

Bloomfield River 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 The Eastern Kuku Yalanji People	6
3.2 World Heritage	6
3.3 Key value information	6
3.4 Ecosystems and biodiversity	6
3.4.1 Eucalypt forest	6
3.4.2 Intertidal wetlands	6
3.5 Species	7
3.5.1 Native animals	7
3.5.2 Native plants	7
3.6 Geophysical features	7
3.7 Recreational opportunities	7
3.7.1 Day-use areas	7
3.8 Ecotourism	7
3.8.1 Tourism and visitor opportunities	7
3.9 Partnerships	8
3.9.1 Wet Tropics Management Authority	8
3.10 Fire	8
3.10.1 Planned Burn Guidelines	8
3.11 Pests	8
3.11.1 Pest plants	8
3.11.2 Pest animals	8
4. References	9
5. Appendices	10
Appendix A. Legal, policy and management commitments	10
Appendix B. Regional ecosystems of significance	11
Appendix C. Species of conservation significance	12
Appendix D. Species listed in international agreements	14
Appendix E. Pests	14

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

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

Bloomfield River Conservation Park is located approximately 3 kilometres north of the town of Wujal Wujal in the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire and 2 kilometres south of the town of Bloomfield in the Shire of Cook. The park is accessible from Bloomfield Road.

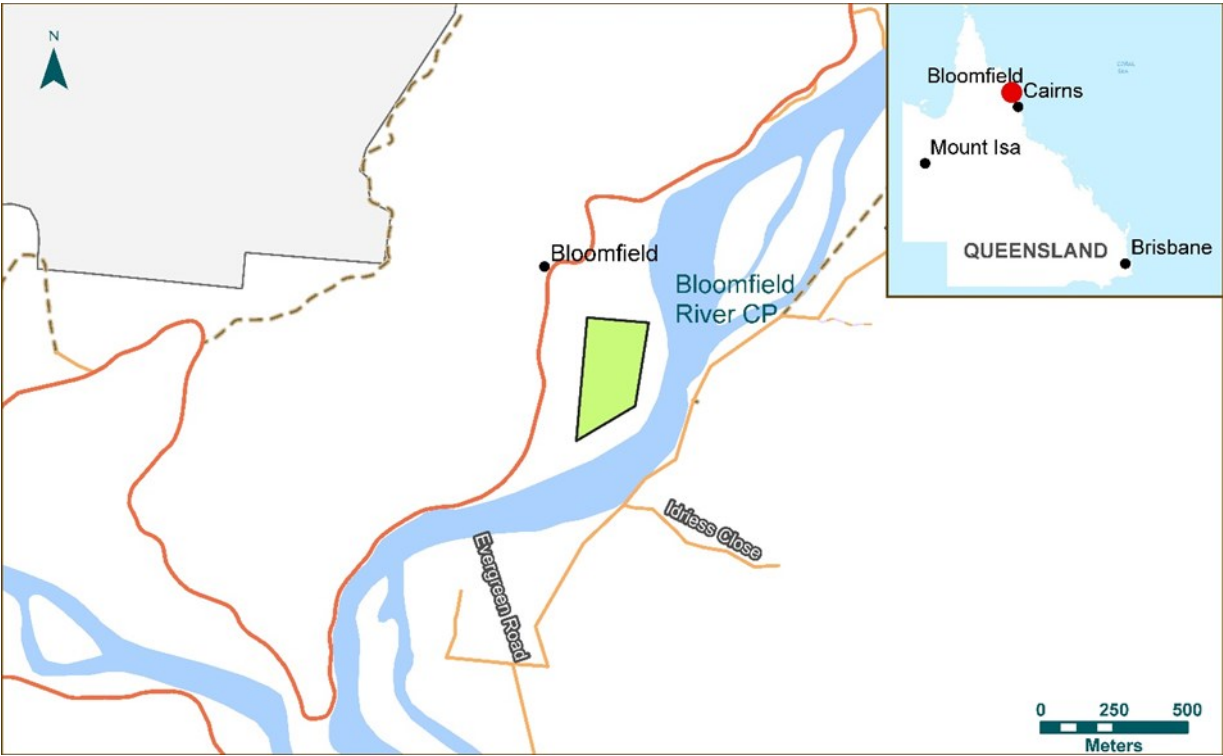


Figure 1. Locality of Bloomfield River Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Bloomfield River Conservation Park

Park size	Bloomfield River Conservation Park	6.8 ha
Bioregion	Wet Tropics	
QPWS region	Northern	
Local government area	Cook Shire Council	
State electorate	Cook	
Relevant legislation	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth)	
	<i>Fisheries Act 1994</i>	
	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cwlth)	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	
Plans and agreements	National recovery plan for the bare-rumped sheath-tail bat <i>Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudiclunatus</i>	
	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	

3. Resource information

3.1 The Eastern Kuku Yalanji People

Bloomfield River Conservation Park lies within the lands of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji People. An application for native title for land that includes this park is currently active (registered Native Title Claim QC2014/008) although no determination has been made as of yet. The Eastern Kuku Yalanji People, represented by the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation, have an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (QI2012/094) with the State, primarily related to access to the park and other surrounding areas.

