

Boat Mountain Conservation Parks 1 & 2 and Jack Smith Scrub 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.

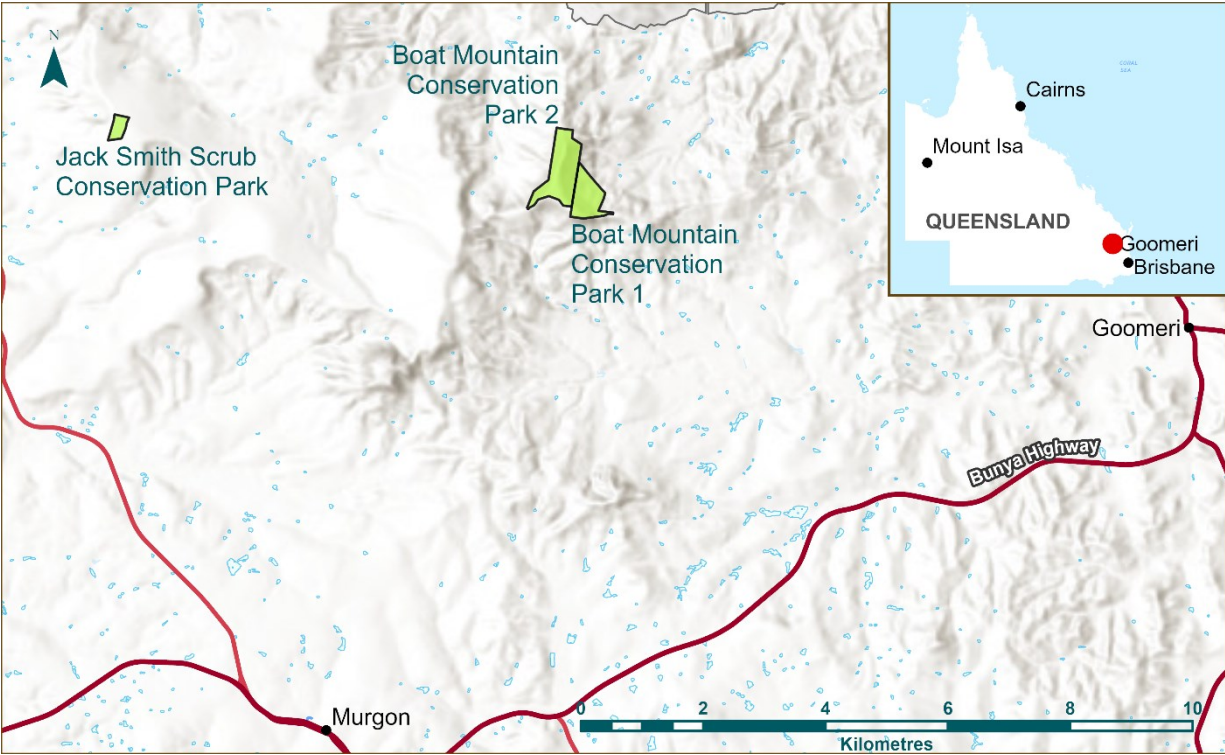


Figure 1. Locality of Boat Mountain Conservation Parks 1 & 2 and Jack Smith Scrub Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Boat Mountain Conservation Parks 1 & 2 and Jack Smith Scrub Conservation Park

Park size	Boat Mountain Conservation Park 1	49.9 ha
	Boat Mountain Conservation Park 2	29.8 ha
	Jack Smith Scrub Conservation Park	7.8 ha
Bioregion	South Eastern Queensland	
QPWS region	South West	
Local government area	South Burnett and Gympie regional councils	
State electorate	Nanango	
Relevant legislation	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth) (EPBC)	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> (NCA)	

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 	

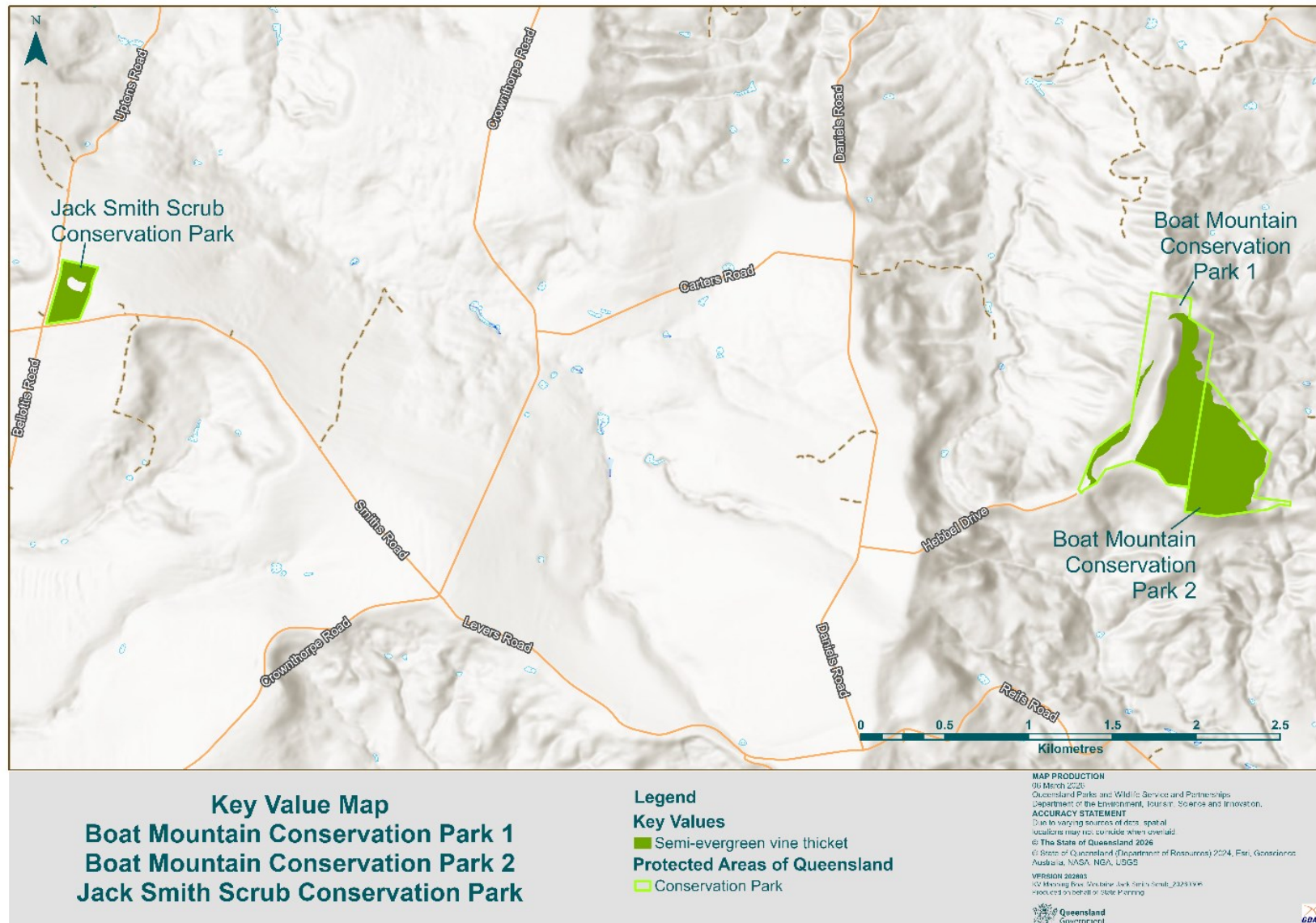


Figure 2. Boat Mountain Conservation Parks 1 & 2 and Jack Smith Scrub Conservation Park key values

3.1 Semi-evergreen vine thickets

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
Significant ecosystems (terrestrial)	Semi-evergreen vine thickets (SEVT) are areas of high floristic richness. Ecotones between vine forest and open forest are especially diverse. Significant species recorded on estate include the endangered rib-fruited malletwood <i>Rhodamnia dumicola</i>, vulnerable <i>Denhamia parvifolia</i> and vulnerable black-breasted button-quail <i>Turnix melanogaster</i>. SEVT has been extensively cleared for agriculture resulting in fragmentation and small remnant sizes. Remnants less than 10 ha in size are uncommon. Ongoing threats include clearing, weed invasion and bushfire incursions. Within this aggregation, SEVT includes the following Regional Ecosystems (REs): 12.8.21 Semi-evergreen vine thicket with <i>Brachychiton rupestris</i> on Cainozoic igneous rocks, endangered under the NCA. In 2021 3,000 ha of a pre-clearing extent of 23,000 ha remained. Agency threshold requirements cannot be met. RE 12.8.21 is a co-dominant, 50/50, with RE 12.8.13 Araucarian complex microphyll vine forest on Cainozoic igneous rocks (BVG 5a) within one polygon. RE 12.8.13 is of concern (NCA) and critically endangered (EPBC). For RE 12.8.13, in 2019 there was 19% of pre-clear extent with approximately 68% of remnant outside the protected area estate. Agency threshold requirements cannot be met. RE 12.8.13 is not listed as a KV as it is part of this RE polygon and not able to be mapped separately. 12.5.13c Low microphyll vine forest and semi-evergreen vine thicket +/- <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> on remnant Tertiary surfaces especially laterised basalt. RE 12.5.13c is endangered under the NCA and has low representation in protected area estate, with 94% of remnant unprotected. This aggregation contributes 7.70% of protected area estate remnant with an average ranking of 5/13. These smaller remnants have high value, including as refuges and stepping stones across a fragmented landscape. In addition, RE 12.5.13c provides habitat for recorded threatened species including the endangered rib-fruited malletwood <i>Rhodamnia dumicola</i> and the vulnerable <i>Denhamia parvifolia</i>. Agency threshold requirements cannot be met. The known distribution of <i>Denhamia parvifolia</i> is Eidsvold to Chinchilla and east of Kingaroy. A survey in 1997 found seven sites with a total of 23 plants. Jack Smith Scrub Conservation Park is one place where this species can be found. The above REs are within BVG 7a: Semi-evergreen vine thickets on wide range of substrates. BVG 7a provides habitat for a diverse range of plants and animals such as <i>Alectryon ramiflorus</i> and <i>Cossinia australis</i>. In 2021, 38.8% of BVG 7a pre-clearing remained.						

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
Desired outcome							
Semi-evergreen vine thickets will be managed to support ecologically functioning ecosystems.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
Bushfire	Natural system modifications	Bushfire alters vegetation structure and composition, impacting on the health and survival of SEVT.	Primary	Very high
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Ecosystem-changing pest plants such as cat's claw <i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i> , coral berry <i>Rivina humilis</i> and Madagascar periwinkle <i>Catharanthus roseus</i> alter vegetation structure and species composition, impacting on the health and survival of SEVT.	Secondary	High
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Invasive pest plants such as lantana <i>Lantana camara</i> displace native plants and increase frequency and intensity of bushfires, altering vegetation structure and species composition and impacting on the health and survival of SEVT.	Other	Medium
Changes in habitat	Climate change and severe weather	Effects of climate change such as drought and extreme temperatures alter vegetation structure and species composition and exacerbate the bushfire threat, impacting on the health and survival of SEVT.	Other	Medium
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Invasive high biomass grasses such as Johnson grass <i>Sorghum halepense</i> and giant rat's tail grass <i>Sporobolus</i> spp. displace native species and increase bushfires, impacting on the health and survival of SEVT.	Other	Low
Introduced animals	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Invasive pest animals such as pigs <i>Sus scrofa</i> and deer <i>Cervus</i> spp. alter vegetation structure and species composition and increase compaction and erosion, impacting on the health and survival of SEVT.	Other	Low
Introduced animals	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Predation by invasive pest animals such as cats <i>Felis catus</i> and foxes <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> reduce wildlife populations, impacting on the health of SEVT.	Other	Low

