

Mount Kinchant 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 related to the Mount Kinchant Conservation Park included in this management statement, including their locality, legislative framework and applicable plans/agreements.

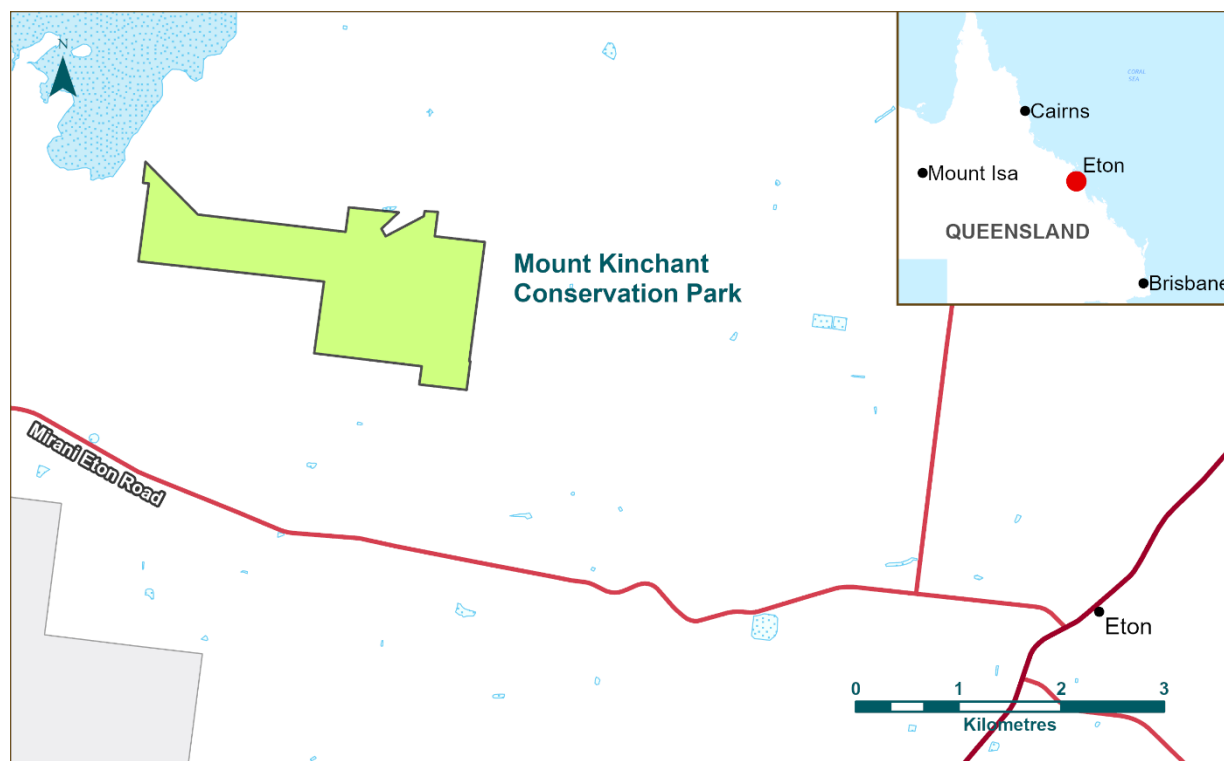


Figure 1. Locality of Mount Kinchant Conservation Park

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>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i> <i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i> <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</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 	