3.2 World Heritage

Approximately half of Bloomfield River Conservation Park sits within the Cairns/Cooktown Management Area of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

3.3 Key value information

All parks, forest and reserves contain a range of natural, cultural, social and economic values that contribute to Queensland's protected area and forest estate. The VBMF provides a framework for identifying and protecting the most important of these — referred to as *key values*.

Based on an evaluation, the values of Bloomfield River Conservation Park 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.

Park management will focus on sustaining the natural, cultural, social and economic values that support its importance as a protected area, ensuring that management aligns with the legislative and custodial obligations in relation to these values.

3.4 Ecosystems and biodiversity

Bloomfield River Conservation Park contains an endangered ecosystem, although this ecosystem is significantly more well represented in other QPWS protected areas.

The entirety of Bloomfield River Conservation Park is mapped as having State biodiversity significance or State Habitat for Endangered, Vulnerable, and Near Threatened (EVNT) taxa. The overwhelming majority of the park rates very highly on habitat for EVNT taxa, bioregional ecosystem value and condition, while the south-eastern section of the park also rates very highly on ecosystem diversity and context and connection. Tract size and bioregional and subregional relative ecosystem size are ranked poorly across the park.

3.4.1 Eucalypt forest

Bloomfield River Conservation Park contains one endangered woodland community (RE 7.3.12b – mixed eucalypt open forest to woodland dominated by *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and *Corymbia tessellaris* +/- *Melaleuca dealbata* (or vine forest with these species as emergent) on lowland alluvial plains), which is present across approximately 74% of the park.

3.4.2 Intertidal wetlands

The eastern and south-eastern areas of Bloomfield River Conservation Park are made up of intertidal wetlands (RE 7.1.1 – mangrove closed scrub to open forest of areas subject to regular tidal inundation). The Bloomfield river system has extensive mangrove communities, of which Bloomfield River Conservation Park makes up only a small portion.

Mangroves are listed as marine plants and are protected under the *Fisheries Act 1994* (Qld).

3.5 Species

3.5.1 Native animals

A number of native EVNT species exist in the park, such as the eastern curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*, a wetland indicator species listed as critically endangered under both the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) (NCA) and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC), and the red goshawk *Erythroriorchis radiatus*, listed as endangered under both the NCA and EPBC. Although these species have different primary habitat, they share a key threat: habitat loss.

The bare-rumped sheath-tail bat *Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudiclunatus* has been recorded at this park. A conservation significant species listed as endangered under the NCA and as vulnerable under the EPBC. A national recovery plan exists for this species. The bare-rumped sheath-tail bat is poorly understood, with few specimens collected in the past several decades, and little is known about roosting behaviour, population size or extent.

Several other species, including birds, reptiles and mammals, found in the park are listed as vulnerable, near threatened or special least concern.

See Appendix C for a full list of conservation significant fauna known to the park and surrounding area.

3.5.2 Native plants

Two species (*Backhousia hughesii* and *Rhodamnia spongiosa*) are listed as critically endangered under the NCA, while a further two (*Rhodomyrtus effusa* and *Dissiliaria tuckeri*) are listed as endangered under the NCA. Both *B. hughesii* and *R. spongiosa* are threatened by myrtle rust.

A specimen of *Meiogyne hirsuta* from Bloomfield River Conservation Park has been submitted for confirmation. The species is listed as near threatened under the NCA.

A further 17 species known to Bloomfield River Conservation Park are listed as vulnerable, special least concern or near threatened under the NCA.

See Appendix C for a full list of conservation significant flora known to the park and surrounding area.

3.6 Geophysical features

Approximately one quarter of the park is covered by mangroves. This area contains fine anaerobic silts and is inundated with saline water at high tide. The remaining park area sits on alluvial plains.

3.7 Recreational opportunities

3.7.1 Day-use areas

There are few undeveloped visitor sites. Park assets consist of minimal infrastructure, which is required for the protection of natural and cultural values and self-reliant use by the public.

3.8 Ecotourism

3.8.1 Tourism and visitor opportunities

Tourism opportunities are limited in the park. The Bloomfield 4-wheel drive track and Bloomfield River boat tours may bring people near the park.

3.9 Partnerships

3.9.1 Wet Tropics Management Authority

Although the park itself sits just outside of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area, the Bloomfield River, which the park abuts, is part of the World Heritage Area managed by the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

3.10 Fire

Fire management is core business for QPWS to protect life and property, mitigate wildfires and maintain natural diversity in accordance with the NCA and the *Fire Services Act 1990* for the control and prevention of fires.

