Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation

Buckleys Hole Conservation Park

Management Plan 1998

Extended May 2026

Queensland Government

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

May 2026

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The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation acknowledges Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land. We recognise their connection to land, sea and community, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

The department is committed to respecting, protecting, and promoting human rights, and our obligations under the Human Rights Act 2019.

This management statement does not intend to affect, diminish, or extinguish native title or associated rights.

Disclaimer
All due diligence and care has been taken in the preparation of this document based on the information in the 1998 management plan. 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 Buckleys Hole Conservation Park Management Plan 1998 has been extended in 2026, in line with the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (s120G). Minor amendments have been made. There has been no change to the statement's original management intent and direction.

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Park size	**Buckleys Hole Conservation Park**	**87.7ha**
Bioregion	South Eastern Queensland	
QPWS region	Coastal and Islands	
Local government area	Moreton Bay City	
State electorate	Pumicestone	
Relevant legislation	*Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*	
	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)	
	Aboriginal Land Act 1991	
	Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)	
	Nature Conservation Act 1992	
	Forestry Act 1959	
	Queensland Heritage Act 1992	
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	

1. Management directions and purpose

1.1 Management directions

Buckleys Hole Conservation Park is dedicated under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) and must be managed in accordance with the NCA to:

- provide, to the greatest possible extent, for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition and the protection of the area's cultural resources and values
- present the area's cultural and natural resources and their values
- ensure that the only use of the area is nature-based and ecologically sustainable
- provide opportunities for educational and recreational activities in a way consistent with the area's natural and cultural resources and values
- provide opportunities for ecotourism in a way consistent with the area's natural and cultural resources and values.

Buckleys Hole Conservation Park will be managed as a place of significance for migratory birds and to provide for environmentally sensitive recreation opportunities such as birdwatching and bushwalking.

The park will also be managed in accordance with the Ramsar Convention on wetlands of international importance, the Japan—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA), the China—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA), Republic of Korea—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA) and Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) for the protection of migratory birds and their environments. The *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 1994* requires that the special cultural significance of the wildlife listed in the above agreements is recognised and that their populations and habitats are conserved through appropriate management.

1.2 Park purpose

The major purposes of management will be to ensure that:

- the lagoon and its surrounds are maintained to ensure continued use by water birds
- the vegetation communities and dune system are protected
- threatened fauna is monitored and their requirements are included in management programs
- nature-based recreational and educational day use opportunities are provided
- Kabi Kabi First Nation people and the local community are aware of park management issues and provided with opportunities to be involved in management of the park.

2. Basis for management

2.1 Bioregional context

Buckleys Hole Conservation Park conserves 87.7ha of coastal forest and wetlands on the south-western extremity of Bribie Island, adjacent to the Pumicestone Passage and Moreton Bay. It was initially gazetted as an environmental park in 1991 and subsequently dedicated as conservation park in 1994. Bribie Island is the northern most island within Moreton Bay and is low-lying with a maximum elevation of 10m. Pumicestone Passage and the adjacent terrestrial ecosystems are of national and international significance for species of wader birds, providing a staging area during migration and important roosting and feeding sites.

2.2 Values of Buckleys Hole Conservation Park

2.2.1 Geology and landform

The conservation park is made up of beach sand ridges and swales which date back 6,000 years to the Holocene Period. This dune system contrasts with the rest of Bribie Island and provides a valuable record of the recent geological development of the area.

2.2.2 Native plants and animals

The park protects a range of ecosystems including wetlands, *Melaleuca quinquenervia* woodland and open forest, with areas of eucalypt open forest. Small areas of *Callitris columellaris* open forest and *Casuarina equisetifolia* open forest also occur within the park. Although small in size, Buckleys Hole Conservation Park contributes to the conservation of these vegetation community types, which are under threat throughout coastal south-eastern Queensland.

