

Bouldercombe Gorge 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

The following figure and table (Figure 1, Table 1) provide an overview of information related to the Bouldercombe Gorge Conservation Park included in this resource information document, including its locality, legislative framework and applicable plans/agreements.

Bouldercombe Gorge Conservation Park is located approximately 26 kilometres south-west of Rockhampton, 3 kilometres south of the town of Bouldercombe, and 9 kilometres east of the town of Bajool. Access via public roads is limited.

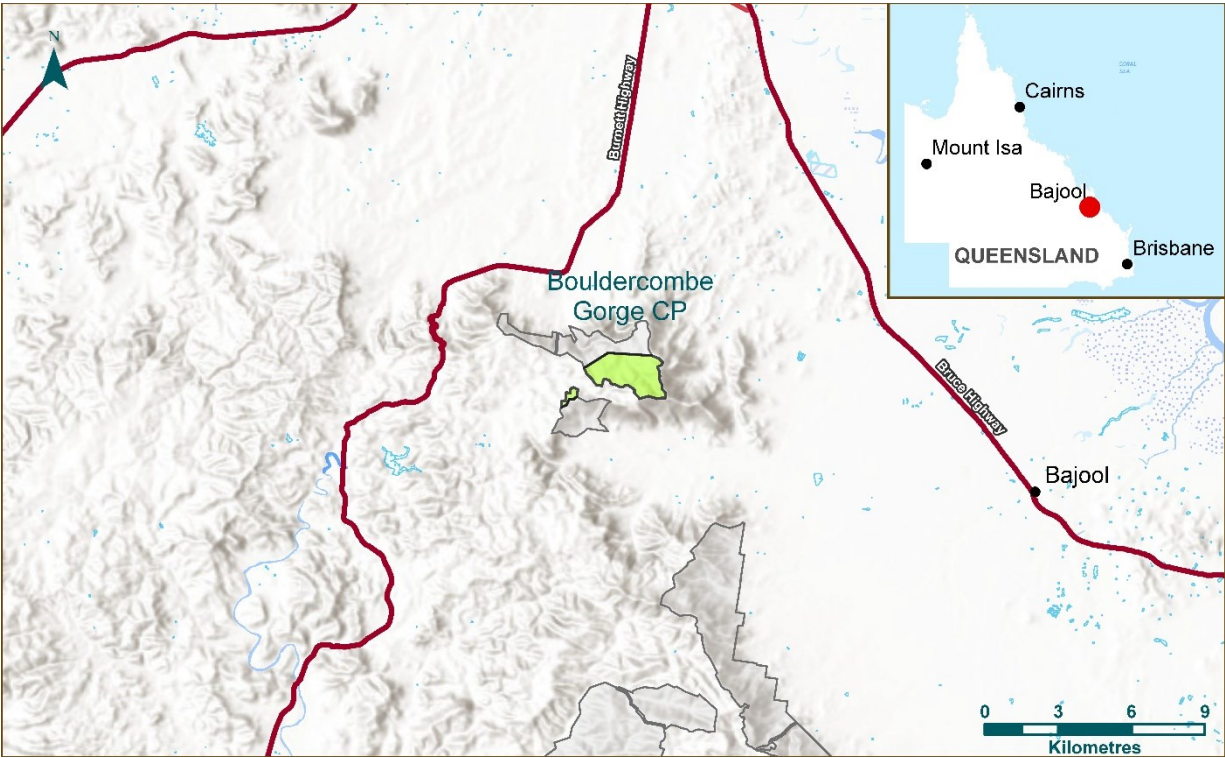


Figure 1. Locality of Bouldercombe Gorge Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Bouldercombe Gorge Conservation Park

Park size	Bouldercombe Gorge Conservation Park	389.6 ha
Bioregion	Brigalow Belt South	
QPWS region	Central	
Local government area	Rockhampton Regional Council	
State electorate	Mirani	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>	
	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth) (EPBC)	
	<i>Fire Services Act 1990</i>	
	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cwlth)	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> (NCA)	
	<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>	
Plans and agreements	National Multi-species Recovery Plan for the cycads 2007	
	National Recovery Plan for the Black-breasted Button-quail (<i>Turnix melanogaster</i>) 2022	
	National Recovery Plan for the 'Semi-evergreen thickets of the Brigalow Belt (North and South) and Nandewar Bioregions' Ecological Community	

3. Resource information

3.1 Darumbal People and Gaangalu Nation People

The large eastern section of the park lies within the lands of the Darumbal People. This section of the park is covered by a registered native title determination (QCD2016/006 – Darumbal People).

