Summary

This management plan provides the framework and guidelines on how Venman Bushland National Park can be managed. It sets out the considerations, outcomes and strategies that are proposed to form the basis on which day-to-day management decisions are made.

This plan was prepared in May 1998 and, in accordance with s125 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992, will be reviewed not less than 10 years after its approval. For further information on this plan or the planning process, please contact the Department of Environment's Southwestern Regional Centre in Brisbane on (07) 3244 5641 during business hours.

This management plan was prepared by Department of Environment staff. Thanks are due to those groups and individuals who made submissions in response to the draft plan.

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Management plan

Venman Bushland National Park

May 1998 GM0141605.
### Management strategies

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Current situation</th>
<th>Desired outcomes</th>
<th>Proposed policies, guidelines and actions</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Native plants</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plants, especially any rare or threatened species are protected.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Collocate existing biological information and monitoring data.</strong> Continue a plant monitoring project for the park which involves vegetation monitoring at 14 permanent sites and maintaining a herbarium collection for the area. Ensure fire management aims to maintain natural species diversity and community processes.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Native animals</strong></td>
<td><strong>Animals, especially any rare or threatened species are protected.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Continue animal survey and monitoring work. Assess the needs of rare and threatened species and incorporate the findings into responsible and informed habitat management.</strong> Actively encourage volunteer naturalist groups and university groups to participate in animal survey and monitoring work. A fish survey of Tingalpa Creek would be a high priority as rare and threatened species may occur in these waters. Threatened species have been recorded in Buhot Creek, a tributary of Tingalpa Creek. Investigate the possibility of the Institute of Applied Research at Griffith University conducting research on the park for basal ecological data, especially for animals.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Introduced plants and animals</strong></td>
<td><strong>Declared noxious weeds are controlled on the park. Other weeds are controlled and, where possible, eliminated from the park.</strong> The impact of feral and domestic animals is minimised.</td>
<td><strong>Develop a weed action plan which aims to control declared noxious weeds on the park and minimises adverse effects of other weeds on natural vegetation and processes. It will be developed in conjunction with local government weed control plans. Develop an education program about the need to control domestic animals and their possible effect on native wildlife. Increase awareness and have other KBCCA agency staff trained as DoE conservation officers to enforce the Nature Conservation Act 1992. Support the Department of Natural Resources and local government dog and cat trapping program.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fire management</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fire is used to maintain maximum species diversity on the park. Fire does not put any visitors, staff or neighbours at risk.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Update and amend the 1993 draft fire management plan to include:</strong> Incorporating natural resource monitoring and fire history mapping to assist in determining better fire management regimes. Continuing to develop a joint fire management strategy with the other KBCCA agencies; developing wildfire response plans and prescribed burning programs in consultation with the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority and local rural fire brigades; developing a strategy to evacuate visitors from the park when prescribed burning is being undertaken or in periods of extreme fire danger; liaising with neighbours, especially Kimberley Park neighbours who have houses directly bordering the park, about fire management; continuing fire monitoring and fuel load monitoring and maintaining formal barbecues to deter visitors from lighting unconfined fires that may escape.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural heritage</strong></td>
<td><strong>The cultural heritage significance of the area is yet to be determined.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conduct a cultural heritage assessment of the area including Jack Venman’s house.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Recreation and tourism</strong></td>
<td><strong>Visitors can enjoy safe, nature-based recreation without disturbing other visitors or compromising conservation values of the park.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rationalise the track network and mark tracks with appropriate directional signs to reduce the chance of people becoming lost. Unused tracks should be closed. Directional signs are necessary but should not be obstructive. Harden and landscape the carpark and picnic area to enhance the park’s scenic amenity. In accordance with the site plan being developed for the area, determining picnic facilities such as tables and barbecues should be upgraded or replaced to prevent visitor injury. Assess the safety of Jack Venman’s house and, if possible, it should be maintained and used for management or interpretive purposes. Allow only pedestrian access to prevent conflict of interest between park use and the use of the house. Train on-ground staff from other agencies involved in KBCCA management as conservation officers, to enforce regulations under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Public contact and education</strong></td>
<td><strong>Visitors are well-informed about the importance of both the park and the KBCCA, of which Venman Bushland is a part.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Develop an information shelter in the carpark area. Finish producing the visitor information sheet for the KBCCA which includes information on the national park. Place the information sheet at the park entrance so visitors can increase their understanding of the importance of conserving these areas and the advantage of enjoying a minimal-impact experience. As most visitors enter through the main access gate, interpretive displays should be located within the main carpark and picnic area and include the story of Jack Venman and his donation of the land for conservation. Increase liaison with neighbours to protect park values.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Venman Bushland Park Road reserves</strong></td>
<td><strong>Environmental impacts on the park caused by uncontrolled access and non-conforming activities are minimised.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conduct an assessment of the impacts of road reserves on the park’s natural and recreational values. Negotiate with Redland Shire Council, Logan City Council and Department of Natural Resources regarding rationalisation of the gazetted road network within the national park and the management of other road reserves within the KBCCA.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plan implementation and monitoring</strong></td>
<td><strong>The management plan is implemented effectively.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Develop a staff schedule for plan implementation which identifies priorities for park management. Hold regular meetings with the KBCCA to ensure co-ordinated management between the relevant agencies.</strong></td>
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**Native plants**
A comprehensive plant species list for the park was revised in 1995. A vegetation survey followed and a vegetation map of the area was produced. Vegetation monitoring has been occurring since 1994 as part of a fire and fuel load monitoring project. Monitoring sites have been established within different vegetation types and vegetation baseline data, including species composition, is recorded regularly. Changes in vegetation communities, particularly in response to fire, can be monitored over time. After a fire, sites are visited and plant regeneration and individual species recovery are monitored.