Pumicestone Passage and Buckleys Hole Conservation Park are included in the Moreton Bay Ramsar site which recognises their international importance as wetland areas. Buckleys Hole has a great diversity of bird life recorded, including 23 migratory bird species covered under JAMBA, CAMBA and ROKAMBA agreements. Migratory species such as the lesser sand plover *Charadrius mongolus*, white-winged black tern *Chlidonias leucopterus,* bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica*, whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* and the common greenshank *Tringa nebularia* are regular visitors. Many resident and vagrant bird species have also been observed. The diversity of bird life found in the park results from the existence of a number of different habitats, including freshwater wetlands, tidal beaches, woodlands and open forests, occurring in a compact area.

Six species of birds that are listed as threatened under the NCA are known from the park. These are the white-throated needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*, beach stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris*, lesser sand plover *Charadrius mongolus*, curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*, western Alaskan bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica baueri*, and eastern curlew *Numenius madagascariensis.*

Three species of vulnerable frog, the wallum froglet *Crinia tinnula,* the wallum sedge-frog *Litoria olongburensis* and wallum rocketfrog *Litoria freycineti* also occur in the park.

2.2.3 Cultural heritage

The Kabi Kabi people maintain an active interest in the park, having managed their land for thousands of generations. In recognition of their cultural and spiritual values, the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) actively seeks their guidance for representing, managing and looking after their culture, cultural heritage and traditional Country.

Flinders landed on Bribie Island at what is now known as South Point on 16 July 1799. This was the first documented European landing in southern Queensland.

2.2.4 Recreation and scenic

Buckleys Hole Conservation Park shares a common boundary with Moreton Bay Marine Park and provides a natural coastal setting overlooking Pumicestone Passage. The freshwater lagoon and the various vegetation types provide a range of landscapes which appeal to beach users, park visitors and local residents. The park provides an opportunity to watch a diversity of birdlife through a bird hide which has been constructed overlooking the lagoon. Bushwalking on the tracks which lead to the beach through the open forests is another popular recreational pursuit.

2.2.5 Scientific and educational

The cultural heritage sites have educational value as a means of encouraging community awareness and understanding of Kabi Kabi First Nation people's heritage. The park is readily accessible to school and tertiary groups for wetland studies and has scientific potential as a reference site for monitoring migratory waters.

3. Management strategies

3.1 Native plants

Current situation

The vegetation in the park consists primarily of eucalypt open forest on the dune ridges, with *Melaleuca quinquenervia* communities in the swales. Freshwater sedgelands, casuarinas and Bribie Island pine *Callitris columellaris* also occur. The various forest types are at risk from overly frequent fires, pest plant invasion and uncontrolled private vehicle access. No individual plant species of conservation interest is known to occur in the park.

Desired outcomes

- The biological diversity and integrity of the natural vegetation communities are conserved.

Proposed policies, guidelines and actions

- Undertake a vegetation survey to determine the distribution and condition of the various vegetation types in the park.
- Develop a vegetation rehabilitation plan which will determine the risks from inappropriate fire, weeds and visitor impacts on each of the identified vegetation communities in the park and recommend appropriate remedial strategies.
- Seek community support for, and participation in, an active rehabilitation program.

3.2 Native animals

Current situation

Buckleys Hole is an important habitat with respect to international agreements on the conservation of migratory birds, and must be protected. Migratory birds are vulnerable to disturbance, particularly from uncontrolled dogs.

The park provides habitat for numerous species of resident birds, frogs, mammals and reptiles.

Desired outcomes

- The diversity of habitats for both resident and migratory fauna species is maintained.

Proposed policies, guidelines and actions

- Establish a monitoring program for native animals and implement any necessary management actions to ensure the continued suitability of their habitats within the park.
- Compile a fauna database for the park, from historical and contemporary records.
- Encourage community involvement in wildlife monitoring programs.
- Enforce the control of dogs within the conservation park and investigate the need for local government restrictions on dogs on the adjacent beaches to be extended beyond the current limits.