There are four Indigenous Land Use Agreements over this section of the park — Ergon Energy and Darumbal People for access and energy purposes (QI2016/006), Darumbal People Tenure Resolution for native title settlement purposes (QI2016/037), Darumbal People, Livingstone Shire Council and Rockhampton Regional Council for native title settlement purposes (QI2016/024), and Arrow Darumbal LNG Project for pipeline and infrastructure purposes (QI2012/059).

A registered native title claim by the Gaangalu Nation People exists over a small portion of the western section of the park (QC2012/009).

3.2 Key value information

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

Based on an evaluation, the values of Bouldercombe Gorge Conservation Park do not reach the thresholds required to be considered a key value. The park, however, continues to contribute to the state's comprehensive and representative reserve system, providing protection for biodiversity, ecosystem services and connectivity within the landscape.

Park management will focus on sustaining the natural, cultural, social and economic values that support its importance as a protected area, ensuring that management aligns with the legislative and custodial obligations in relation to these values.

3.3 Other values

3.3.1 Semi-evergreen vine thicket

The north-eastern corner of Bouldercombe Gorge Conservation Park is mapped as microphyll rainforest and semi-evergreen vine thicket (SEVT) as part of the regional ecosystem (RE) 11.11.5 (Microphyll vine forest +/- *Araucaria cunninghamii* on old sedimentary rocks with varying degrees of metamorphism and folding). A national recovery plan is in place for SEVT in the Brigalow Belt Bioregion. This RE is known to provide potential habitat for NCA listed species such as *Atalaya collina*, *Corchorus hygrophilus*, *Dansiea elliptica*, *Decaspermum struckoicum*, *Graptophyllum excelsum*, *Hernandia bivalvis*, *Macropteranthes leiocaulis*, *Macrozamia serpentina*, *Solanum sporadotrichum* and *Zieria verrucosa*.

The SEVT requires protection from bushfire.

3.4 Ecosystems and biodiversity

Four regional ecosystems (REs) are mapped within the park, with most of the park comprising open forest (RE 11.11.3 – *Blakella citriodora*, *Eucalyptus crebra* and *E. acmenoides* open forest on old sedimentary rocks with varying degrees of metamorphism and folding, Coastal Ranges).

The park protects areas of State biodiversity significance and State Habitat for endangered, vulnerable, and near threatened (EVNT) taxa. The park rates highly for tract size, condition and habitat for EVNT taxa but poorly for bioregional and subregional relative ecosystem size.

3.4.1 Open forest

Most of the park is mapped as woodland (RE 11.11.3 – *Blakella citriodora*, *Eucalyptus crebra* and *E. acmenoides* open forest on old sedimentary rocks with varying degrees of metamorphism and folding, Coastal Ranges). This RE has a biodiversity status of no concern at present and provides potential habitat for protected flora species *Cycas megacarpa*, *Cycas ophiolitica*, *Marsdenia brevifolia*, *Parsonsia larcomensis* and *Zieria actites*.

3.4.2 Woodland

Two woodland regional ecosystems are present within the park (RE 11.11.15 *Eucalyptus crebra* woodland to open woodland on deformed and metamorphosed sediments and interbedded volcanics; RE 11.3.26 *Eucalyptus moluccana* or *E. microcarpa* woodland to open forest on margins of alluvial plains). These are both listed as no concern at present under the biodiversity status, and the vegetation community RE 11.3.26 is known to provide suitable habitat for koala *Phascolarctos cinereus*.

3.4.3 Microphyll vine forest

A small section of the park is mapped as microphyll vine forest (RE 11.11.5 - Microphyll vine forest +/- *Araucaria cunninghamii* on old sedimentary rocks with varying degrees of metamorphism and folding). Semi-evergreen vine thicket (SEVT) is present in this RE. There is a national recovery plan for SEVT of the Brigalow Belt. This RE has a biodiversity status of no concern at present and provides potential habitat for the critically endangered flora species Mount Morgan myrtle *Decaspermum struckoiligum*.

3.5 Species

3.5.1 Native animals

Two conservation significant fauna species have been recorded on the Wetland/Info database. The black-breasted button quail *Turnix melanogaster* is listed as vulnerable under the NCA and the EPBC Act. There is a National Recovery Plan for the black-breasted button quail, with key threats listed as habitat loss due to clearing, habitat fragmentation and weed invasion, particularly cat's claw creeper *Dolichandra unguis-cati* (DCCEEW 2022). Foraging and breeding habitat for the black-breasted button quail includes microphyll vine forest, associated with RE 11.11.5.

The other recorded species is the glossy-black cockatoo (northern subspecies) *Calyptorhynchus lathami erebus*, listed as vulnerable under the NCA.

There are no fauna species records for the park in the department's WildNet Database.

3.5.2 Native plants

Twenty-five conservation significant flora species were recorded on the Wetland/Info and WildNet databases. This includes Mount Morgan myrtle *Decaspermum struckoiligum*, listed as critically endangered under both the NCA and the EPBC Act. This species is known from a very restricted range in Struck Oil (near Mount Morgan), with species recorded just outside of the park. Key threats to the species include wildfire incursion and myrtle rust.

Two flora species listed as endangered under the NCA and the EPBC Act were recorded, including *Cossinia australiana* and *Cycas megacarpa*. There is a National Multi-species Recovery Plan for the cycads, which includes *C. megacarpa* and specifically references the viable population within Bouldercombe Gorge Conservation Park (Queensland Herbarium 2007). Key threats include inappropriate fire regimes and loss of genetic variation.

See Appendix B for the full list of conservation significant flora.

3.6 Geophysical features

The park comprises multiple geological units. The eastern section includes three types: the Mount Warner Volcanics, dominated by mixed mafic and felsic volcanic rocks; the Raspberry Creek Formation, comprising mixed volcanic and sedimentary rocks; and the Mount Alma Formation, characterised by arenite and mudrock. Rudosols are mapped across this section. The western section contains small areas of intrusive rhyolite and mixed volcanic and sedimentary rocks, with Dermosols mapped in this area.

3.7 Partnerships

QPWS works with community stakeholders to support broad continuing management programs.

3.8 Fire

Fire management is core business for QPWS to protect life and property, mitigate wildfires and maintain natural diversity in accordance with the NCA and the *Fire Services Act 1990* for the control and prevention of fires.

3.9 Pests

3.9.1 Pest plants

Rubber vine *Cryptostegia grandiflora* and lantana *Lantana camara* are known to be on the park.

3.9.2 Pest animals

Feral pigs *Sus scrofa* are known to the park. Feral pigs may degrade riparian areas, spread invasive plants and predate upon native species.

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NPRSR, 2013, *Planned Burn Guidelines Brigalow Belt Bioregion of Queensland*, The Department of National Parks, Recreation Sports and Racing, Brisbane.

Queensland Herbarium, 2007, National Multi-species Recovery Plan for the cycads, *Cycas megacarpa*, *Cycas ophiolitica*, *Macrozamia cranei*, *Macrozamia lomandroides*, *Macrozamia pauli-guilielmi* and *Macrozamia platyrhachis* Report to Department of the Environment and Water Resources, Canberra. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Brisbane.

5. Appendices

Appendix A. Policy and management commitments

Gazettal details

Bouldercombe Gorge Regional Park 1 was formally gazetted as Bouldercombe Gorge Conservation Park in 2013 under the NCA.

No park specific purpose was identified as part of the gazettal.

Recovery plans and guides

- National Multi-species Recovery Plan for the cycads 2007
- National Recovery Plan for the Black-breasted Button-quail (*Turnix melanogaster*) 2022
- National Recovery Plan for the 'Semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt (North and South) and Nandewar Bioregions' ecological community 2010
- Planned Burn Guidelines Brigalow Belt Bioregion of Queensland 2013

Appendix B. Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	NC Act status	EPBC Act status
Animals			
<i>Turnix melanogaster</i>	black-breasted button quail	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami erebus</i>	glossy-black cockatoo (northern subspecies)	Vulnerable	
Plants			
<i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Cordyline murchisoniae</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Cycas megacarpa</i>		Endangered	Endangered
<i>Drynaria rigidula</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Livistona decora</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Macrozamia miquelii</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Microsorium punctatum</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Xanthorrhoea johnsonii</i>		Special least concern	-
<i>Xanthorrhoea latifolia</i> subsp. <i>latifolia</i>		Special least concern	-

Appendix C. Pests

Scientific name	Common name	Biosecurity Act 2014 status	Notes
Plants			
<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>	rubber vine	Category 3 Restricted Invasive	Impacts: • Smothers riparian vegetation • Forms dense thickets • May spread outward from waterways • Decreases biodiversity • Impedes native fauna movement
<i>Lantana camara</i>	lantana	Category 3 Restricted Invasive	Impacts: • Grows in wide variety of habitats • Forms dense thickets that impact fauna movement • Smothers native vegetation
Animals			
<i>Sus scrofa</i>	feral pig		Impacts: • Degrades wetlands resulting in reduced water quality, wetland extent and the abundance of endemic species • Direct predation of ground-nesting birds and other native fauna