

Mount Kinchant Conservation Park

Resource Information

2026



Queensland
Government

This document is a compendium of park information and a supporting document for the associated management instrument (management plan or management statement). Management instruments are prepared under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and include management direction for tenure which QPWS has management responsibility.

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1. Introduction

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), within the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI), applies a contemporary management process that is based on international best practice and targets management towards the most important features of each park: their key values.

The Values-Based Management Framework (VBMF) is an adaptive management cycle that incorporates planning, prioritising, doing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting into all areas of our business. This enables the agency to be more flexible and proactive and to improve management effectiveness over time.

This document is a compendium of park information and a supporting document for key values and level of service assessment reports or management plans and management statements. It contains background information about a park's purpose, values, resources and legal and administrative framework.

2. Park overview

Mount Kinchant Conservation Park is located next to Kinchant Dam, seven kilometres northwest of the rural town of Eton and 30 kilometres southwest of the regional city of Mackay. The park is surrounded by freehold properties and, to a lesser extent, some leased State Land.

Kinchant Dam Road runs along the northern boundary of the park and continues beside the dam, connecting to the park's northwest side.

Spencer Gap, Ben Mohr and Mia Mia state forests are 15 kilometres to the southeast and southwest of the park and Mount Martin National Park is 15 kilometres north. Additionally, the broader landscape features several other protected areas, such as Eungella and Homevale national parks.

While the park and nearby protected areas contain significant remnant vegetation, much of the surrounding landscape has been extensively modified for water supply and agricultural activities, primarily sugar cane farming and grazing.

Further details about the park, including its location, legislative framework, and relevant plans or agreements, are provided in Figure 1 and Table 1.

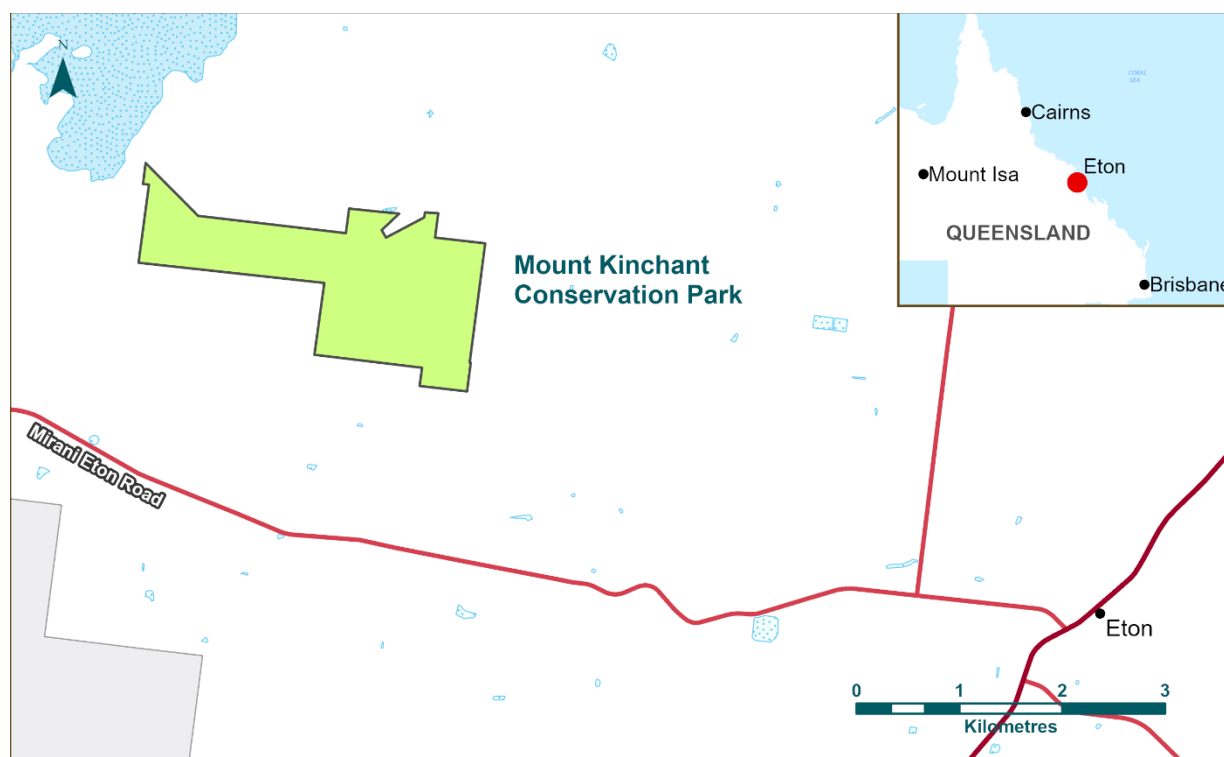


Figure 1. Locality of Mount Kinchant Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Mount Kinchant Conservation Park