3.3 Catchment management

Current situation

Buckleys Hole was previously a shallow lagoon which flushed into Moreton Bay periodically after heavy rains. Over 30 years ago the site was deepened and flushing was restricted by blocking the inlet with a sand wall to address sandfly and mosquito problems. During periods of heavy rain the sand wall may break, allowing inundation of the freshwater lagoon and altering the feeding grounds for birds.

Desired outcomes

- The quality and quantity of water within the freshwater lagoon are maintained in good condition.

Proposed policies, guidelines and actions

- Investigate the hydrology of the lagoon and the dynamics of the adjacent beach dunes to determine the appropriate management of the lagoon and dune system.
- Develop a program of water quality monitoring in conjunction with local government and catchment management groups.
- Encourage neighbouring landholders from areas which drain into the lagoon to adopt catchment management practices which reduce nutrient and sediment inputs.

3.4 Pest plant and animal management

Current situation

Pest management is core business for QPWS to mitigate the threats to biodiversity in accordance with the NCA. QPWS has a responsibility under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Qld) to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with plant and animal pests on lands under our control. Recognising that effective management of pests across the landscape is a shared responsibility, QPWS works cooperatively with First Nations Peoples, other state and local government agencies, landholders and natural resource management groups.

Pest management priorities for QPWS are to:

- protect the natural, social, cultural and economic values of QPWS managed areas, including threatened species and ecosystems, by eradicating pests or reducing their impacts
- meet the legislative requirements regarding declared pests on QPWS managed areas
- undertake cooperative pest management activities with stakeholders including neighbouring land managers, other government agencies and local government.

A survey of the park identified 46 species of pest plants. These were scattered throughout the park, with major infestations along Red Beach Road, around the lagoon and on the dunes near South Point.

Three pest plant species – groundsel, prickly pear, and annual ragweed are restricted plants which must be controlled. Many of the remaining species are pest plants which threaten the existing structure and regeneration of the native plant species.

Pest animals such as cats, foxes and pigs are present on the park and represent a threat to native wildlife.

Desired outcomes

- Prohibited and restricted plants are controlled in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Qld).
- The impact of pest plants on the natural values of the park is minimised. The diversity and viability of native wildlife is not adversely affected by pest animals.

Proposed policies, guidelines and actions

- Implement a pest plant control program with priority given to declared plants and serious pest plants. Initial control work on pest plants should focus on reducing the further spread of the plants using environmentally sensitive techniques and revegetating disturbed areas with native species.
- Regular control work is also required to keep access tracks open and reduce the fire hazard around infrastructure such as the bird hide.
- Seek support for and participation in, the pest plant control program from local interest groups and neighbours.
- Investigate the impact of pest animals on native animals and if necessary implement a co-ordinated control program in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

3.5 Fire management

Current situation

Fire management is core business for QPWS to protect life and property, mitigate bushfires and maintain natural diversity in accordance with the NCA; *Forestry Act 1959* (Qld) and the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* (Qld) for the control and prevention of fires. QPWS works cooperatively with First Nations Peoples, state and local government agencies, Area Fire Management Groups and rural fire brigades, adjoining landholders, and local communities to manage fire across the landscape.

The park and surrounding areas were burnt by an intense fire in October 1994 and most of the park was burnt again in 1997. Arson has been responsible for frequent fires in the past. These fires have altered the vegetation communities creating a general lack of diversity in the mid and understorey where blady grass and black wattle dominate.

The draft fire management plan for Bribie Island's protected areas recommends a fire free period for the conservation park of 8-10 years.

Desired outcomes

- To promote the ecological diversity of communities that are ecologically fire-adapted and to lower fuel levels to reduce the incidence and intensity of bushfires.
- To protect to the highest possible extent, life and property, park infrastructure and neighbouring properties from the effect of fire.

Proposed policies, guidelines and actions

- Revise the draft fire management plan in consultation with local government and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services to include fuel reduction zones, mosaic burning, bushfire suppression strategies and the ecological requirements of fire sensitive species and ecosystems.

