

Meingan Creek Conservation Park

Management Statement

2026



Queensland
Government

This management statement has not been co-designed with First Nations partners. This document has been prepared by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation to provide management guidance and adaptive management until such a time as the department can engage with First Nations partners in the co-design of a management instrument.

Management statements are prepared under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. These documents may also include management direction for other State tenure for 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. A glossary of VBMF terms and concepts used within this document is provided at the end of this document (Section 5 – Glossary).

As a land manager, QPWS has a custodial obligation to ensure our estate is managed to provide appropriate and safe access, protect life and property, be a good neighbour and work cooperatively with partners across the landscape. The agency does this as part of setting the 'levels of service' for each park. Levels of service is a management standard that considers an area's values, threatening processes, custodial obligations, risks and overall management complexity.

This management statement has been prepared by QPWS to provide management guidance and adaptive management until such a time as the department can engage with First Nations partners in co-design of a management instrument.

2. Park overview

The following figure and table (Figure 1, Table 1) provide an overview of information relating to the park including locality, legislative framework and applicable plans/agreements.

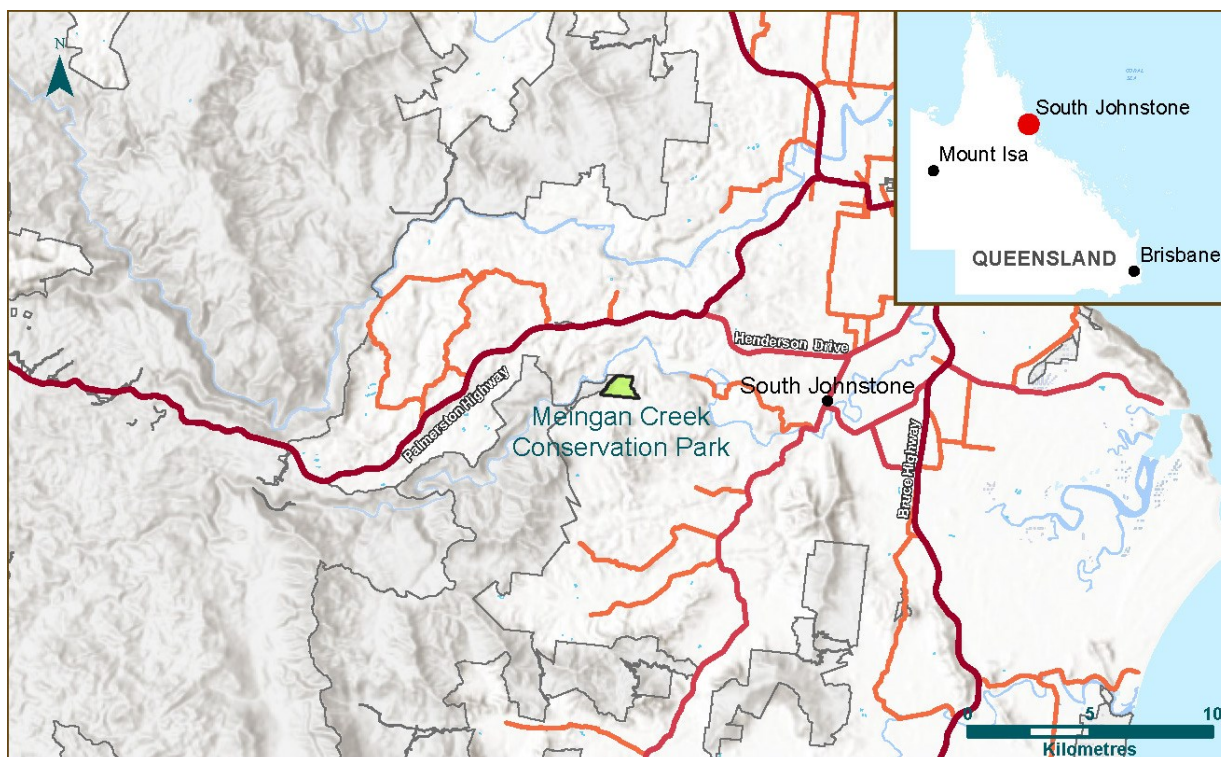


Figure 1. Locality of Meingan Creek Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Meingan Creek Conservation Park

Park size	Meingan Creek Conservation Park	82.9 ha
Bioregion	Wet Tropics	
QPWS region	Northern	
Local government area	Cassowary Coast Regional	
State electorate	Hill	
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>	
Plans and agreements	<i>Recovery plan for the southern cassowary Casuarus casuarus johnsonii 2007</i>	

3. Key values

All parks, forests and reserves contain a range of natural, cultural, social and economic values that contribute to the state's comprehensive and representative protected area and forest estate. The VBMF provides a framework for identifying and protecting the most important of these—referred to as *key values*—which in turn guides the allocation of management resources.

