

Andromache 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 parks included in this management statement, including their locality, legislative framework and applicable plans/agreements.

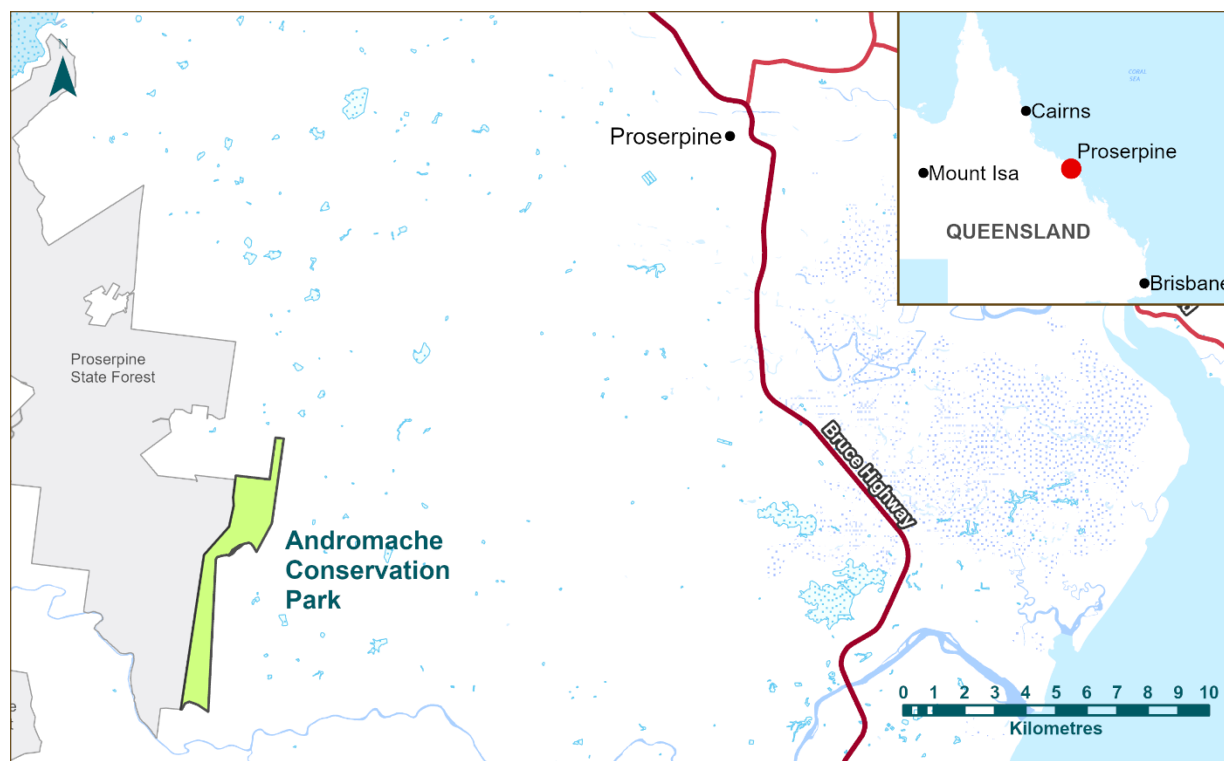


Figure 1. Locality of Andromache Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Andromache Creek Conservation Park

Park size	Andromache Conservation Park	647 ha
Bioregion	Central Mackay Coast	
QPWS region	Central	
Local government area	Whitsunday Regional Council	
State electorate	Whitsunday	
Relevant legislation	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth) (EPBC)	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> (NCA)	
	<i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>	
	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>	
	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cwlth)	
Plans and agreements	National Recovery Plan for the Proserpine rock-wallaby <i>Petrogale persephone</i> 2010	