3.6 First Nations cultural heritage

Current situation

The park lies within Kabi Kabi Country and the Kabi Kabi people have managed this land for thousands of generations. In recognition of their cultural and spiritual values, DETSI actively seeks their guidance for representing, managing and looking after their culture, cultural heritage and traditional Country.

Kabi Kabi First Nation Traditional Owners have an active Native Title claim (QUD20/2019) registered from 8th February 2019. No determination has been made for this application at the time of publication of this statement.

Two shell middens are protected within the park.

The conservation park is closely associated with the landing of Matthew Flinders in 1799 and the first documented contact between First Nations people and Europeans in southern Queensland.

Desired outcomes

- To involve the Kabi Kabi people in the management of the park.
- Sites of cultural heritage significance are protected and the historical significance of Flinders' landing at South Point is recognised.

Proposed policies, guidelines and actions

- The interests of the Kabi Kabi people will be identified and they will be provided opportunity to participate in the planning and management of the park.
- Initiate a monitoring program to ensure that the shell middens are being adequately protected.
- Liaise with the Kabi Kabi First Nation people and historical society regarding the management of cultural heritage values within the conservation park.

3.7 Recreation and tourism

Current situation

QPWS seeks a responsible balance between the conservation for natural and cultural values and providing sustainable nature-based experiences in accordance with the NCA, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld) and government policies and procedures. Permitted commercial tour activities, agreements and events are administered in accordance with the NCA and other relevant legislation. QPWS will identify, assess and manage hazards to visitor safety in accordance with relevant safety obligations.

The conservation park is a popular recreational venue for both residents and visitors to Bribie Island. Improved maintenance of facilities and access tracks will enhance the appeal of the park.

The boundaries of the park are not readily identifiable to visitors.

Camping opportunities are adequately provided for elsewhere on Bribie Island.

Desired outcomes

- The park will be a safe and enjoyable place for people to visit.
- Nature-based recreational opportunities are provided on a day use basis.

Proposed policies, guidelines and actions

- Clearly define and regularly maintain the pedestrian access points into the park.
- Redesign the Red Beach Road carpark and day use area and prevent vehicular access beyond the carpark, except for that required for commercial fishing purposes.
- Replace dune fencing at Red Beach and delineate pedestrian access across the dune system.
- Install boundary signs to indicate the extent of the park and give it a clearer public identity.

- Camping will not be permitted.

3.8 Education and interpretation

Current situation

The park is currently used by local schools for environmental education programs. The natural and cultural values of the park provide a broad range of educational and interpretive opportunities.

Desired outcomes

- The protection of natural and cultural values will be improved through greater public appreciation of the area.

Proposed policies, guidelines and actions

- Encourage nature-based educational use of the park. Identify appropriate cultural educational opportunities in consultation with Kabi Kabi First Nation people.
- Develop a public contact plan, including interpretive signs at access points and the bird hide.

3.9 Plan implementation and monitoring

Current situation

A trusteeship agreement for the management of Buckleys Hole Conservation park is in the process of being developed by Moreton Bay Regional Council and the Department of Environment and Science. This agreement will form the basis for directing the implementation of the plan.

Desired outcomes

- Effective implementation of the management plan.

Proposed policies, guidelines and actions

- Day-to-day management of infrastructure, introduced plants and animals and visitor use will be the responsibility of Moreton Bay Regional Council.
- The monitoring of natural and cultural resources, fire planning and approval proposed facilities and interpretive material will be the responsibility of the Department of Environment and Science.
- Joint responsibility will be taken for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the implementation of the fire management program.

