

Dawson 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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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

Figure 1 and Table 1 provide an overview of information about Dawson River Conservation Park included in this resource information document, including its location, legislative framework and relevant plans/agreements.

Dawson River Conservation Park is located 11 km west-northwest of Moura. Currently, there is no public road access to the park.

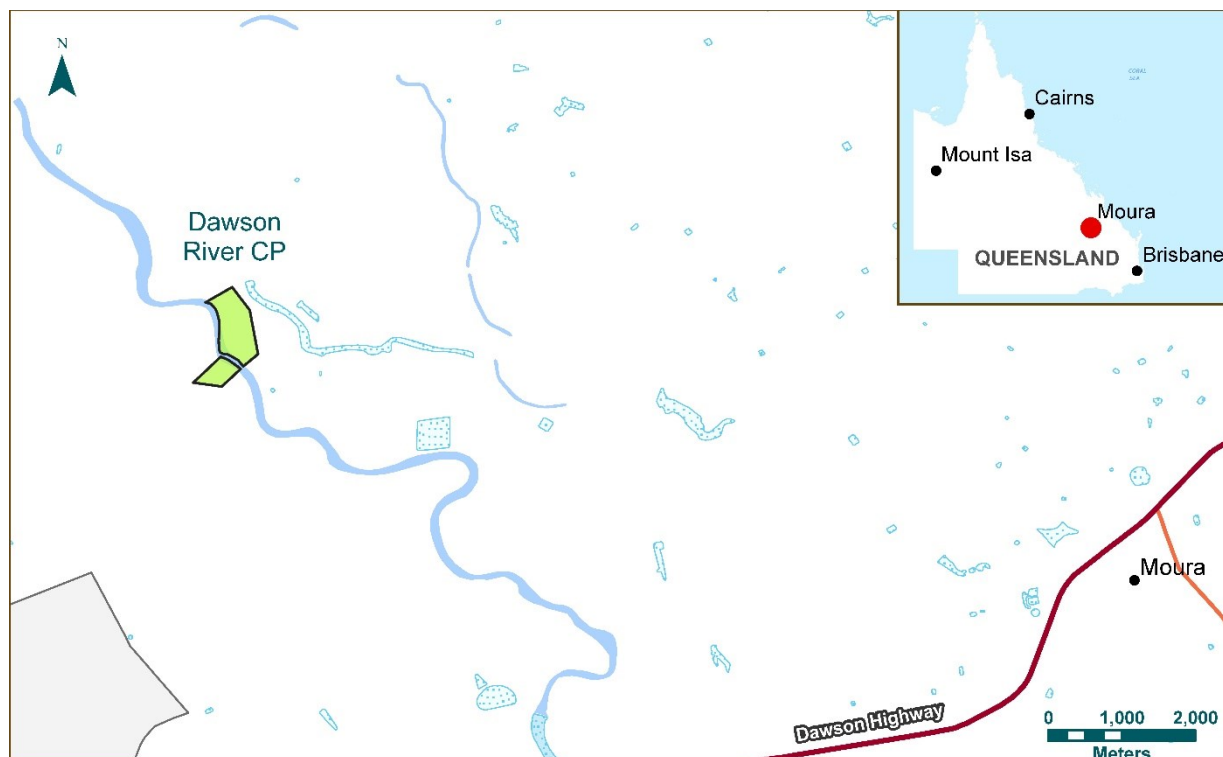


Figure 1. Locality of Dawson River Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Dawson River Conservation Park

Park size	Dawson River Conservation Park	53.8 ha
Bioregion	Brigalow Belt South	
QPWS region	Central	
Local government area	Banana Shire Council	
State electorate	Callide	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>	
	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>	
	<i>Fire Services Act 1990</i>	
	<i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	
	<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>	
Plans and agreements	National Recovery Plan for the Red Goshawk <i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i> , 2012	
	Planned Burn Guidelines Brigalow Belt Bioregion of Queensland, 2012	

3. Resource Information

3.1 Gaangalu Nation People

As of March 2026, the Gaangalu Nation People have a registered Native Title Claim (QC2012/009), that includes the park.

3.2 Key value information

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

An evaluation of Dawson River Conservation Park found that its values do not reach the thresholds required to be considered a Key Value. However, the park remains an important part of Queensland's comprehensive and representative reserve system, providing biodiversity protection, ecosystem services, and landscape connectivity.

Park management will focus on maintaining the park's natural, cultural, social and economic values, ensuring that management aligns with the legislative and custodial obligations in relation to these values.

3.3 Ecosystems and biodiversity

Nearly 83 per cent, more than 41 ha, of Dawson River Conservation Park is covered in eucalypt woodland on alluvial river and creek flats. The remainder is mapped as non-remnant vegetation.

Most of the park is mapped as supporting State Habitat for threatened taxa, with a smaller area identified as having Regional biodiversity significance. At a regional scale, the park rates highly for habitat supporting threatened species, and very highly for bioregional ecosystem value, tract size, wildlife refugia, habitat quality, and condition. However, the park only scores moderately for context and connectivity.