3.10.1 Planned Burn Guidelines

The majority of Bloomfield River Conservation Park is mapped as mixed eucalypt, lowland open forest. The Planned Burn Guidelines for the Wet Tropics Bioregion note key burn issues for this regional ecosystem as the maintenance of healthy lowland open forest, reduction of overabundant saplings and seedlings, management of high biomass exotic grasses and the reduction of lantana *Lantana camara*.

The eastern and south-eastern portions of Bloomfield River Conservation Park are mapped as intertidal wetlands containing mangrove. As per the Planned Burn Guidelines for the Wet Tropics Bioregion, mangroves do not require fire. There is potential for mangroves to be scorched in nearby planned burn operations or wildfire, but lasting damage is rare.

3.11 Pests

3.11.1 Pest plants

Several introduced pest plant species have been recorded in Bloomfield River Conservation Park, posing a serious threat to the park's biodiversity — lantana *Lantana camara*, tobacco weed *Elephantopus mollis*, sicklepod *Senna obtusifolia*, Navua sedge *Cyperus aromaticus*, Guinea grass *Megathyrsus maximus* and African tulip *Spathodea campanulate*. These invasive weeds compete aggressively with native plants for light, nutrients, water and space, often forming dense stands that suppress natural regeneration and alter habitat structure.

3.11.2 Pest animals

Introduced animals such as the house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, common myna *Acridotheres tristis*, spotted dove *Spilopelia chinensis* and cane toad *Rhinella marina* have been found in the park. The cane toad may consume migratory shorebird eggs, increasing pressure on already vulnerable species.

4. References

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5. Appendices

Appendix A. Legal, policy and management commitments

Gazettal details

Bloomfield River Regional Park was formally gazetted as an environmental park on 14 July 1990. The park tenure was converted to a conservation park on 16 December 1994.

No park specific purpose was identified as part of the gazettal.

Applicable Acts and statutory powers

- *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld)
- *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth)
- *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth)
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld)
- *Fisheries Act 1994* (Qld)
- *Fire Services Act 1990* (Qld)

Recovery plans and guides

- International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Far Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) 2017
- National recovery plan for the bare-rumped sheath-tail bat *Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudiclunatus* 2007
- Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032

Other management commitments

- 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

Appendix B. Regional ecosystems of significance

Regional ecosystem	Description	Regional ecosystem class*	Biodiversity status**
7.3.12b	Mixed eucalypt open forest to woodland dominated by <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> and <i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Melaleuca dealbata</i> (or vine forest with these species as emergents). Lowland alluvial plains	Endangered	Endangered

* Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Description Database (VM REDD)

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

Appendix C. Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	NC Act status	EPBC Act status
<i>Adiantum diaphanum</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Aphyllorchis anomala</i>		Near threatened	-
<i>Arthrochilus dockrillii</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Backhousia hughesii</i>		Critically endangered	-
<i>Buckinghamia ferruginiflora</i>		Vulnerable	-
<i>Cordyline cannifolia</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Corymborkis veratrifolia</i>	cinnamon orchid	Special least concern	-
<i>Dendrobium discolor</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Dissiliaria tuckeri</i>		Endangered	-
<i>Dockrillia calamiformis</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Drynaria quercifolia</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Heliodendron xanthoxylon</i>	yellow siris	Near threatened	-
<i>Lastreopsis poecilophlebia</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Livistona muelleri</i>	dwarf fan palm	Special least concern	-
<i>Meiogyne hirsuta</i>		Near threatened	-
<i>Platycterium hillii</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Pomatocalpa macphersonii</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Rhodamnia spongiosa</i>		Critically endangered	-

Scientific name	Common name	NC Act status	EPBC Act status
<i>Rhodomirtus effusa</i>		Endangered	-
<i>Stenochlaena palustris</i>	climbing swamp fern	Special least concern	-
<i>Stylidium capillare</i>		Special least concern	-
Animals			-
<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	estuarine crocodile	Vulnerable	-
<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana</i>	Macleay's fig-parrot	Vulnerable	-
<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	red goshawk	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	beach stone-curlew	Vulnerable	-
<i>Hipposideros diadema reginae</i>	diadem leaf-nosed bat	Near threatened	-
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	Critically endangered	Critically endangered
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	whimbrel	Special least concern	-
<i>Pandion haliaetus cristatus</i>	eastern osprey	Special least concern	-
<i>Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus</i>	bare-rumped sheath-tail bat	Endangered	Vulnerable
<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	crested tern	Special least concern	-
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	marsh sandpiper	Special least concern	-

Appendix D. Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	CMS	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	whimbrel		✓	✓	✓
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	marsh sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓

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

Appendix E. Pests

Scientific name	Common name	Biosecurity Act 2014 status	Notes
Animals			
<i>Rhinella marina</i>	Cane toad		Park-wide impacts: - Cane toads may displace native animals, especially where habitat has been degraded by humans and livestock activity. Waterholes in the dry season are areas of particularly high risk. - Direct predation of insects, frogs, small reptiles, mammals and birds.