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.2.5	*Corymbia intermedia* +/- *Lophostemon confertus* +/- *Banksia* spp. +/- *Callitris columellaris* open forest on beach ridges usually in southern half of bioregion.	Of concern

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	*Nature Conservation Act 1992* status	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)* status
Plants			
Tecomanthe hillii	Fraser Island creeper	Near threatened	-
Hydrilla verticillata	hydrilla	Special least concern	-
Nymphoides indica	water snowflake	Special least concern	-
Animals			
Hirundapus caudacutus	white-throated needletail	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Esacus magnirostris	beach stone curlew	Vulnerable	-
Charadrius bicinctus	double-banded plover	Special least concern	-
Charadrius leschenaultii	greater sand plover	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Charadrius mongolus	lesser sand plover	Endangered	Endangered
Pluvialis fulva	Pacific golden plover	Special least concern	-
Cuculus optatus	oriental cuckoo	Special least concern	-
Hydroprogne caspia	Caspian tern	Special least concern	-
Sterna hirundo	common tern	Special least concern	-
Sterna sumatrana	black-naped tern	Special least concern	-
Sternula albifrons	little tern	Special least concern	-
Thalasseus bergii	crested tern	Special least concern	-
Motacilla tschutschensis	eastern yellow wagtail	Special least concern	-
Pandion haliaetus cristatus	eastern osprey	Special least concern	-
Ardenna tenuirostris	short-tailed shearwater	Special least concern	-
Actitis hypoleucos	common sandpiper	Special least concern	-
Arenaria interpres	ruddy turnstone	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Calidris acuminata	sharp-tailed sandpiper	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Calidris canutus	red knot	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Calidris ferruginea	curlew sandpiper	Critically endangered	Critically endangered
Calidris ruficollis	red-necked stint	Special least concern	-
Calidris tenuirostris	great knot	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's snipe	Vulnerable	Vulnerable

Scientific name	Common name	*Nature Conservation Act 1992* status	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)* status
Limosa lapponica baueri	Western Alaskan bar-tailed godwit	Endangered	Endangered
Limosa limosa	black-tailed godwit	Endangered	Endangered
Numenius madagascariensis	eastern curlew	Critically endangered	Critically endangered
Numenius phaeopus	whimbrel	Special least concern	-
Tringa brevipes	grey-tailed tattler	Special least concern	-
Tringa nebularia	common greenshank	Endangered	Endangered
Tringa stagnatilis	marsh sandpiper	Special least concern	-
Xenus cinereus	terek sandpiper	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Ninox strenua	powerful owl	Vulnerable	-
Plegadis falcinellus	glossy ibis	Special least concern	-

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	CMS	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
Hirundapus caudacutus	white-throated needletail		✓		✓
Charadrius leschenaultii	greater sand plover		✓		✓
Charadrius mongolus	lesser sand plover		✓		
Pluvialis fulva	Pacific golden plover				✓
Cuculus optatus	oriental cuckoo		✓	✓	✓
Hydroprogne caspia	Caspian tern		✓	✓	
Sterna hirundo	common tern		✓	✓	✓
Sterna sumatrana	black-naped tern		✓	✓	
Sternula albifrons	little tern		✓	✓	✓
Thalasseus bergii	crested tern			✓	
Motacilla tschutschensis	eastern yellow wagtail		✓	✓	✓
Ardenna tenuirostris	short-tailed shearwater			✓	
Actitis hypoleucos	common sandpiper				✓
Arenaria interpres	ruddy turnstone	✓	✓		
Calidris acuminata	sharp-tailed sandpiper			✓	✓
Calidris canutus	red knot	✓	✓	✓	✓
Calidris ferruginea	curlew sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓
Calidris ruficollis	red-necked stint		✓	✓	✓
Calidris tenuirostris	great knot		✓	✓	✓
Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's snipe		✓	✓	✓
Limosa lapponica baueri	Western Alaskan bar-tailed godwit		✓		
Limosa limosa	black-tailed godwit		✓		✓

Scientific name	Common name	CMS	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
Numenius madagascariensis	eastern curlew		✓		✓
Numenius phaeopus	whimbrel		✓	✓	✓
Tringa brevipes	grey-tailed tattler		✓	✓	✓
Tringa nebularia	common greenshank		✓	✓	✓
Tringa stagnatilis	marsh sandpiper		✓		✓
Xenus cinereus	terek sandpiper		✓		✓

CMS – Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (Bonn Convention)

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement