systems. These areas are important migratory feeding areas for the pied imperial pigeon and other rainforest fruit pigeons. The bloodwood/paperbark gum/broadleaved paperbark woodland is an important ecotone between the sub-tropical and woodland. These vegetation types are generally highly disturbed within the region. The grassy and semi-arid saltwater couch communities are well represented in other parks and are not considered to be threatened.

Little information is available on the park's fauna. No detailed surveys have been conducted to date, and the presence of rare and threatened plant or animal species is unknown.

Cultural heritage

Aboriginal artefacts have been reported within the park, however no information is available on either the traditional use of the area by Aboriginal people or its cultural significance.