

Coolmunda 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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Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Park overview	4
3. Resource information	6
3.1 First Nations people	6
3.2 Key value information	6
3.3 Other values	6
3.3.1 Dry eucalypt woodlands with montane heath	6
3.4 Ecosystems and biodiversity	6
3.4.1 Regional ecosystems	6
3.5 Species	7
3.5.1 Native animals	7
3.5.2 Native plants	7
3.6 Recreational opportunities	7
3.7 Post-contact cultural heritage	7
3.8 Fire	8
3.9 Pests	8
4. Bibliography	9
5. Appendices	10
Appendix A. Policy and management commitments	10
Appendix B. Species of conservation significance	10
Appendix C. Species listed in international agreements	10

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

Coolmunda Conservation Park is 11 kilometres south-east of the inland rural town of Inglewood. The Cunningham Highway is six kilometres north of the park. Lake Coolmunda is just one kilometre to the east of the park. The park is surrounded by freehold properties and reserves. Tobacco Road runs along the eastern side of the park. Another road reserve runs along the southern boundary of the park.

There are several State Forests in a 20 kilometre radius of the park, including Terrica, Yelarbon, Bringalily and Devine. Wondul Range National Park is 25 kilometres to the north-west.

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

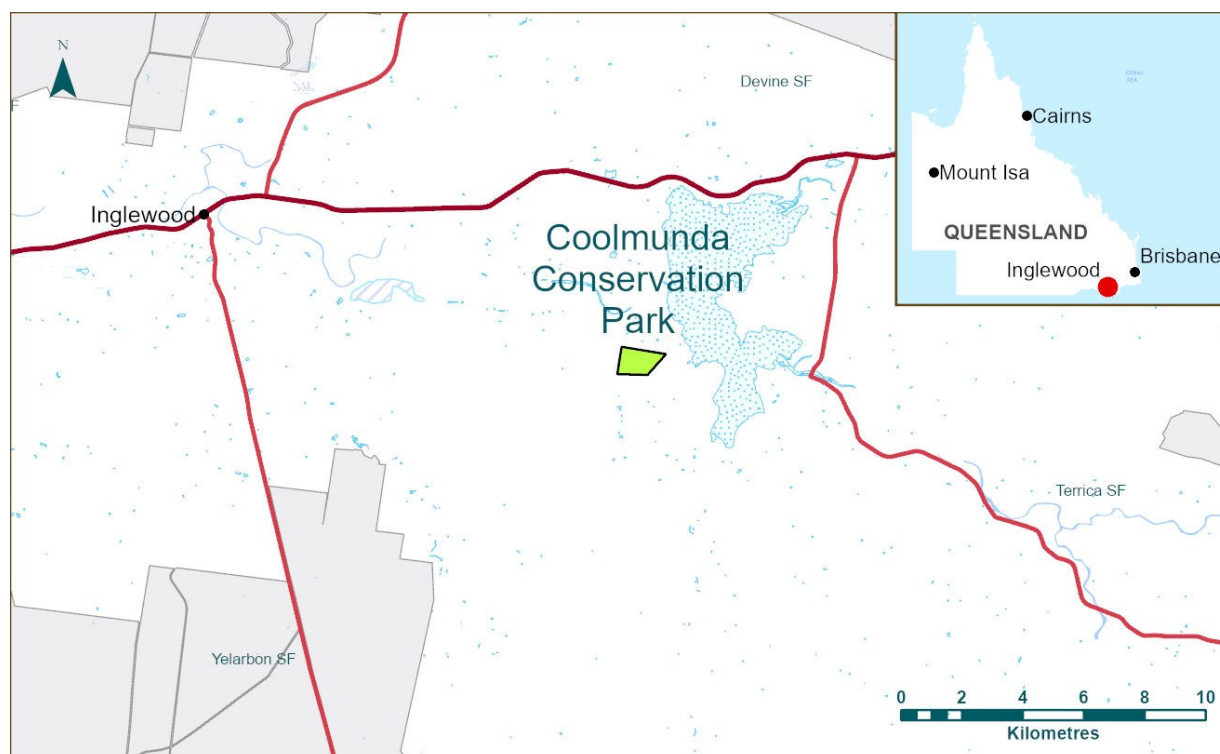


Figure 1. Locality of Coolmunda Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Coolmunda Conservation Park