The location of each key value is shown in Figure 2. An assessment of each key value—including its current and desired condition, trend, and the confidence level of the assessment—is presented in the following tables and can be interpreted using Table 2. The assessment also outlines the main threats to each key value and provides broad strategic management direction to address these threats and achieve desired outcomes over time.

Table 2. Description of condition and trend icons used in the key values assessment

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 of key value condition	Improving 	Stable 	Deteriorating 	No consistent trend 
Assessment confidence	Inferred 	Limited 	Adequate 	

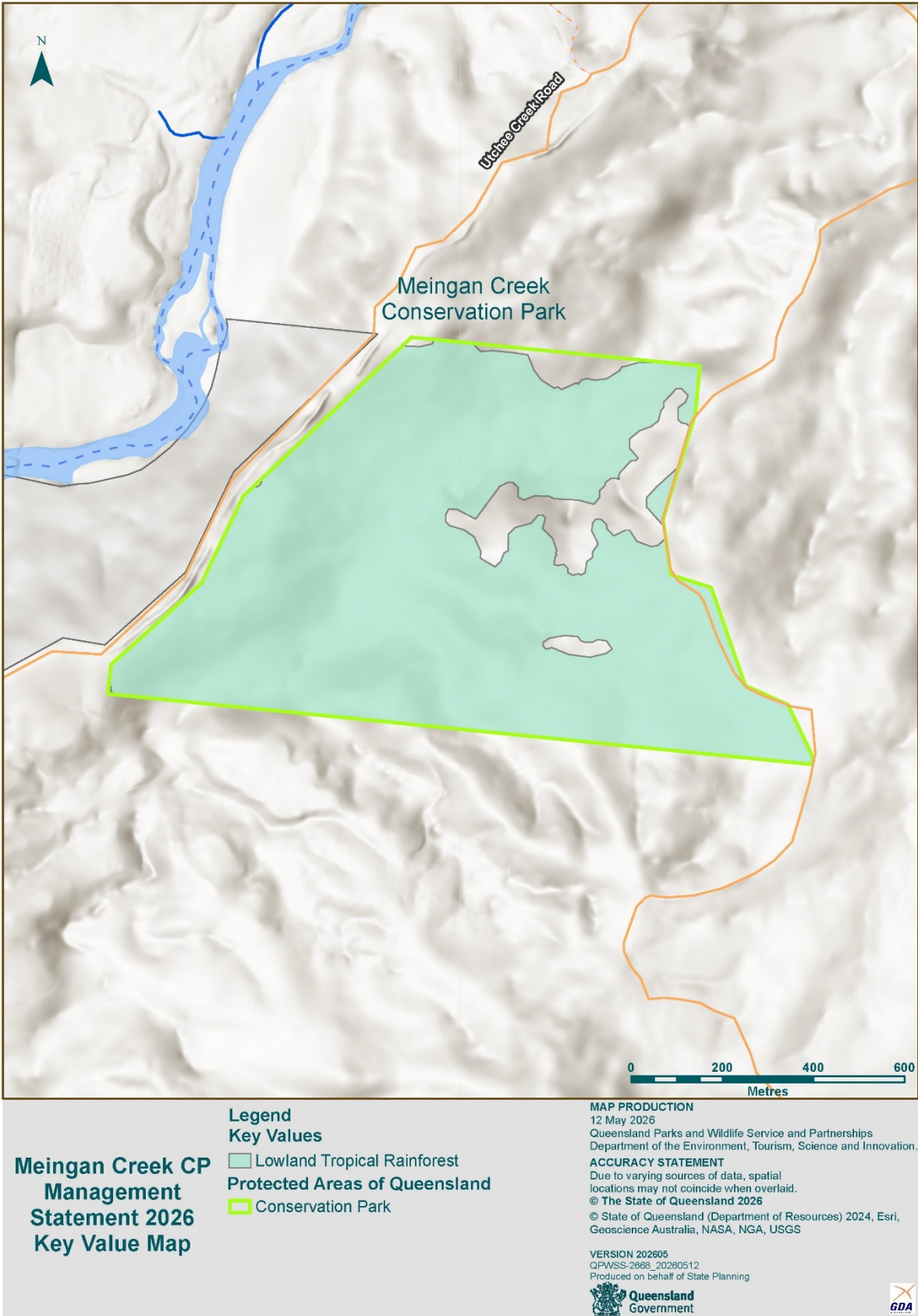


Figure 2. Meingan Creek Conservation Park key values

3.1 Lowland Tropical Rainforest

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
Significant ecosystem	Regional ecosystem 7.8.1a: Complex mesophyll vine forest in lowlands and foothills, on krasnozems soils derived from basalts and basic volcanic parent material. In a very wet rainfall zone. This endangered regional ecosystem has a strong association with the 'Lowland Tropical Rainforest of the Wet Tropics', an endangered ecological community under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>. Meingan Creek Conservation Park has been identified as essential cassowary habitat in the <i>Recovery plan for the southern cassowary</i> <i>Casuarus casuaris johnsonii</i> 2007. This regional ecosystem provides habitat for threatened fauna, including the southern cassowary <i>Casuarus casuaris johnsonii</i>, spectacled flying fox <i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>, Macleay's fig-parrot <i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana</i>, the Australian laceid <i>Litoria dayi</i>, the common mist frog <i>Litoria rheocola</i>, and the tapping green-eyed frog <i>Litoria serrata</i>. It is also habitat for threatened plant species including, <i>Carronia pedicellata</i>, <i>Chingia australis</i>, <i>Plesioneuron tuberculatum</i>, <i>Endiandra globosa</i>, <i>Salacistis ochroleuca</i>, <i>Pneumatopteris costata</i> and <i>Didymoglossum mindorense</i>, and some other restricted and/or uncommon species including <i>Beilschmiedia volckii</i>, <i>Gouania australiana</i>, and <i>Marsdenia jensenii</i>.	Good with some concern 	Inferred 	Stable 	Limited 	Good with some concern 	Good with some concern 
