

Mount Blandy Conservation Park

Management Statement 2016

Extended May 2026



Queensland
Government

Prepared by: **Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation.**

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The Mount Blandy Conservation Park Management Statement 2016 has been extended in 2026, in line with the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (s120F). Minor amendments have been made. There has been no change to the statement's original management intent and direction.

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Park overview

Mount Blandy Conservation Park is a small park on the bank of the Paradise Dam that protects an area of semi-evergreen vine thicket Map 1. Vine scrubs of this sort are rare in the south eastern Queensland bioregion and protects a range of plants and animals of conservation concern.

The park lies within the Traditional lands of the Wakka Wakka people who have a Native Title Claim that includes Mount Blandy Conservation Park.

This management statement provides high-level strategic direction for the protection and management of key park values. Management will be undertaken in accordance with the management principles for the tenure as defined in the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and supporting regulations, other appropriate legislation including *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, *Native Title Act 1993*, ILUA, government policies, procedures, and protocols.

Park size	Mount Blandy Conservation Park	360.9ha
Bioregion	South Eastern Queensland	
QPWS region	South East Queensland	
Local government area	North Burnett Regional	
State electorate	Callide	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld)</i> <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i> <i>Aboriginal Land Act 1991</i> <i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i> <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> <i>Forestry Act 1959</i> <i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>	
Plans and agreements	National Recovery Plan for the black-breasted button-quail (<i>Turnix melanogaster</i>) Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) China—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement Japan—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement	

Park purpose

A primary purpose for conserving Mount Blandy Conservation Park is to protect the high quality semi-evergreen vine thicket habitat for the vulnerable, black-breasted button quail *Turnix melanogaster*.

Key park values

While all parks are important, and all values help make parks worthwhile, management needs to focus on protecting and presenting the most important values – the key values. These are the values that will form the basis of ongoing evaluation of management effectiveness. Protecting these key values will help frame the purpose of management for each park. The table below shows how each key value's condition is represented, how the condition is trending and the confidence in the information used to make the ratings. Details of key values are listed in Table 1 and illustrated in Map 1.

Key to condition, trend and confidence icons

Condition of key value	Good  The value is in good condition and is likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, provided that current measures are maintained	Good with some concern  The value is likely to be maintained over the long-term with minor additional conservation measures to address existing concerns	Significant concern  The value is threatened by a number of current or potential threats. Significant additional conservation measures are required to preserve the value over the medium to long-term	Critical  The value is severely threatened. Urgent additional large-scale conservation measures are required or the value may be lost
Trend rating of condition	Improving 	Stable 	Deteriorating 	No consistent trend 
Confidence in assessment	Inferred 	Limited 	Adequate 	

1. Semi-evergreen vine thicket

Description	Condition		Trend	Confidence	
				Condition	Trend
Semi-evergreen vine thicket on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks in the northern section of the south east Queensland bioregion. RE 12.12.18, habitat for the Black-breasted button-quail <i>Turnix melanogaster</i> .	2016: 	Desired: 			

This fragile forest type encompasses almost half of Mount Blandy Conservation Park. This rainforest-based ecosystem provides both critical habitat for the black-breasted button-quail and a significant contribution to the region's biodiversity through its diverse and varied vegetation structure.

The vulnerable black-breasted button-quail, the subject of a National Recovery Plan, is a small ground dwelling bird which has its core habitat in semi-evergreen vine thickets. Mount Blandy Conservation Park was acquired as an offset area based upon the presence of this species. The distribution of this species mirrors that of its vine thicket habitat. This species has been monitored at this site since 2009 and a decline in the population of this species has been observed.

Threats: The primary threatening process is the modification of this ecosystem by fire. On Mount Blandy Conservation Park fire is managed to be excluded from this fire sensitive habitat.

The current secondary threat is ecosystem modification by pest plants, in particular the vines cat's claw creeper and Dutchman's pipe. These invasive plants are concentrated along the park's riparian edge.

Reinfestation is difficult to prevent as up-stream areas have significant populations of these pest species.

Introduced predatory animals, especially feral cats and the red fox, are the secondary threat to the black-breasted button-quail on Mount Blandy Conservation Park. This threat is manifested through the direct predation of quail by these predators.