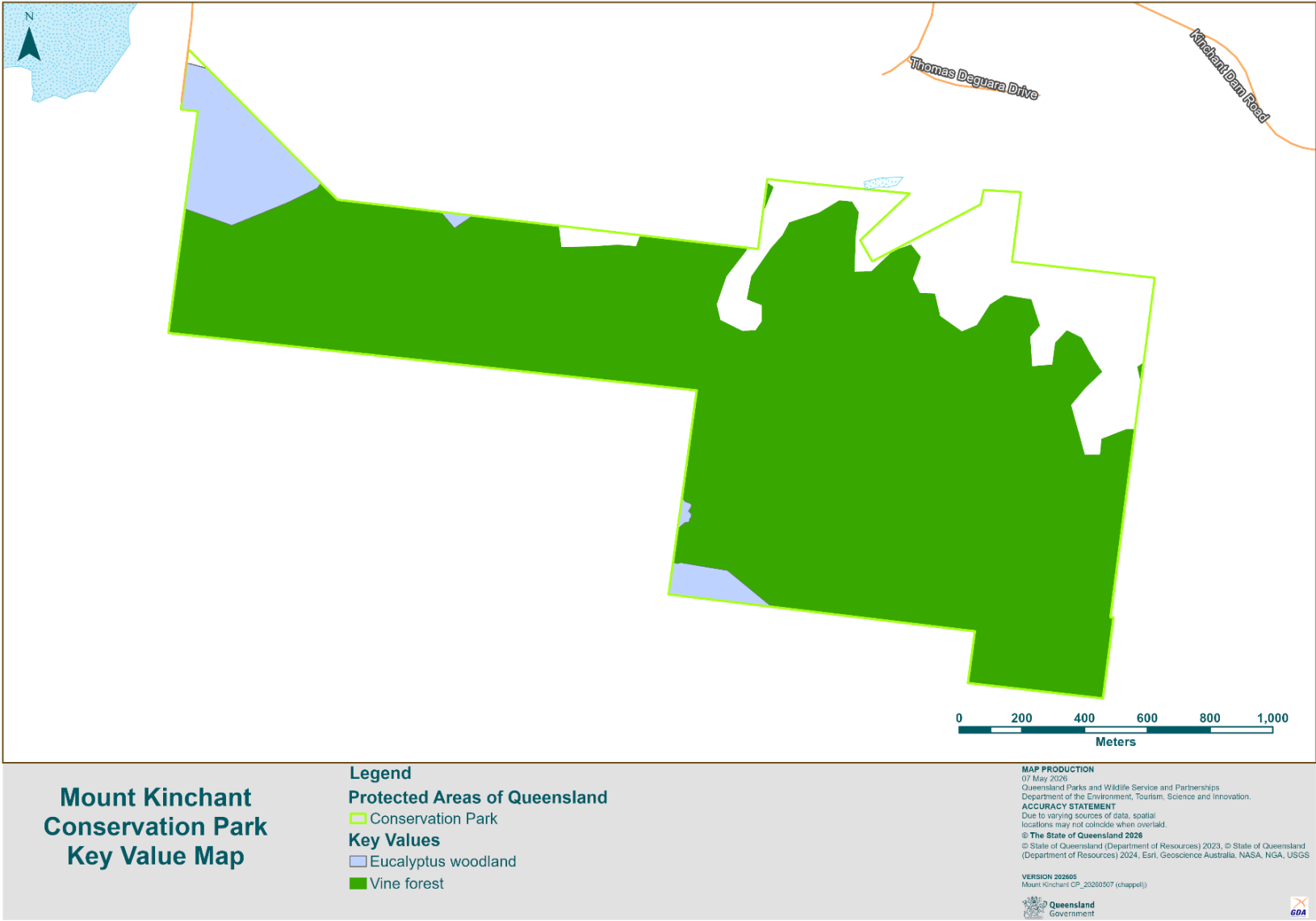


Figure 2. Mount Kinchant Conservation Park key values

3.1 Vine forest

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
Significant ecosystem	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 that is present (8.11.2) has of concern biodiversity status and provides habitat for the critically endangered plant <i>Rhodamnia pauciovulata</i>, which is only found in the Central Mackay Coast bioregion. While there are eight protected areas in Queensland where this regional ecosystem is found, Mount Kinchant Conservation Park has the highest representation at 48.99 per cent of that within the protected area estate. BVG 5b Notophyll to microphyll vine forests, frequently with hoop pine <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i>, on ranges of central coastal bioregions. Within the park there is just one regional ecosystem in this BVG - RE 8.11.2. RE 8.11.2. Semi-evergreen notophyll to microphyll vine forest of foothills and uplands on metamorphosed sediments has of concern biodiversity status and covers 239.97 hectares (81.93 per cent) of the park — this is 8.62 per cent of the regional ecosystem remaining in Queensland and 48.99 per cent of that within the protected area estate. This regional ecosystem is found in only eight protected areas, with this park containing the highest representation. It provides potential habitat for species such as the near threatened plant <i>Arytera dictyoneura</i>; plant species with a restricted distribution such as <i>Bowenia serrulata</i> and <i>Macrozamia miquelii</i>; 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 <i>Rhodamnia pauciovulata</i> are present.	Good 	Inferred 	Stable 	Inferred 	Good 	Good 
Desired outcome The vine forests is healthy, resilient, protected and effectively managed, supporting thriving biodiversity, sustaining natural processes, protecting endangered species such as <i>Rhodamnia pauciovulata</i> and providing long-term viable habitats for fauna species that depend on it.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
Bushfire	Natural system modifications	The vine forest in the park is vulnerable to hot fires. The Bushfire Management Group has assessed Mount Kinchant CP as having a moderate fire risk, and the local rural fire brigade conducts annual hazard reduction burns around infrastructure to the north of the park. Although the risk of fires originating from surrounding canefields has decreased due to the shift away from cane burning during harvesting, the park remains susceptible to fire incursions.	Primary	Low
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Four pest plants are recorded from the park - lantana, Brazilian nightshade, corky passion flower and Guinea grass. Other pests are present in the surrounding landscape and may spread into the park and impact the vine forest, including sicklepod, cat's claw creeper, rubber vine, giant rat's tail grass and other high biomass grasses. The presence of high biomass grasses can change fire behaviour and enable fires to burn into the vine forest.	Secondary	Low