Desired outcome Lowland tropical rainforest is healthy, resilient, protected and effectively managed, supporting thriving biodiversity, sustaining natural processes, and providing long-term viable habitats for fauna species.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes, and diseases	The main ecosystem changing pest species currently impacting the Lowland Tropical Rainforest in Meingan Creek Conservation Park is giant bramble <i>Rubus alceifolius</i> . Giant bramble colonises disturbed areas, outcompetes native plants and may replace natural rainforest successional processes, effectively capturing the site and modifying the ecosystem.	Primary	Low
Storms	Climate change and severe weather	Natural disturbance events, like cyclones, can, and have caused significant damage to this key value. Severe cyclones result in canopy loss, tree fall and widespread defoliation within rainforests. This more open post-cyclone environment is highly vulnerable to colonisation by ecosystem changing weeds such as giant bramble. The current giant bramble infestations within Meingan Creek Conservation Park are believed to be a result of previous cyclones. The intensity of cyclones is expected to increase with climate change.	Secondary	Medium
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes, and diseases	There are several ecosystem changing pest plant species that occur within the local region and have the potential to threaten Lowland Tropical Rainforest but are not currently known to occur in Meingan Creek Conservation Park e.g. <i>Miconia calvescens</i> and <i>Clidemia hirta</i> .	Other	Low

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes, and diseases	Siam weed <i>Chromolaena odorata</i> , lantana <i>Lantana camara</i> and other invasive weed species are currently found within the park. They compete with native plants and reduce the habitat quality. Ongoing control is important to reduce the risk of dispersal into other areas.	Other	Low
Introduced animals	Invasive and other problematic species, genes, and diseases	Feral pigs <i>Sus scrofa</i> often harbour and forage within Lowland Tropical Rainforest. Feral pigs dig the soil, degrade habitats, and disturb and consume native plants and ground dwelling fauna. They also consume rainforest fruits, adversely affecting the recruitment of native rainforest plants and providing competition for native frugivores. Pigs can also be a vector for weeds and pathogens.	Other	Low
Introduced diseases	Invasive and other problematic species, genes, and diseases	Diseases and pathogens such as myrtle rust, phytophthora and chytrid fungus are known to occur within the local region and have the potential to threaten Lowland Tropical Rainforest. No diebacks have been observed in Meingan Creek Conservation Park to date.	Other	Low