The modification of the semi-evergreen vine forest, relied on by the black-breasted button quail, is also a significant threat to the species. This modification or habitat loss may be driven by the infestation of pest vine species. Pest vines of particular concern are cat's claw creeper and Dutchman's pipe.

Strategic management directions: To ensure that this value is retained on Mount Blandy Conservation Park it is necessary to continue to exclude fire from this vine thicket community. To support the continued integrity of this value, the containment of the infestations of cat's claw creeper and Dutchman's pipe to the riparian edge is required.

To protect and retain this key value it is necessary to reduce the impacts of introduced predators on black-breasted button-quail within Mount Blandy Conservation Park. The quality of habitats critical to this species is important in retaining this value. The containment of the infestations of cat's claw creeper and Dutchman's pipe to the riparian edge is required to manage the overall habitat area.

Table 1. Mount Blandy Conservation Park — Strategic management directions for key values

Key threatening process	Key values strategic management directions	Priority (1-5)
1. Semi-evergreen vine thicket		
Fire	Exclude fire from semi-evergreen vine thicket.	1
Introduced weeds	Contain the infestation of cat's claw creeper and Dutchman's pipe to the riparian area along the park's north boundary.	
Introduced animals	Reduce the impacts of introduced predators on black-breasted button-quail in Mount Blandy Conservation Park	

Levels of Service

Levels of Service (LoS) standards have been developed to identify the current and desired future standards for a range of critical management elements and associated performance measures. Mount Blandy Conservation Park has been assessed as requiring a basic level of service for most aspects of management based on the identified:

- values
- threats and pressures
- community interface challenges
- special management intervention.

The desired LoS standards for nine management elements have been identified to guide the level of management effort required for Mount Blandy Conservation Park within a state-wide context. These nine elements reflect the most common management activities undertaken by QPWS across all protected lands and waters and include First Nations cultural heritage management and engagement, fire and pest management, visitor management and natural values management.

For further detail on the levels of service standards for Mount Blandy Conservation Park, refer to **Table 2**.

Table 2. Mount Blandy Conservation Park – Strategic management directions for levels of service

Management element	Current level of service	Desired level of service (target state)	Strategic management directions (bridging the gap)	Priority
1. Fire management	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	3
			Priority fire management is undertaken to protect life, property and the semi-evergreen vine thicket.	3
2. Pest management	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	2
			Continue to mitigate the impacts of pests on the key values.	2
			Maintain informal relationships with neighbours.	2
3. Natural values management	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	2
			Continue monitoring the black-breasted button-quail population.	1
4. First Nations Cultural value management	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	4
			Undertake ad-hoc local consultation and collaboration with First Nations people and stakeholders as required to progress specific issues and discrete programs.	4
5. Post-contact cultural heritage management	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	5
			Proactive management effort to protect historic heritage value.	5
6. Community, partnerships and other interests	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	5
7. Visitor management	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	5
			Maintain current visitor access opportunities.	5
8. Field management capability	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	5
			Basic management with a minimum of annual routine inspections and limited planned visits. The intensity and timing of management effort ensures critical priority initiatives are delivered. Operational management activity is aligned with documented priorities.	5
9. Operational planning and management support	Base	Base	Currently meets LOS standard – maintain.	5

Thematic Strategies

Each protected area will require one or more thematic strategies depending on the complexity of the values and service issues. The levels of service prescriptions provide guidance for each individual element to indicate the requirement for a thematic strategy and its appropriate level.

Thematic strategies cover key park management detail, values and significant service issues. They provide a linkage between the strategic approach and operational services. Thematic strategies present detailed objectives which are specific to the protected area developed from the strategic management directions – levels of service.