Park size	Coolmunda Conservation Park	89.3 ha
Bioregion	Brigalow Belt South (60.6 per cent)/, Nandewar (39.4 per cent)	
QPWS region	South West	
Local government area	Goondiwindi Regional Council	
State electorate	Southern Downs	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>	
	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth) (EPBC)	
	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cwlth)	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> (NCA)	
	<i>Land Act 1962</i>	
Plans and agreements	<i>Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals</i>	
	<i>China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement</i>	
	<i>Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement</i>	
	<i>Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement</i>	

3. Resource information

3.1 First Nations people

There is an active native title claim that includes the park.

A native title claim was lodged on behalf of the Bigambul People #4 on 2 September 2022 (Tribunal Number QC2022/005, Federal Court Number QUD301/2002). The claim area covers about 7737 square kilometres and includes the park and other areas. A decision was made on 14 December 2022 by the delegate of the Native Title Registrar that the claim not be accepted for registration. Although the application has not been registered, the Federal Court may still refer the application for mediation or make a determination in relation to it.

3.2 Key value information

Based on an evaluation, the park's values do not reach the thresholds required to be considered a key value. The park, however, continues to contribute to the state's comprehensive and representative reserve system, providing protection for biodiversity, ecosystem services and connectivity within the landscape.

3.3 Other values

3.3.1 Dry eucalypt woodlands with montane heath

The vegetation in the park is a mosaic of two regional ecosystems that extend across the park's 89.3 hectares. The dominant regional ecosystem is dry woodlands to open woodlands dominated by ironbark trees and/or bloodwoods, which cover around 60 per cent of the vegetation mosaic. The vulnerable shiny-leaved ironbark *Eucalyptus virens* is found within these woodlands. The remaining 40 per cent of the mosaic is open shrublands and heath in elevated rocky areas. The woodlands and heath require fire to be healthy.

3.4 Ecosystems and biodiversity

The park extends into both the Brigalow Belt South and Nandewar Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregions.

There is a creek line running through the park that flows intermittently. It discharges into Macintyre Brook to the north. The park is within the Macintyre Brook subcatchment of the Border Rivers catchment, which is part of the Murray Darling Basin.

The park is just one kilometre from a State Biodiversity Corridor, which includes Lake Coolmunda to the east and Macintyre Brook to the north. These corridors were identified to maintain and enhance ecological connectivity across the state.

The park forms part of a broader stretch of remnant regional ecosystems in the landscape, which extends to the south and west. North of the park, much of the landscape has been significantly modified for agriculture (grazing and horticulture), residential living and services. The land surrounding the park is used for rural and semi-rural activities, including hobby farms and rural retreats, with some larger areas used for stock grazing.

3.4.1 Regional ecosystems

There are two regional ecosystems within the park. Both have no concern at present biodiversity status and represent less than 1.5 per cent of that regional ecosystem remaining in Queensland or within the protected area estate.

Eucalyptus fibrosa subsp. *nubilis* +/- *Corymbia* spp. +/- *Eucalyptus* spp. woodland on Cenozoic lateritic duricrust (11.7.7) is dominant and covers 53.51 hectares (59.93 per cent) of the park. This regional ecosystem is known to provide potential habitat for species listed in the NCA, including *Acacia handonis*, *A. lauta*, *A. wardellii*, *Boronia grimshawii*, *Commersonia ingelewoodensis*, *Eucalyptus curtisii*, *E. virens*, *Leucopogon* sp. (Coolmunda D.Halford Q1635), *Macrozamia conferta*, *Macrozamia machinii*, *Micromyrtus carinata*, *Ochrosperma obovatum*, *Philotheca sporadica*, *Pomaderris coomingalensis*, *Rutidosia glandulosa* and *Zieria inexpectata*. Two of these species — vulnerable shiny-leaved ironbark *Eucalyptus virens* and *Leucopogon* sp. (Coolmunda D.Halford Q1635) — have been recorded from the park. The Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD) fire guideline for this regional ecosystem is late wet to early dry season burns when there is good soil moisture, early storm season burns, or after good spring rains, with moderate to high intensity, at 6–10 year intervals, and burning less than 10–30 per cent in any year.