Park size	Mount Kinchant Conservation Park	290.7 ha
Bioregion	Central Mackay Coast	
QPWS region	Central	
Local government area	Mackay Regional	
State electorate	Mirani	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>	
	<i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>	
	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth)	
	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cwlth)	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	

3. Resource Information

3.1 Yuwi people

A native title claim was registered on behalf of the Yuwibara people on 9 January 2014.

On 25 February 2020, a determination (Tribunal Number QCD2020/001, Federal Court Number QUD12/2019) was made, covering part of the park.

Native title over part of the park is held by the Yuwibara People, as described in the determination, with the Yuwi Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC serving as the registered native title body corporate (RNTBC).

Currently, there is no Indigenous Land Use Agreement in place that applies to the park.

3.2 Key value information

3.2.1 Vine forest

Semi-evergreen notophyll to microphyll vine forest covers 81.93 per cent of the park which rises to 420 metres above sea level. The regional ecosystem present (RE 8.11.2) is classified as having of concern biodiversity status and provides habitat for the critically endangered plant *Rhodamnia pauciovulata*, which is only found in the Central Mackay Coast bioregion. Although this regional ecosystem exists in eight protected areas in Queensland, this park contains the largest proportion, representing 48.99 per cent of the total within the protected area estate.

3.3.1 Eucalyptus woodlands

The park's eucalyptus woodlands are characterised by moist to dry woodlands dominated by popular gum and Molloy red box. The regional ecosystem present (RE 8.11.1) is classified as having of concern biodiversity status and is found in only three protected areas in Queensland. Mount Kinchant Conservation Park has the highest representation, with 16.62 hectares comprising over half (58.47 per cent) of the total area within Queensland's protected area estate.

3.4 Ecosystems and biodiversity

The park is part of the Proserpine-Sarina Lowlands subregion of the Central Mackay Coast Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion.

Seasonal drainage lines run down the mountain and flow during and following periods of rainfall. The park is located within the Plane Creek subcatchment of the Plane Catchment.

The park lies within 500 metres of a State Biodiversity Corridor, which was established to maintain and enhance ecological connectivity across Queensland.

3.4.1 Regional ecosystems

The park has two regional ecosystems, both have of concern biodiversity status (Appendix B).

Semi-evergreen notophyll to microphyll vine forest of foothills and uplands on metamorphosed sediments (8.11.2). This regional ecosystem has of concern biodiversity status and covers 239.97 hectares (81.93 per cent) of the park, representing 8.62 per cent of the regional ecosystem in Queensland and 48.99 per cent of its total areas within the protected area estate. It is found in only eight protected areas, with this park having the highest proportion. This regional ecosystem provides potential habitat for the near threatened plant species *Arytera dictyoneura*; plant species with a restricted distribution such as *Bowenia serrulata* and *Macrozamia miquelii*; and the light colour form of the southern boobook owl, which has locally significant conservation value. While none of these species have been recorded from the park, seven plant species of conservation significance, including the

critically endangered *Rhodamnia pauciovulata* are present (Appendix C). According to the Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD), this regional ecosystem is vulnerable to hot fires. Although fires would not typically burn in rainforest regional ecosystems, such as RE 8.11.2, mosaic burning in the surrounding fire-adapted communities is essential to minimise the risk and severity of bushfires encroaching into the vine forest (Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing 2013).

***Eucalyptus drepanophylla* +/- *E. platyphylla* woodland on hills formed from metamorphosed sediments (RE 8.11.1).** This regional ecosystem has of concern biodiversity status and covers 16.62 hectares (5.67 per cent) of the park, representing just 0.31 per cent of the remaining extent of the regional ecosystem remaining in Queensland, but 58.47 per cent of its total area within the protected area estate. It is found in only three protected areas, with Mount Kinchant Conservation Park having the highest proportion. This regional ecosystem provides potential habitat for endangered species such as the northern quoll, black-chinned honeyeater and rufous owl; although, none of these species have been recorded from the park. The REDD fire management guideline recommends winter burns and occasional moderate-intensity storm burns at intervals of 4-6 years, ensuring no more than 50 per cent of any given area is burned at one time.

