

Mount Leura 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 Leura Conservation Park is in central Queensland, 18 kilometres west of Rubyvale. The park is surrounded by large freehold properties. Keilambete Road lies 2.5 kilometres south of the park, while the Capricorn Highway is 28 kilometres to the south. Currently, there is no road access to the park.

Within a 20 kilometre radius of the park, there are several State forests including Kettle, Withersfield, Zamia and Keilambete. Additionally, Theresa Hut Nature Refuge is 17 kilometres west of the park.

Figure 1 and Table 1 provide an overview of key information about the park, including its location, legislative framework and relevant plans/agreements.

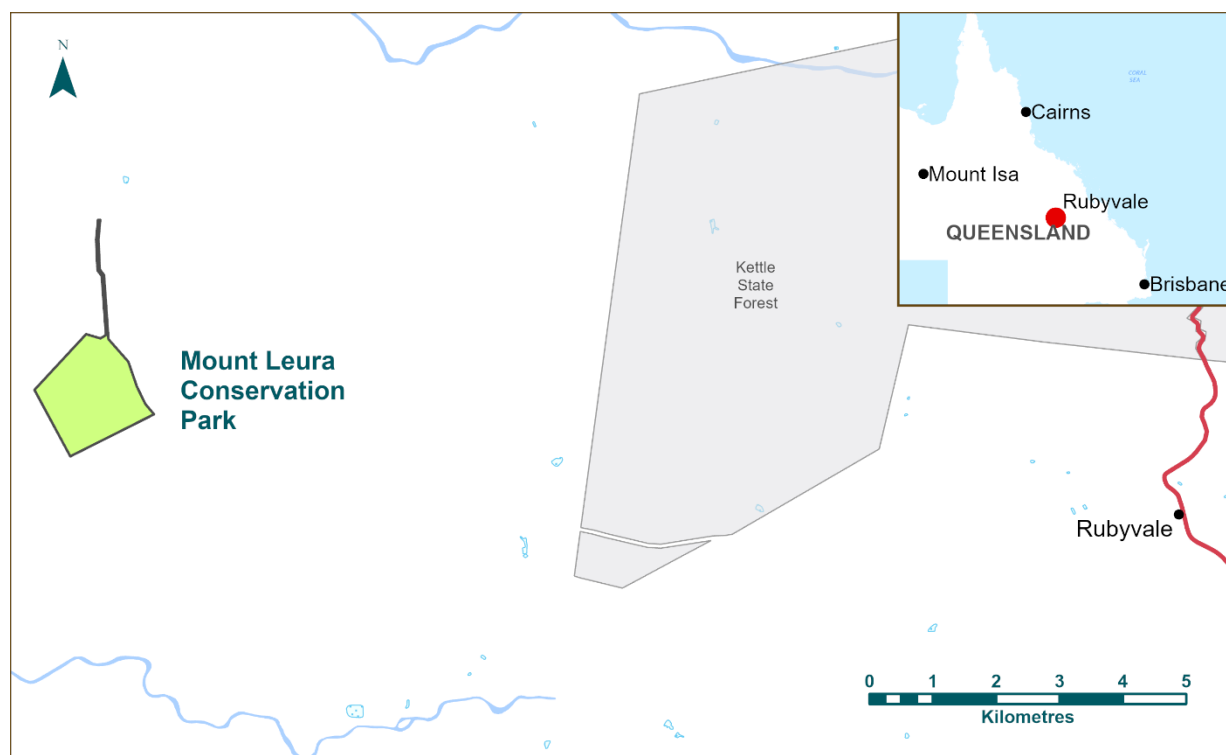


Figure 1. Locality of Mount Leura Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Mount Leura Conservation Park

Park size	Mount Leura Conservation Park	196.5 ha
Bioregion	Brigalow Belt North	
QPWS region	Central	
Local government area	Central Highlands Regional	
State electorate	Gregory	
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)	
Plans and agreements	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	
	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	
	Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA)	

3. Resource Information

3.1 First Nations people

The park is included in an active native title claim registered on 13 June 2013 on behalf of the Western Kangoulou People (Tribunal Number QC2013/002, Federal Court Number QUD17/2019). The claim covers a large area of 16,128 square kilometres around Emerald in Central Queensland.

3.2 Key value information

3.2.1 Vine thicket

Semi-evergreen vine thicket covers 58.83 per cent of the park and is classified as having of concern biodiversity status. The regional ecosystem present in the park (RE 11.8.3) is part of the 'Semi-evergreen vine thickets (SEVT) of the Brigalow Belt and Nandewar Bioregions', which is listed as an endangered ecological community under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 (EPBC).

3.3 Ecosystems and biodiversity

The park is located within the Anakie Inlier subregion of the Brigalow Belt North Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion.