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 	

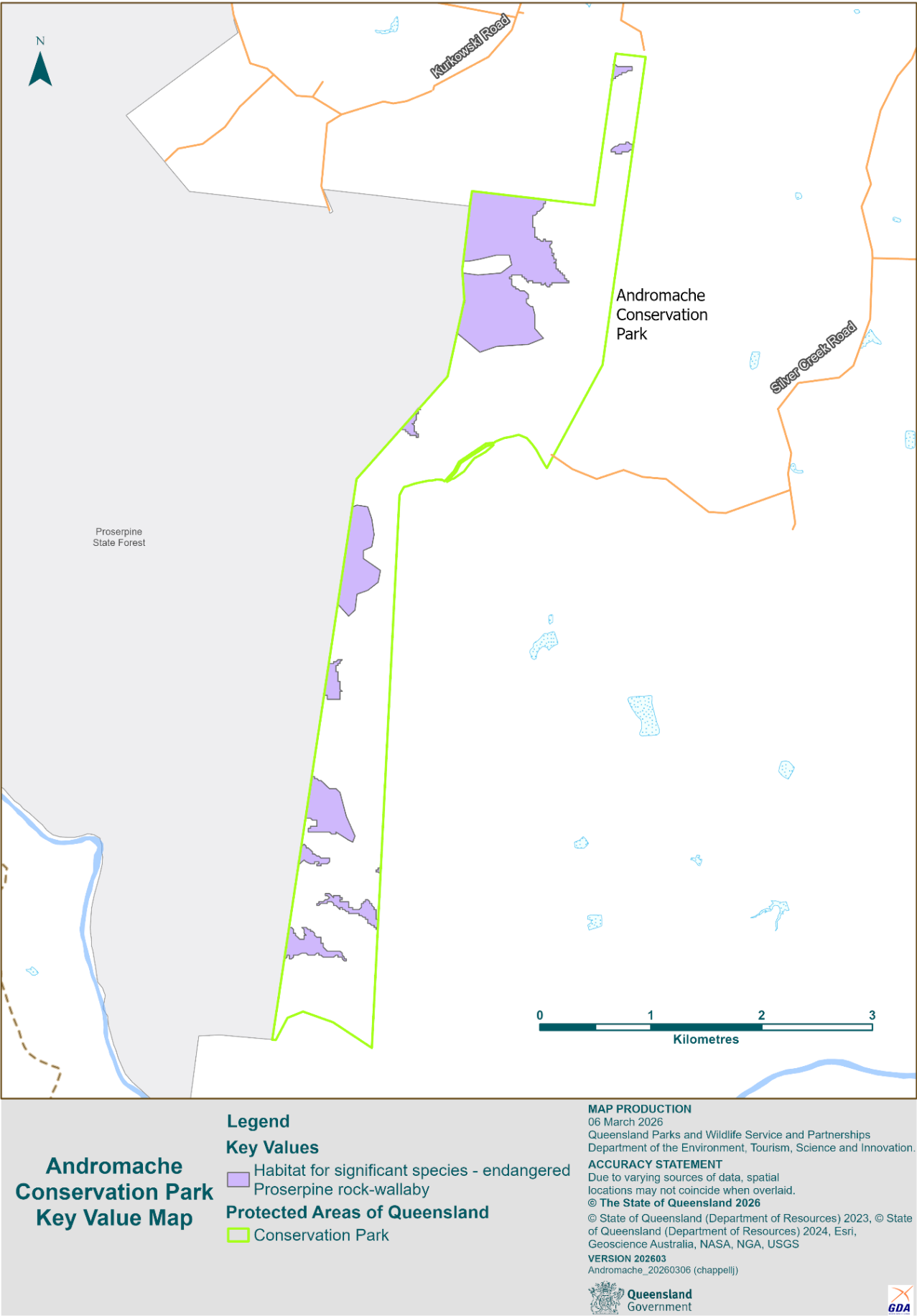


Figure 2. Andromache Conservation Park key values

3.1 Habitat for significant species – endangered Proserpine rock-wallaby

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
Habitat for significant species	The endangered Proserpine rock-wallaby <i>Petrogale persephone</i> is found in the park (NCA and EPBC). There is essential habitat for the rock-wallaby within the park and adjacent Proserpine State Forest (Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM 2010). A comparison of the 'essential habitat' and RE and BVG mapping indicates the essential habitat corresponds with the mapping for BVG 5b. The rock-wallaby prefers rocky outcrops, rock piles and cliffs within a microphyll/notophyll semi-deciduous dry vine forest. At higher elevations, the habitat consists of rocky outcrops, rock piles and rocky creeks within an acacia open forest. In 2001, it was estimated that 40–50 per cent of Proserpine rock-wallaby habitat was found on freehold and leasehold land. If that is still the case, habitat in protected areas is of significance. The Proserpine Dam/Clarke Range colony (which includes the park) has been identified as potentially one of the largest and most viable colonies in the region (DERM 2010). Proserpine rock-wallaby habitat will require protection from fire encroaching into the forest. QPWS management unit staff are not aware of any recent surveys of Proserpine rock-wallaby in the park (meeting 17 November 2025). BVG 5b Notophyll to microphyll vine forests, frequently with <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> (hoop pine), on ranges of central coastal bioregions. Covers 125.27 ha of the park (19.45%). The park includes 3 RE vegetation communities – 8.12.3a, 8.12.2 and 8.12.19. None are of concern at present. Biodiversity status and REDD says each are fire-sensitive. RE 8.12.3 Evergreen to semi-evergreen, notophyll to microphyll, vine forest to vine thicket of foothills and uplands on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks. Covers 121.78 ha of the park (18.91%). There is 0.21% of the regional ecosystem remaining in Queensland and 1.02% of that is within Queensland protected area estate. Vegetation community 8.12.3a, which is present on the park, is known to provide habitat for Proserpine rock-wallaby. RE 8.12.2 Evergreen notophyll to complex notophyll vine forest of uplands, highlands and foothills on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks. Covers 1.74 ha of the park (0.27%). There is 0.01% of the regional ecosystem remaining in Queensland and 0.01% of that is within Queensland protected area estate. RE 8.12.19 Semi-deciduous complex notophyll feather palm vine forest of sheltered gullies and slopes of foothills and uplands on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks. Covers 1.74 ha of the park (0.27%). There is 0.01% of the regional ecosystem remaining in Queensland and 0.02% of that is within Queensland protected area estate.						