Non-remnant vegetation covers 36.33 hectares (12.4 per cent) of the park.

3.5 Species

3.5.1 Native animals

Only one native animal species has been recorded from the park: the squirrel glider *Petaurus norfolcensis*, which is listed as least concern under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. However, other species of conservation significance have been recorded in the surrounding area and are likely to occur in the park. These include the northern quoll *Dasyurus hallucatus*, listed as least concern under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* but endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC); the endangered koala *Phascolarctos cinereus*, also listed as endangered under the EPBC; and the ghost bat *Macroderma gigas*, which is vulnerable under the EPBC.

3.5.2 Native plants

The park is home to 99 recorded native plant species, seven of which have conservation significance. Of these, one is critically endangered, and six are classified as special least concern (Appendix C).

The critically endangered *Rhodamnia pauciovulata* is a small tree or shrub that can grow up to six metres tall and is typically found in complex notophyll vine forests and vine thickets. Its distribution was previously thought to range from the Central Coast of Queensland near Proserpine to Hazeldean in southeastern Queensland (Guymer 1988). However, recent studies have refined its range to the Central Mackay Coast bioregion, while the least concern *Rhodamnia zombi* is found in the Southeastern Queensland bioregion (Paxton et al. 2025).

3.6 Geophysical features

The park is a prominent feature in the landscape, with Mount Kinchant rising to 420 metres above sea level.

3.7 Recreational opportunities

There are no visitor facilities or camping within the conservation park.

However, recreational facilities are available nearby at Kinchant Dam, which is owned and operated by Sunwater. These facilities include a boat ramp, car park, picnic area, toilets, and rubbish bins. Boating is permitted on the dam, which is popular for activities such as swimming, waterskiing, kayaking, sailing, and fishing. The Mackay Area Fish Stocking Association stocks the dam with fish species such as barramundi and sooty grunter. Additionally, there is a privately owned caravan park nearby that offers camping facilities.

3.8 Post-contact cultural heritage

No post-contact cultural heritage sites are known within the park.

3.9 Fire

The eucalypt woodland in the park relies on fire for its ecological health. Managing fire in the eucalypt woodland is also important to reduce the risk of bushfires encroaching into the vine forest.

Historical fire records show that the last recorded fire in the park was a bushfire in 2014, which entered from the north.

3.10 Pests

Four pest plant species have been recorded in the park, including lantana, which is classified as a Weed of National Significance (WONS). WONS are identified based on their invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic, environmental, and social impacts.

3.11 Powerline

A high voltage powerline runs through the northwest corner of the park.

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5. Appendices

Appendix A. Policy and management commitments

Gazettal details

The park was originally gazetted as Mount Kinchant Environmental Park on 30 March 1991 under the *Land Act 1962* and was managed under a Trustee Agreement by Mirani Shire Council.

It was gazetted as Mount Kinchant Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) on 16 December 1994 and again on 1 July 2016.

Between 2014 and 2016, certain classes of protected areas under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA), including conservation parks, were removed. During this period, the park was classified as a regional park under the NCA. Legislative amendments in 2016 subsequently abolished the 'regional park' classification, and the park was reinstated as a conservation park.

Appendix B. Regional ecosystems of significance

Regional ecosystem	Description	Regional ecosystem class*	Biodiversity status**
8.11.1	<i>Eucalyptus drepanophylla</i> +/- <i>E. platyphylla</i> woodland on hills formed from metamorphosed sediments	Of concern	Of concern
8.11.2	Semi-evergreen notophyll to microphyll vine forest of foothills and uplands on metamorphosed sediments	Of concern	Of concern

* Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Description Database (VM REDD)

** Queensland Herbarium, Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD)

Appendix C. Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	NC Act status	EPBC Act status
Plants			
<i>Rhodamnia pauciovulata</i>		Critically endangered	
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Brachychiton discolor</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Cycas media</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Dockrillia bowmanii</i>	scrub pencil orchid	Special least concern	
<i>Doryopteris concolor</i>		Special least concern	

Appendix D. Pests

Scientific name	Common name	Biosecurity Act 2014 status	Notes
Plants			
<i>Lantana camara</i>	lantana	Category 3	Weed of National Significance
<i>Megathyrsus maximus</i>	Guinea grass		
<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	corky passion flower		
<i>Solanum seaforthianum</i>	Brazilian nightshade		