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Protect the vine forest through appropriate management of fire in the surrounding fire-adapted communities.	4
Reduce the impact of pest plants on vine forest.	4

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

3.1 Vine forest

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
Significant ecosystem	Eucalyptus woodland The eucalyptus woodlands in the park are moist to dry woodlands dominated by poplar gum and Molloy red box. The regional ecosystem (RE 8.11.1) is classified as having of concern biodiversity status and is found in only three protected areas in Queensland. This park has the highest representation, with 16.62 hectares, which accounts for over half (58.47 per cent) of the total area of this regional ecosystem within Queensland's protected area estate. BVG9b - Moist to dry woodlands dominated by <i>Eucalyptus platyphylla</i> (poplar gum) and/or <i>E. leptophleba</i> (Molloy red box). Other frequent tree species include <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> (grey bloodwood), <i>E. drepanophylla</i> (grey ironbark) and occasionally <i>E. chlorophylla</i>. Within the park, there is just one regional ecosystem in this BVG - RE 8.11.1 RE 8.11.1. <i>Eucalyptus drepanophylla</i> +/- <i>E. platyphylla</i> woodland on hills formed from metamorphosed sediments is classified as having of concern biodiversity status. It covers 16.62 hectares (5.67 per cent) of the park, which represents 0.31 per cent of the regional ecosystem remaining in Queensland and 58.47 per cent of its total area within the protected area estate. This regional ecosystem is found in only three protected areas, with Mount Kinchant Conservation Park containing the largest representation. Although this regional ecosystem provides potential habitat for the endangered northern quoll, black-chinned honeyeater and rufous owl, none of these species have been recorded from the park.	Good 	Inferred 	Stable 	Inferred 	Good 	Good 
Desired outcome The eucalypt woodland is healthy, resilient, protected and effectively managed, supporting thriving biodiversity, sustaining natural processes, and providing long-term viable habitats for fauna species that depend on it.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
Bushfire	Natural system modifications	Uncontrolled bushfires have the potential to change the structural elements of the eucalyptus woodland. Fires that are too frequent, too hot, or burn through the woodland leaving very little unburnt vegetation impact the ecosystem's resilience and recovery.	Primary	Low
Changed fire frequency or intensity	Natural system modifications	The health and function of eucalyptus woodland depends on regular fire. Without appropriate fire management, the vine forest may gradually encroach into the woodland, altering its structure and composition. A prolonged absence of fire increases the risk of ecosystem decline and loss of biodiversity.	Secondary	Low
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Four pest plants are recorded from the park and the likelihood of other pest plants being present. High biomass grasses pose a particular threat, as they can fuel intense fires that larger areas of woodland. This reduces the effectiveness of mosaic burning, which is essential for maintaining the health and resilience of the ecosystem.	Other	Low

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Maintain the eucalyptus woodland through targeted fire management to reduce the spread and impact of bushfires.	4
Maintain structural elements and age class variation in eucalyptus woodland through the targeted application of fire.	4
Prevent vine forest encroachment into eucalyptus woodland through the targeted application of fire.	4
Reduce the impact of pest species on eucalyptus woodland.	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.