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Minimise impacts of bushfire on SEVT through the application of ecologically aligned planned burns in adjacent fire-adapted vegetation communities for Boat Mountain Conservation Parks 1 & 2.	2
Minimise impacts of bushfire on SEVT through yearly engagement with adjoining landholders to maintain fire lines and foster bushfire response collaboration for Jack Smith Scrub Conservation Park.	2
Reduce impacts of high biomass grasses such as Johnson grass <i>Sorghum halepense</i> and giant rat's tail grass <i>Sporobolus</i> spp. on SEVT.	3
Reduce impacts of invasive pest plants such as lantana <i>Lantana camara</i> on SEVT.	3
Reduce impacts of ecosystem-changing invasive pest plants such as cat's claw <i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i> , coral berry <i>Rivina humilis</i> and Madagascar periwinkle <i>Catharanthus roseus</i> on SEVT.	3
Reduce impacts of invasive pest animals such as pigs <i>Sus scrofa</i> and deer <i>Cervus</i> spp. on SEVT.	3
Manage impacts of climate change on SEVT through pest and fire management.	3
Reduce impacts of invasive pest animals such as cats <i>Felis catus</i> and foxes <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> on SEVT.	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.

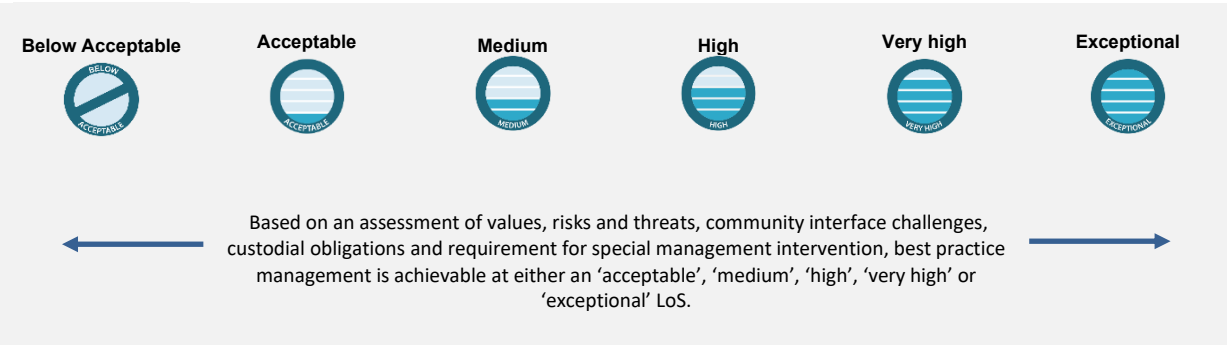


Figure 3. Description of LoS icons

4.1 Management directions

(Where the desired level of service differs across the three parks, the following park codes will be used – BMCP 1, BMCP 2, JSSCP)

Management theme	Current	Desired	Strategic management direction	Priority (1–5) *
Fire management		BMCP 2 	Improve engagement with partners, including First Nations people, in fire management planning and implementation.	1
			Maintain a low potential for an adverse bushfire moving off or onto the aggregation through ecologically aligned planned burns in fire-adapted communities and maintenance of fire infrastructure.	1
		BMCP 1 & JSSCP 	Maintain collaboration with stakeholders such as QFD and neighbours to support a shared responsibility approach to fire management.	2
			Maintain staff capability, such as through training, skills competency maintenance and access to ecological knowledge of subject matter experts.	3
Pest management			Maintain staff capacity to implement pest management activities through appropriate staffing levels.	2
			Maintain knowledge of current and emergent pests through health checks and monitoring.	3
			Maintain focus on biosecurity through management planning.	3
			Maintain engagement with stakeholders and partners, including First Nations people, in pest management planning and implementation.	3
Natural values management			Maintain knowledge of natural values through training and health checks.	3
Historic cultural heritage management			Maintain current approach to post-contact cultural heritage.	5
Visitor management			Improve approach to visitor management by undertaking signage planning.	3
			Improve approach to visitor management by collaborating with the operational and asset teams to undertake an audit of visitor use facilities.	3
Community, partnerships and other interests			Maintain current approach to engagement and collaboration with internal and external stakeholders and partners.	4

Management theme	Current	Desired	Strategic management direction	Priority (1–5) *
Field management capability		BMCP 1  BMCP 2 & JSSCP 	Maintain current field management capability such as through training.	3
Operational planning and management support			Maintain current approach to operational planning and support.	4
			Maintain approach to park planning through the development of management planning documentation such as a Monitoring and Research Strategy.	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.