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Prevent the establishment of new and emerging ecosystem changing pest plants within the Lowland Tropical Rainforest.	3
Reduce impacts of existing ecosystem changing pest plants within Lowland Tropical Rainforest.	4
Reduce impacts of existing invasive pest plants within Lowland Tropical Rainforest.	5
Reduce the impacts of pest animals within Lowland Tropical Rainforest.	5
Prevent the human mediated spread of diseases and pathogens within Lowland Tropical Rainforest.	3
Maintain Lowland Tropical Rainforest by reducing non climate stressors to improve climate change resilience.	4

Key value priority: 1 – Critical, 2 – Very high, 3 – High, 4 – Moderate, 5 – Desirable (see Appendix 1)

4. Management direction

QPWS manages protected areas and forests to protect their values and deliver our custodial obligations as a land manager. A levels of service (LoS) assessment allows QPWS to consider the management of each park in a state-wide context and determine desired levels of management effort for each park in a consistent and equitable way. An LoS assessment lets QPWS staff and the public know what level of management activity to expect on each park, forest or reserve. There are six LoS ratings ranging from 'below acceptable' to 'exceptional', and an 'acceptable' rating is the minimum standard required to deliver good management and meet our legislative and custodial obligations.

This section provides a strategic management direction for each management theme, identifying its current LoS and desired LoS, which can be interpreted using Figure 3.

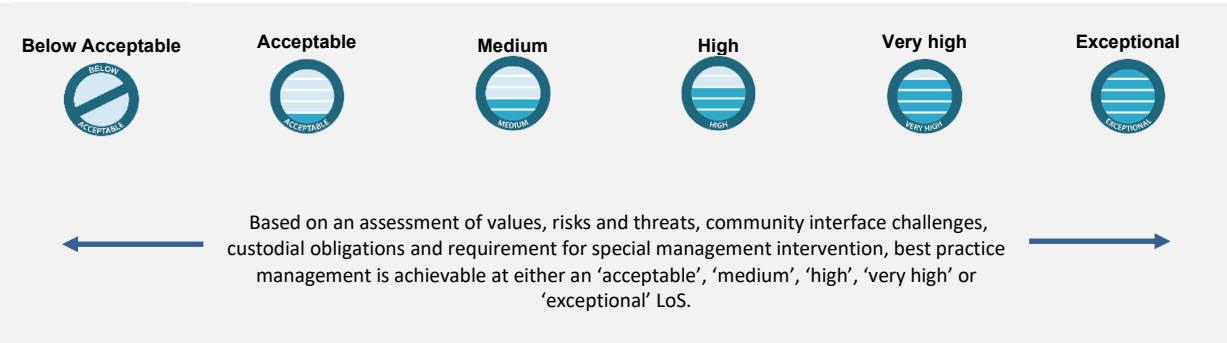


Figure 3. Description of LoS icons

4.1 Management directions

Management theme	Current	Desired	Strategic management direction	Priority (1–5) *
Fire management			Improve knowledge by identifying opportunities related to any potential future fire related threats to the key value.	5
Pest management			Improve the current level of focus on pest management within Meingan Creek Conservation Park.	3
			Improve the current level of knowledge of pest species and threats to values.	3
			Improve the current level of pest management consultation and stakeholder engagement.	4
			Improve knowledge of pathogens, present or nearby, that have the potential to impact the key value if established.	4
Natural values management			Improve knowledge of significant species within Meingan Creek Conservation Park.	3
			Improve knowledge of threats to the key value.	4
Post-contact cultural heritage management			Maintain knowledge and awareness including recording of potential historic sites and information if discovered during park management activities.	5
Visitor management			Maintain current approach to visitor management.	5
Community, partnerships and other interests			Maintain engagement with neighbouring properties regarding the values and threats to the key values, as required.	5
			Improve knowledge of issues that may inform park management by engaging with external researchers working in the park.	4
Field management capability			Improve management capability through identification and exploring opportunities to improve operational efficiencies and build capacity.	3
Operational planning and management support			Maintain current capacities and roles while identifying opportunities to improve efficiencies and functions, e.g., potential to absorb Meingan Creek Conservation Park into the adjoining Japoon National Park.	3