There are no named creeks or rivers within the park, which lies in the Nogoa River sub-catchment of the Fitzroy catchment.

Although much of the surrounding landscape is used for cattle grazing, large areas of remnant vegetation remain intact.

The park is also partially located within a State Biodiversity Corridor, which has been identified to maintain and enhance ecological connectivity across Queensland.

3.3.1 Regional ecosystems

The park contains three regional ecosystems, one of which has an of concern biodiversity status (Appendix B), while the other two have no concern at present status.

The semi-evergreen vine thicket on Cainozoic igneous rocks (RE 11.8.3) has an "of concern" biodiversity status and covers 115.23 hectares, which is 58.83 per cent of the park. This ecosystem represents 0.46% of its remaining extent in Queensland and 2.88 per cent of its extent within the protected area estate. While this ecosystem is known to provide potential habitat for the threatened plant species *Croton magneticus*, this species has not been recorded in the park. According to the Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD), the fire management guideline for this ecosystem is to ensure protection from fire.

The eucalyptus open woodland on Cainozoic igneous rocks (RE 11.8.5) has no concern at present biodiversity status and covers 44.18 hectares, which is 22.55 per cent of the park. This ecosystem represents less than one per cent of its remaining extent in Queensland and within the protected area estate. It is known to provide potential habitat for threatened plant species such as *Picris evae* and *Thesium australe*, as well as near-threatened species *Digitaria porrecta* and *Discaria pubescens*. It also offers suitable habitat for koalas *Phascolarctos cinereus*, although none of these species have been recorded in the park, and the park is not mapped as containing koala habitat. The REDD fire management guideline for this ecosystem recommends late wet to early dry season burns when soil moisture is adequate, with low to moderate intensity, a 6–10 year interval and burning less than 30 per cent of the area in any given year.

The third regional ecosystem also has no concern at present biodiversity status and represents less than one per cent of its remaining extent in Queensland or within the protected area estate.

Eucalyptus melanophloia woodland on igneous rocks (RE 11.12.2) occupies 28.96 hectares, or 14.79 per cent of the park. This regional ecosystem is known to provide potential habitat for species listed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA), including *Cycas ophiolitica* and *Sannantha brachypoda*. However, neither of these species has been recorded within the park. According to REDD, the fire management guideline for this ecosystem recommends late wet to early dry season burns when soil moisture is adequate, with a burn interval of 6–15 years, which shortens to 3–7 years in the northern part of the bioregion, and burning less than 30 per cent of the area in any given year.

Non-remnant vegetation accounts for 7.5 hectares, or 3.83 per cent of the park.

3.4 Species

Fifty-one native animal species and nine native plant species have been recorded from the park, including one mammal, six snakes and 44 birds – all having least concern status. Two migratory birds—nankeen kestrel *Falco cenchroides* and rainbow bee-eater *Merops ornatus*—are listed under international agreements (Appendix C).

3.5 Geophysical features

Mount Leura is a prominent feature in the landscape, reaching an elevation of 515 metres above sea level (QTopo).

The Hoy lava field, located in central Queensland, consists of at least 70 alkali basalt plugs, cones, and minor lava flows. Mount Leura is the largest plug in the lava field, with a diameter of approximately 400 metres. The Hoy lava field erupted over a period of more than 50 million years on the western edge of the central volcanoes area. It experienced at least four eruptive periods and a complex history involving magma recharge, magma mixing, fractionation, and xenocryst entrapment at mantle depths. Recharge likely triggered the Mount Leura eruption approximately 21.9 million years ago (Crossingham *et al.*, 2023)

3.6 Recreational opportunities

The park currently has no road access or visitor facilities, 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 eucalypt woodlands in the park require fire to maintain their health, while the vine thicket needs to be protected from fire. There are no historical fire records for the park, and no fire breaks have been established.

3.9 Pests

There are no pest records for the park in the Department's Wildnet Database.

3.10 Mining

CQ22 Pty Ltd holds an exploration permit (EPM27330) for minerals other than coal, which covers a large area, including part of the northern side of the park. The permit was granted on 24 February 2020 and will expire on 23 February 2029.

4. Bibliography

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5. Appendices

Appendix A. Policy and management commitments

Gazettal details

The park was originally gazetted as Mount Leura Environmental Park on 30 July 1988 under the *Land Act 1962* and was managed under a Trustee Agreement by the Director of National Parks and Wildlife.

It was gazetted as Mount Leura Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (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. Regional ecosystems of significance

Regional ecosystem	Description	Regional ecosystem class*	Biodiversity status**
11.8.3	Semi-evergreen vine thicket on Cainozoic igneous rocks	Of concern	Of concern

* Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Description Database (VM REDD)

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

Appendix C. Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	CMS	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
<i>Falco cenchroides</i>	nankeen kestrel	✓			
<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