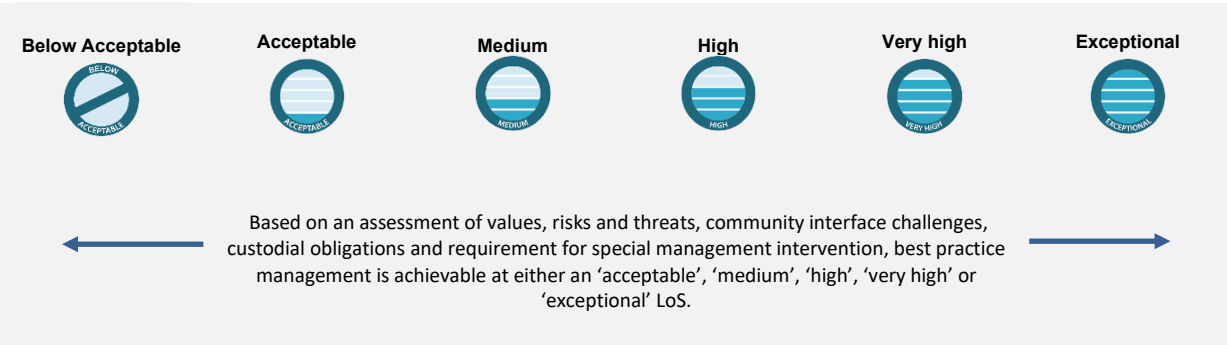


Figure 3. Description of LoS icons

4.1 Management directions

Management theme	Current	Desired	Strategic management direction	Priority (1–5) *
Fire management			Improve the current understanding of fire requirements for the eucalyptus woodland and vine forest.	3
			Improve the current understanding of access roads and firebreaks within the park and on neighbouring properties.	3
			Improve the current understanding of high biomass grasses within the park and their impact on fire behaviour.	3
			Improve collaboration through increased engagement with the Bushfire Management Group, Sunwater, Kinchant Waters Caravan Park, Ergon, Kinchant Outdoor Education Centre and other neighbours to support a shared responsibility approach to fire management, including fire preparedness, firebreaks, bushfire response and implementing planned burns.	3
			Improve fire management in the park through preparation of a fire strategy.	3
			Improve operational capacity to complete planned burns.	3
			Increase the priority to implement conservation planned burns for fire-related key values.	3
Pest management			Improve understanding of current and emerging weeds, including their distribution, extent and impact on key values.	3
			Improve consultation with neighbours to mitigate the threat of current and emerging pests.	3
			Improve pest management in the park through preparation of a pest strategy.	3
			Increase operational capacity to address targeted pest threats impacting key values.	3
Natural values management			Improve knowledge of fauna and flora species through targeted surveys and monitoring programs, including confirming the presence of northern quolls, koalas and ghost bats.	3
			Improve knowledge of the condition of the vegetation communities through the collation of historical vegetation surveys and implementation of the health check program.	3
			Improve consultation with regional teams, centric units and research institutions to enhance natural values management and establish monitoring programs for key values.	3
			Increase the management effort to maintain the condition of key values.	3
Post-contact cultural heritage management			Maintain a contemporary knowledge of the park's post-contact cultural heritage and management requirements.	5
Visitor management			Maintain the current approach to visitor management	5

Management theme	Current	Desired	Strategic management direction	Priority (1–5) *
Community, partnerships and other interests			Maintain a contemporary knowledge of stakeholders and park management requirements.	4
			Maintain the current level of consultation and engagement with key stakeholders.	4
			Improve engagement with Ergon representatives to enhance pest management along power line corridors.	4
			Enhance the relationship with Yuwi People through improved communication regarding on ground management at Mount Kinchant Conservation Park.	3
Field management capability			Maintain a contemporary knowledge base to deliver required management.	4
			Enhance field management capacity through the strategic use of regional and centric teams.	4
			Improve current field management capability and capacity by working with regional teams and centric units to improve knowledge of threatened species and pests in the park and to prioritise work programs.	4
Operational planning and management support			Maintain awareness of available operational planning and management support within the region to guide park management operations.	4
			Maintain relationships with regional and centric support units.	4
			Increase operational planning to address key management priorities, including fire, pest control and threatened species conservation.	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.