3.3.1 Eucalypt woodland

Two eucalypt woodland regional ecosystems (REs) are found within Dawson River Conservation Park, represented as the mixed RE 11.3.2 / 11.3.25 (70% / 30%).

- RE 11.3.2 (*Eucalyptus populnea* woodland on alluvial plains): This ecosystem is classified as "of concern" under both the biodiversity status and the Vegetation Management Act 1999 (VM Act). It is associated with a wetland code of palustrine, which refers to non-tidal wetlands such as swamps and marshes that are dominated by vegetation with more than 30 per cent cover.
- RE 11.3.25 (*Eucalyptus tereticornis* or *E. camaldulensis* woodland fringing drainage lines): This ecosystem is also classified as of concern under the biodiversity status but is listed as least concern under the VMA. It is assigned a wetland code of riverine, which refers to riverine wetlands or fringing riverine wetlands characterised by open, non-vegetated channels (State of Queensland, 2024).

3.4 Species

3.4.1 Native animals

The southern greater glider *Petauroides volans volans*, has been verified to occur in the Dawson River Conservation Park. Listed as endangered under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) and

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC), key threats include inappropriate fire regimes, fragmentation, land clearing and timber harvesting. The red goshawk *Erythrotriorchis radiatus*, listed as endangered under the NCA and EPBC Act, has also been recorded within the park. There is a National Recovery Plan for the red goshawk *Erythrotriorchis radiatus*, which lists key threats as clearing of native forests, fragmentation and degradation of habitat and disturbance and/or loss of nesting sites (Department of Resource Management 2012).

The golden-tailed gecko *Strophurus taenicauda* has been historically recorded in the park. Although there have been no recent sightings, the species is believed to inhabit the surrounding areas.

3.4.2 Native plants

Three flora species classified as special least concern under the NCA have been recorded within Dawson River Conservation Park. These include the aquatic plant *Caldesia oligococca* and the distinctive bottle trees *Brachychiton australis* and *Brachychiton rupestris*. The bottle trees face several key threats, including habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive weeds, insect attack and inappropriate fire regimes.

3.5 Geophysical features

Dawson River Conservation Park is primarily composed of Quaternary alluvial river systems and creek flats. The dominant rock type is alluvium, classified as a stratified unit that includes volcanic and metamorphic rocks. Vertosol soils are mapped over most of the park, with a small section of sodosol soils mapped in the southern section.

3.6 Partnerships

QPWS works with community stakeholders to support ongoing management programs.

3.6.1 Fitzroy Basin Association

The Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) plays a key role in protecting natural assets in central Queensland. Their work includes restoration activities and supporting sustainable agricultural practices. The FBA may also assist QPWS in achieving its management objectives for the park.

3.7 Fire

Fire management is core responsibility of QPWS, aimed at protecting life and property, mitigating bushfires and maintaining natural diversity. All fire management activities are conducted in accordance with the NCA and the *Fire Services Act 1990*.

3.8 Pests

Limited surveys have been conducted on Dawson River Conservation Park due to the absence of publicly accessible roads. QPWS have identified feral pigs as a pest species within the park that is likely to cause significant ecological damage. While other pest species are not specifically mentioned, they are considered less likely to cause major ecological harm. It is also possible that additional pest species are present but have not yet been identified.

3.8.1 Pest plants

No detailed surveys for pest plants have been conducted within Dawson River Conservation Park.

3.8.2 Pest animals

Feral pigs *Sus scrofa* are present in the park, particularly along the river. Their rooting behaviour contributes to sedimentation, degrading riparian zones and waterways and reducing water quality. Feral pigs also prey upon ground-nesting birds.

4. References

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5. Appendices

Appendix A. Policy and management commitments

Gazettal details

Dawson River Regional Park was formally gazetted in 1974 as two separate environmental parks under the *Land Act 1962*. These were Dawson River (East) Environmental Park (40.873 ha) and Dawson River (West) Environmental Park (12.9 ha). At the time both environmental parks had Trustee Agreements with the Banana Shire Council.

In 1994 these environmental parks were combined and gazetted to Dawson River Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

Recovery plans and guides

- National Recovery Plan for the Red Goshawk *Erythrotriorchis radiatus*, 2012

Appendix B. Regional ecosystems of significance

Regional ecosystem	Description	Regional ecosystem class*	Biodiversity status**
11.3.2	<i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> woodland on alluvial plains	Of concern	Of concern
11.3.25	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> or <i>E. camaldulensis</i> woodland fringing drainage lines	Least concern	Of concern

* 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
Animals			
<i>Petauroides volans volans</i>	southern greater glider	Endangered	Endangered

Appendix D. Pests

Scientific name	Common name	Biosecurity Act 2014 status	Notes
Animals			
<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Feral pig	Restricted invasive animal	Park-wide impacts: • Pig rooting can contribute to sedimentation along waterways • Reduced water quality degrades riparian zones and waterways • Predation of ground-nesting birds