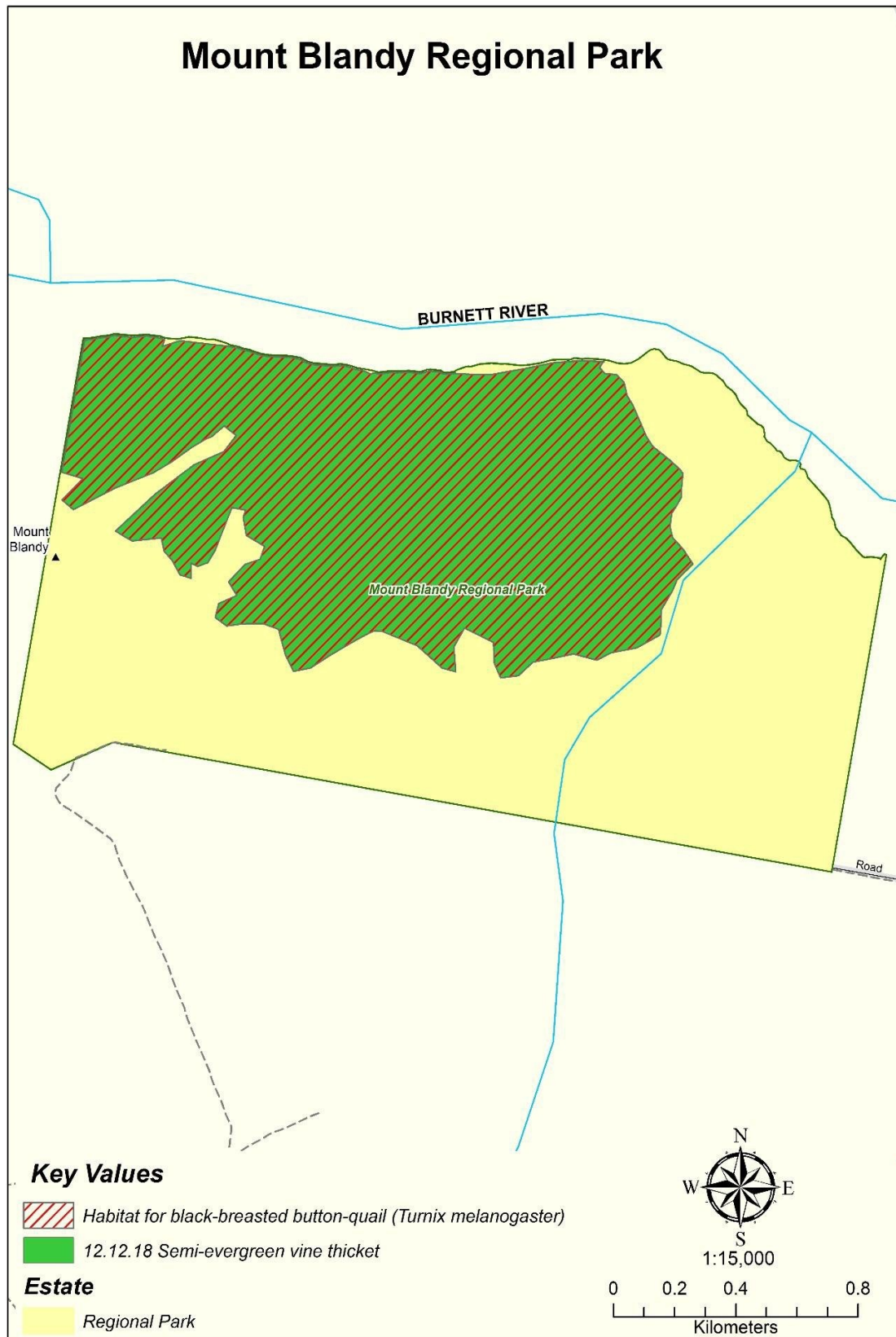
Thematic strategies required for Mount Blandy Conservation Park:

- Fire strategy
- Pest strategy

Evaluation and reporting

Management effectiveness will be evaluated for Mount Blandy Conservation Park as part of a monitoring framework. This will guide an adaptive management approach to set clear benchmarks for management, ensure the condition of key values is within acceptable thresholds, deliver transparent and accountable reporting and inform future management. Management effectiveness will be measured against:

- condition and trend for key values
- achievement of levels of service standards
- implementation of management actions
- outcomes of strategic management directions.



Map 1: Mount Blandy Conservation Park¹ - key values

¹ The former Mount Blandy Regional Park area titled in Map1 (2016) is now Mount Blandy Conservation Park