**Native animals**
DoE staff and volunteer groups have conducted some animal surveys on the park. Among the 87 bird species recorded were the powerful owl, glossy black-cockatoo and grey goaway. A frog survey discovered 11 species. Resource Rangers have periodically conducted general animal surveys to update existing information. The Koala Coast Research Team has conducted three koala surveys, two in 1996 and one in 1997. Koala numbers were estimated at between 43 and 96 for the national park, indicating that it provides valuable habitat for koalas. The greater glider has also been seen in the picnic area.

**Introduced plants and animals**
The weed problem is not severe. Grounded bush and mistflower; both declared plants, have invaded some park areas. Other weeds posing a threat to the park’s natural species diversity include lantana, corky passion vine, smooth sesban and summer grass. Others is also present. Feral animals on the park include cane toads, cats and dogs. Stray dogs are currently posing the most significant threat to native animals. As housing developments increase along the park boundary, domestic dogs and foxes pose a greater threat. Horses being ridden on the park are contributing to track erosion.

**Fire management**
A fuel load monitoring project has been operating since 1993, with fuel load assessed by both weight and photo monitoring evaluations. A draft fire management plan was prepared in 1993. Joint fire management is now the responsibility of agencies involved in the KBCCA. DoE has the lead role in fire monitoring for the KBCCA. Regular meetings between agencies are held and a planned burning program has been developed for the entire KBCCA. In February 1995, a wildfire burnt out 190ha of the 415ha park.

**Cultural heritage**
The cultural heritage significance of the area is yet to be determined.

**Recreation and tourism**
The park has picnic and barbecue facilities and a variety of walking tracks. A new amenities block including composting toilets has recently been added and a plan exists to redevelop the carpark area and picnic facilities, both of which are in urgent need of attention. Degrading facilities such as picnic tables and barbecues may pose a risk to visitors. Emergencies arising from visitors becoming lost or injured regularly occur within the KBCCA. Horseriders, mountain bike riders and occasionally trailbike riders use areas designated as road reserve (gazetted road). These uses often conflict with bushwalking and other more passive pursuits.

**Public contact and education**
A visitor information sheet was produced in 1997 for the national park and one is being prepared for the entire KBCCA. The current visitor information facility and entrance areas need to be redeveloped as the information is outdated and the shelter is temporary. Public contact Rangers from Daisy Hill and Independent school groups are increasingly using the park as a venue for natural history education.

**Venman Bushland Park Road reserves**
Several road reserves are within the national park. Some sections are unformed and follow undisturbed natural vegetation of high conservation value. Existing tracks traversing the park do not necessarily follow these road reserves. Problems linked with public access to these road reserves include the dumping and burning of stolen cars, mountain bike and trailbike riding, and four-wheel-drive use. Horseriders may legally use the gazetted roads passing through the park. However, the road reserves are not always clearly marked.

**Plan implementation and monitoring**
The management plan will be implemented by DoE Central Moreton District staff based at Daisy Hill Koala Centre with help from the Conservation Resource Unit at Moggill. As the park will be managed as part of the KBCCA, the Redland Shire Council, Logan City Council and Department of Natural Resources will be involved in management decisions for the entire area.