*Level of Service priority: 1 – extremely urgent and extremely necessary, 2 – very necessary and very urgent, 3 – moderately necessary and moderately urgent, 4 – somewhat necessary and somewhat urgent, 5 – optional and not urgent (see Appendix 1)

5. Glossary

The following glossary contains VBMF terms and concepts used within this document.

Term	Description
Adaptive management	The process of adjusting and improving how we manage parks, forests and reserves after assessing the outcomes of previous strategies and on-ground actions.
Condition and trend	The condition of a key value is assessed as either good, good with some concern, significant concern or critical. Trend describes what is happening to the condition: is it improving, stable or deteriorating? A key value's current condition is determined during the planning process. A desired condition is a realistic goal for the future condition of the key value. The ongoing condition and trend of key values is assessed with regular health checks, or monitoring and scientific assessment.
Custodial obligations	The legal and policy requirements QPWS has as a land manager to ensure that parks, forests and reserves are managed properly and lawfully. This includes protecting life and property, maintaining biosecurity, building positive relationships with adjacent communities and landholders, and safeguarding the values of the land.
Desired outcome	A statement in the key value and management direction statements about moving from the current status (condition or LoS) to a desired status. The goal for management.
Health check	Basic form of monitoring that uses indicators and visual assessments to regularly evaluate the condition of key values. Regular health checks ensure QPWS can respond quickly to adverse change and redirect management priorities.
Key value	A natural, cultural, social or economic value that is most important, significant, unique or irreplaceable and helps define the essence of the area. If lost, it would diminish what makes the area distinct from others.
Level of service (LoS)	Management standards for maintaining an area based on its values, threats and the complexity of management. There are six LoS ratings ranging from 'below acceptable' to 'exceptional', noting that an 'acceptable' rating is the minimum standard required to deliver good management and meet our custodial obligations under law as a land manager. A 'current' LoS rating is the level at the time of planning, the 'desired' LoS is where we want to be.
Management direction	An assessment of the current and desired LoS for each management theme, with prioritised strategic management directions.
Management instrument	A management plan or management statement.
Management theme	Common management themes across parks, forests and reserves, including fire management; pest management; natural values management; post-contact cultural heritage management; visitor management; community, partnerships and other interests; field management capability; operational planning and management support.
Strategic management direction	A broad strategy aimed at mitigating or removing a threat to a key value and maintaining or improving the condition of a park's value; or addressing the gap between the current LoS and desired LoS for a management theme.
Threat or threatening process and threat rating	Based on IUCN's classifications, QPWS has identified threatening processes that have the potential to affect Queensland's values (e.g. natural systems modifications, invasive species). Current and potential threats to key values are identified and given a threat rating based on a combination of the extent of the impact, the severity of the impact and the urgency of action.

Appendix 1

Term	Description
Priority rating (key value SMDs)	A rating given to a strategic management direction according to the need for action to prevent further decline, stabilise current condition, or restore and enhance values, with consideration given to legislative obligations, cost, and social, economic and political factors.
	Critical (1) – Loss or very significant decline in the condition of the key value is highly likely if action is not taken OR significant improvement in the condition of the key value is highly likely if action is taken.
	Very high (2) – Significant decline in the condition of the key value is likely if action is not taken OR significant improvement in the condition of the key value is likely if action is taken.
	High (3) – Decline in the condition of the key value is likely if action is not taken OR improvement in the condition of the key value is likely if action is taken.
	Moderate (4) – Some decline in the condition of the key value is possible if action is not taken OR some improvement in the condition of the key value is possible if action is taken.
	Desirable (5) – While decline in the condition of the key value is not likely in the short term, the action, if taken, would help build long-term resilience of the key value.
Priority rating (LoS SMDs)	A rating given to an LoS or custodial obligation strategic management direction. A scale from 1 (extremely urgent) to 5 (not urgent or optional) is assigned, with consideration given to legislative obligations, cost, and social, economic and political factors.