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
	The national recovery plan identifies threats to Proserpine rock-wallaby as habitat fragmentation, pest animal predation, introduced diseases, roads and traffic, and introduced toxic plants. Limited distribution makes the species vulnerable to fire, drought, cyclones and other natural events. Climate change is also a potential long-term threat as the crossover of boundaries of various species of Petrogale may be influenced by climate change, potentially resulting in displacement of Proserpine rock-wallaby. The plan identified the threats for the Proserpine Dam/Clarke Range colonies as feral animal predation, disease, habitat degradation from intense fires, weeds and grazing.						
Desired outcome Notophyll vine and palm forests are healthy, resilient, protected and effectively managed with minimal human impacts, supporting thriving biodiversity, sustaining natural processes, and providing long-term viable habitat for the Proserpine rock-wallaby population.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
1. Bushfire	Natural system modifications	Vine forests are fire-sensitive. While their location in the landscape can be self-protecting, vegetation community 8.12.3a tends to occur in slightly drier/less cloudy environments. Bushfires, potentially extreme conditions, have the potential to carry into the vine forests. Slow recovery of the forest would impact suitability of the habitat for Proserpine rock-wallabies. The most recent bushfire in the park was in 2024. QPWS has not undertaken planned burns within the park in recent years. Neighbouring landholders generally undertake burns early in the season, and these have escaped into the park. There are no established fire breaks within the park (QPWS pers com).	Primary	Low
2. Storms	Climate change and severe weather	Cyclones and other severe weather events have the potential to cause significant damage to the vine forest. In 2017, Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie caused widespread damage in the Whitsundays Region. Cyclones can strip leaves and damage vines/trees, potentially resulting in higher fuel loads with fallen timber and increased grass growth. The use of fire following such events is an important and emerging area of management. Pest plants can take the opportunity to establish or expand in the disturbed areas. While cyclones are a part of these landscapes and canopy recovery can be rapid, recovery of forest structure and composition can take decades following severe storms.	Secondary	Low

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Exclude fire from Proserpine rock-wallaby habitat and protect vine forest through appropriate fire management of adjacent fire-adapted communities.	4
Protect vine forests through targeted use of fire to reduce fuel loads caused by storms/cyclones and mitigate the spread and impacts of bushfires.	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.

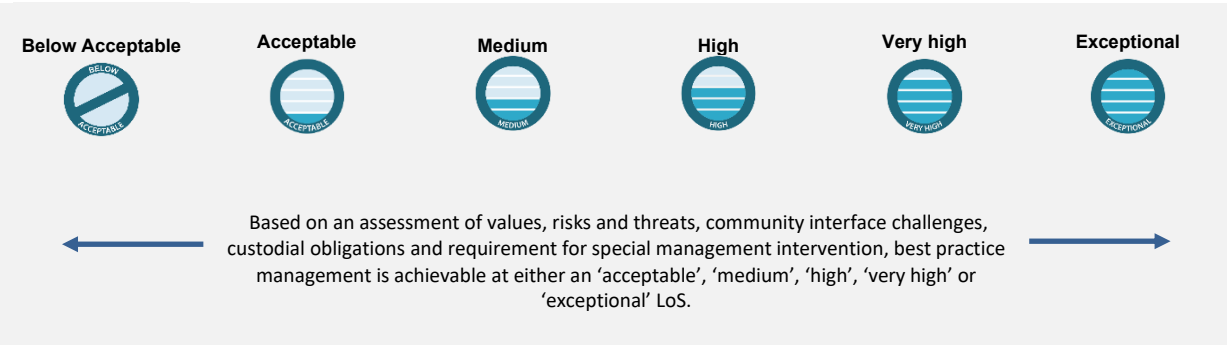


Figure 3. Description of LoS icons

4.1 Management directions

Management theme	Current	Desired	Strategic management direction	Priority (1–5) *
Fire management			Improve knowledge and understanding of all fire-dependent and affected values.	4
			Maintain current level of consultation with neighbours, fire agencies and relevant stakeholders.	4
			Maintain existing collaboration with the Rural Fire Brigade and neighbouring landholders to support a shared responsibility approach to fire management.	4
			Improve fire management through preparation of an area fire strategy.	4
Pest management			Maintain contemporary knowledge of pest species that might threaten key values.	4
			Improve pest management through preparation of an area pest strategy.	4
Natural values management			Improve knowledge of the park's vegetation by implementing health check assessments for Proserpine rock-wallaby habitat.	4
			Improve consultation with centric units, research institutions and local community natural resource groups to support natural values management and improve knowledge of Proserpine rock-wallabies within the park.	4
Post-contact cultural heritage management			Maintain a contemporary knowledge of the park's post-contact cultural heritage management requirements.	5
Visitor management			Maintain current approach to visitor management.	5
Community, partnerships and other interests			Maintain contemporary knowledge of all stakeholders and management requirements.	4
Field management capability			Maintain a contemporary knowledge base to deliver required management.	4
Operational planning and management support			Maintain knowledge of available operational planning and management support within the region to guide and support park management operations.	4
			Increase operational planning for fire and Proserpine rock-wallaby management priorities.	4

*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.