Shrubland on natural scalds on deeply weathered coarse-grained sedimentary rocks (11.7.5) is subdominant and covers 35.68 hectares (39.95 per cent) of the park. While this regional ecosystem is known to provide habitat for threatened plant species, including *Eucalyptus broviniensis*, *Micromyrtus carinata*, *Micromyrtus patula*, *Acacia curranii*, *Calytrix gurlmundensis* and *Homoranthus decumbens*, none of these species has been recorded from the park. The REDD fire guideline for this regional ecosystem is spring to summer burns after rain with good soil moisture, a moderate to high intensity, 6–15 year intervals, and burning small patches when possible. Burning every six years in protected areas may be too frequent.

3.5 Species

3.5.1 Native animals

There are 82 bird species recorded from the park and two mammals. One of the birds is of conservation significance —vulnerable white-throated needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* (Appendix B).

Three of the bird species are listed on international agreements — least concern rainbow bee-eater *Merops ornatus* and nankeen kestrel *Falco cenchroides*; and the vulnerable white-throated needletail (Appendix C).

3.5.2 Native plants

There are 32 plant species recorded from the park. Two are of conservation significance — vulnerable shiny-leaved ironbark *Eucalyptus virens* and special least concern *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii* (Appendix B).

Eucalyptus virens, commonly known as shiny-leaved ironbark, is a small to medium sized tree endemic to Queensland that occurs on sandy soils or low rises, hillslopes, sandstone escarpments and scree slopes (WildNet 2025). It has a very limited distribution in southern Queensland and is currently known from just five locations scattered over an area of approximately 500 kilometres (Atlas of Living Australia 2025).

3.6 Recreational opportunities

There are no visitor facilities within the park and camping is not permitted.

3.7 Post-contact cultural heritage

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

3.8 Fire

The regional ecosystems within the park need fire to be healthy.

Planned burns are undertaken for the protection of life and property and to maintain healthy ecosystems. There are historical fire records for planned burns undertaken in 2005, 2015 and 2024.

3.9 Pests

While there are no pest records for the park in the department's WildNet Database, foxes and cats have been sighted in the park.

Pigs are present in the surrounding landscape but have not been recorded in the park.

Livestock (goats, cattle) from neighbouring properties may enter the park if boundary fences are not maintained. Grazing pressure modifies the structure of eucalypt woodlands by removing shrubs, inhibiting the establishment of tree seedlings, trampling and browsing saplings, uneven grazing of the grass layer, and producing a short uniform stretch of grass when grazing is heavy (Peeters and Butler 2014).

Buffel grass is present within five kilometres of the park. This high biomass grass has been shown to impact the native plant species richness of eucalypt forests (Peeters and Butler 2014).

4. Bibliography

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5. Appendices

Appendix A. Policy and management commitments

Gazettal details

The park was originally gazetted as Coolmunda Environmental Park on 9 March 1991 under the *Land Act 1962* and was managed under a trustee agreement by the then Director National Parks and Wildlife.

It was gazetted as Coolmunda Conservation Park under the NCA on 16 December 1994 and again on 1 July 2016.

There was a short period during 2014 to 2016 when certain classes of protected area under the NCA were removed, including conservation parks. During this time, the park was a regional park under the NCA, until legislative amendments in 2016 removed the 'regional park' class of protected area and it was reinstated as a conservation park.

Appendix B. Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	NC Act status	EPBC Act status
Plant			
<i>Eucalyptus virens</i>	Shiny-leaved ironbark	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Xanthorrhoea johnsonii</i>		Special least concern	
Animal			
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	white-throated needletail	Vulnerable	Vulnerable

Appendix C. Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	CMS	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
<i>Falco cenchroides</i>	nankeen kestrel	✓			
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	white-throated needletail		✓	✓	✓
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater		✓		

Notes:

This list includes local and migratory birds that regularly use the park for feeding, nesting and/or breeding. Species that may visit intermittently have not been included in this table.

CMS – Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement