

Skull Knob Conservation Park

Management Statement 2015

Extended May 2026



**Queensland
Government**

Prepared by: **Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation.**

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All due diligence and care has been taken in the preparation of this document based on the information in the 2015 management statement. The department holds no responsibility for any errors or omissions within this document. Any decisions made by other parties based on this document are solely the responsibility of those parties.

The Skull Knob Conservation Park Management Statement 2015 has been extended in 2026, in line with the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (s120F). Minor amendments have been made. There has been no change to the statement's original management intent and direction.

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Park overview

Park size	Skull Knob Conservation Park	302.8ha
Bioregion	Central Mackay Coast	
QPWS region	Central	
Local government area	Mackay Regional	
State electorate	Whitsunday	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld)</i>	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	
	<i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>	
	<i>Fisheries Act 1994</i>	
	<i>Marine Parks Act 2004</i>	
Plans and agreements	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)	
	China—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement	
	Japan—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement	
	Republic of Korea—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement	

Park purpose

Skull Knob Regional Park (now Skull Knob Conservation Park) was formally gazetted as an environmental park in 1988. In 1994 it was re-gazetted under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* to become a conservation park. Over time additions to the park have increased its size from an initial 26ha to 302.8ha.

No park specific purpose was identified as part of the gazettal, however, the wetlands protected by this park are listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia.

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Skull Knob Conservation Park has been assessed as having a basic level of priority for management and will be managed according to this priority rating.

Park management will be based on the best available local knowledge, professional judgement and anecdotal information. The basic level priority means it will receive annual routine inspections, with occasional planned visits where issues have been identified. The focus is largely expected to be on natural resource management involving proactive management to understand and protect known natural values.

Cultural values will be managed proactively to protect those values known to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, (QPWS). Informal ad-hoc local consultation, collaboration and relationships with First Nations people and stakeholders, will be undertaken as required to progress specific issues and programs.

This park currently has low levels of visitor use and provides no developed visitor sites. Visitors are unlikely to encounter a ranger on site during their visit. Current and future recreational opportunities will require that visitors have a high level of self-sufficiency and are primarily responsible for their own personal safety. The Mackay Regional Council has a small campground adjacent to the regional park.

Informal ad-hoc consultation with community stakeholders will be undertaken on specific issues of park management.

Park assets will consist of minimal robust infrastructure which is required for the protection of natural and cultural values and self-reliant use by the public. The park is crossed by an Ergon power-line.

General park values, uses and management

Regional ecosystems

Skull Knob Conservation Park protects 10 regional ecosystems, of which three have endangered biodiversity status and three have of concern status, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

Ten species of conservation significance recorded from this park include nine bird species and one mammal species, Table 2.

Cultural heritage

All protected areas are recognised as cultural landscapes and First Nations people see themselves as inextricably linked to Country, both spiritually and physically. Cultural records on physical artefacts and sites of spiritual significance are documented for this area. All proposed activities need to meet duty of care requirements under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*. Non-indigenous historic places will be managed in accordance with the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

Marine protected areas

Skull Knob Conservation Park adjoins the general use zone (light blue) in the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Coast Marine Park. A general use zone provides for conservation whilst still allowing reasonable use of the area to occur. Any person wishing to conduct activities in this zone must comply with the *Marine Parks Act 2004*.

Skull Knob Conservation Park is located within the Repulse declared Fish Habitat Area (FHA) management A area, which significantly constrains development activities. This declaration under the *Fisheries Act 1994* requires that activities on the regional park must consider the potential impacts on the FHA. Approval is required before development can commence, unless authorised under a self-assessable code. Development works may include on-park activities such as construction of boardwalks and bird hides.

Priorities for park management

The six regional ecosystems and ten animal species of conservation significance are the main values of this park. The priorities for park management will be to mitigate any threats to these values through fire and pest management.

Management actions will be undertaken which aim to ensure:

- life and property on and adjacent to the park are protected
- fire is managed to conserve or maintain the condition of the regional ecosystems through the application of planned burn guidelines
- the impacts of existing pest species on neighbouring land uses are mitigated
- pest threats are managed to conserve or maintain the condition of regional ecosystems and animal species of conservation significance
- consideration of the impacts on the declared FHA is undertaken when planning and conducting fire or pest management activities on the park in accordance with the FHA code of practice.

Appendix

Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
8.1.2	Samphire open forbland on salt pans and plains adjacent to mangroves	Of concern
8.2.1	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i> low woodland and/or sparse herbland to open scrub on foredunes and beaches	Of concern
8.2.2	Semi-evergreen microphyll vine thicket to vine forest on coastal dunes	Endangered
8.2.6a	<i>Blakella tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Acacia leptocarpa</i> +/- <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> +/- <i>Banksia integrifolia</i> +/- rainforest species open forest on parallel dunes	Of concern
8.3.2	<i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i> woodland on seasonally inundated alluvial plains with impeded drainage	Endangered
8.3.5	<i>Eucalyptus platyphylla</i> and/or <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> and/or <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> woodland on alluvial plains	Endangered

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth) status
Animals			
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	red-necked stint	Special Least Concern	-
<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	beach stone-curlew	Vulnerable	-
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian tern	Special Least Concern	-
<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>	Western Alaskan bar-tailed godwit	Endangered	Endangered
<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>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific golden plover	Special Least Concern	-
<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	crested tern	Special Least Concern	-
<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>	short-beaked echidna	Special Least Concern	-

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	CMS	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	red-necked stint	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	beach stone-curlew	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian tern			✓	
<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>	Western Alaskan bar-tailed godwit	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	whimbrel	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Pandion haliaetus cristatus</i>	eastern osprey	✓			
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific golden plover	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	crested tern	✓	✓	✓	✓

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)

China—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA)

Japan—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA)

Republic of Korea—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA)