

Mount Dumaresq 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 park including their locality, legislative framework and applicable plans/agreements.

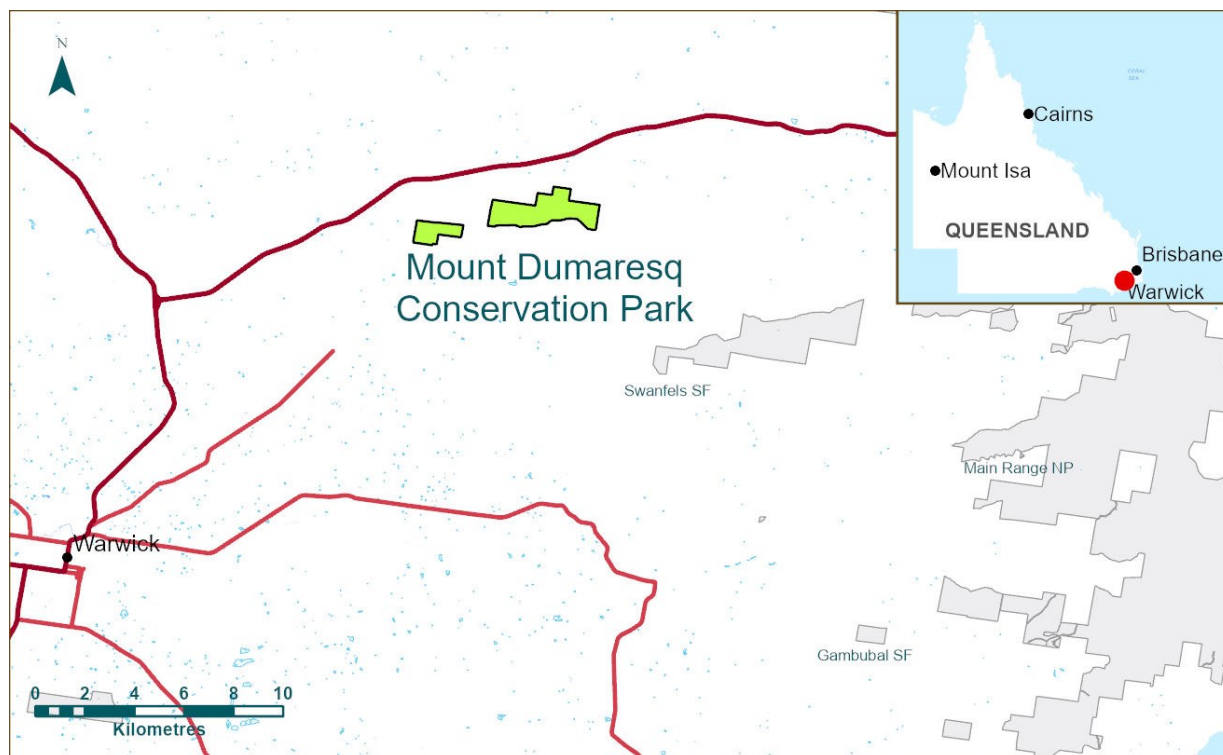


Figure 1. Locality of Mount Dumaesq Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Mount Dumaesq Conservation Park

Park size	Mount Dumaesq Conservation Park	506.6 ha
Bioregion	Brigalow Belt	
QPWS region	South West	
Local government area	Southern Downs Regional	
State electorate	Southern Downs	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>	
	<i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>	
	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>	
	<i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	
Plans and agreements	<i>Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals</i>	
	<i>National recovery plan for the "Semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt (North and South) and Nandewar Bioregions" ecological community</i>	
	<i>National Recovery Plan for the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby <i>Petrogale penicillata</i></i>	
	<i>National Recovery Plan for the Swift Parrot (<i>Lathamus discolor</i>)</i>	

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 	

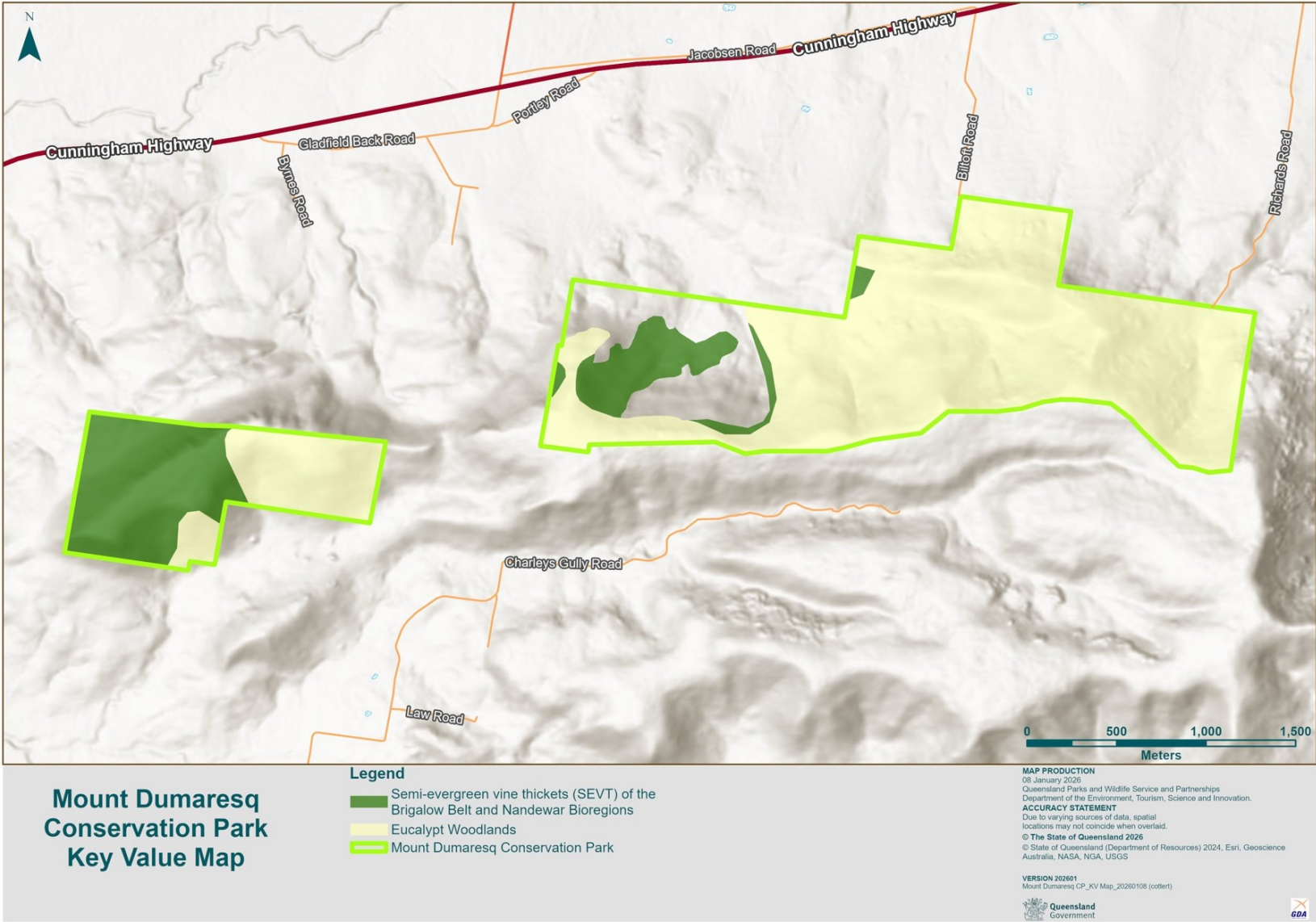


Figure 2 Mount Dumaesq Conservation Park key values

3.1 Semi-evergreen vine thickets (SEVT) of the Brigalow Belt and Nandewar Bioregions

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
Natural ecosystem	Regional ecosystem 11.8.3 is one of several regional ecosystems that form part of the 'Semi-evergreen vine thickets (SEVT) of the Brigalow Belt and Nandewar Bioregions', an ecological community that is listed as Endangered under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC). Mt Dumaresq maintains connectivity with other SEVT patches nearby, specifically those in the Main Range National Park. Extensive clearing for cropping, grazing and pasture development across Queensland has led to a significant decline in SEVT communities. Mount Dumaresq Conservation Park is one of only eight national parks/conservation parks that still support this regional ecosystem. Regional ecosystem 11.8.3: Semi-evergreen vine thicket which may have emergent <i>Acacia harpophylla</i>, <i>Casuarina cristata</i> and <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. Occurs on Cainozoic igneous rocks. Generally restricted to steeper, rocky hillsides. Covers 101.38 hectares (20.1 per cent) of the park. Remnant statistics: 0.41% on this protected area, 15.68% on other protected areas (includes nature refuges), and 97.60% is unprotected. Ranked 9 out of 15 protected areas (includes nature refuges). This regional ecosystem occurs on rocky slopes which are often less suitable for agricultural development, meaning communities can be refuges for native vegetation when surrounding areas are more disturbed. This ecosystem is fire sensitive and requires protection from wildfire and invasive plant species that can change fire regimes. Habitat/potential habitat for: - vulnerable stream clematis, <i>Clematis fawcettii</i> - vulnerable brush-tailed rock-wallaby <i>Petrogale penicillata</i> (also vulnerable under EPBC) - vulnerable brush sophora <i>Sophora fraseri</i> - near threatened gorge laurel <i>Cryptocarya floydii</i> - near threatened myrtle-leaf mistletoe <i>Muellerina myrtifolia</i>	Good with some concern 	Inferred 	Deteriorating 	Inferred 	Good with some concern 	Good 
Desired outcome The semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt and Nandewar Bioregions are healthy, resilient, protected and effectively managed, supporting thriving biodiversity, sustaining natural processes, and providing long-term viable habitats for fauna species.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	White moth vine <i>Araujia sericifera</i> smothers native plants with thick, tangled growth. Brazilian nightshade <i>Solanum seaforthianum</i> is a major invasive species in the area. Many areas in the region (including the park) have been invaded by exotic <i>Latana camara</i> and pasture grasses. These exotic weed species provide increased fuel loads which lead to increased bushfire risk and damage to the tree layer. Pasture weed <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>, crofton weed <i>Ageratina adenophora</i>, Madeira vine <i>Andredera cordifolia</i> and balloon cotton <i>Gomphocarpus physocarpus</i> occur within a five kilometre radius of park and have the potential to encroach into the park if not managed properly.	Secondary	High
Bushfire	Natural system modifications	This vegetation is fire sensitive and not adapted to frequent fires. The ecosystem requires protection from fire. Bushfires can be caused by lightning strike and escaped burns entering the park from surrounding agricultural areas.	Primary	High

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Reduce impacts of priority pest plant species including, white moth vine <i>Araujia sericifera</i> , <i>Lantana camara</i> , <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> , crofton weed <i>Ageratina adenophora</i> , Madeira vine <i>Andredera cordifolia</i> , cotton bush species <i>Gomphocarpus physocarpus</i> and <i>Asclepias curassavica</i> , and Brazilian nightshade <i>Solanum seaforthianum</i> through coordinated pest programs.	3
Maintain healthy and resilient SEVT through collaborative fire management with park neighbours and ecologically aligned fire management in adjacent ecological communities on estate.	3

Key value priority: 1 – Critical, 2 – Very high, 3 – High, 4 – Moderate, 5 – Desirable (see Appendix 1)

3.2 Eucalypt woodlands

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
Natural ecosystem	The area holds some of the best white box <i>Eucalyptus albens</i> stands within South East Queensland (Paul Grimshaw pers comms). White box is an important food tree for the endangered regent honeyeater <i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>, which is a migratory and partially nomadic species to South East Queensland where it is known to breed. Large areas of good conditioned white box and ironbark species are important to this bird's survival. Regional ecosystem 11.8.8: <i>Eucalyptus albens</i>, <i>E. crebra</i> woodland on Cainozoic igneous rock. Covers 351.55 hectares (69.38 per cent) of the park and has no concern at present biodiversity status. Potential habitat for <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> (NCA) listed species <i>Discaria pubescens</i>, <i>Picris evae</i>, <i>Prasophyllum incompositum</i> and <i>Thesium australe</i>, all of which occur within 25 kilometres of the park. Also known to provide suitable habitat for koalas <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>, although none have been identified at the park. Remnant statistics: 1% on this protected area, 1.4% on other protected areas (including nature refuges), and 97.6% is unprotected. Ranked 1 out of 11 protected areas (includes nature refuges). Habitat/potential habitat for: - endangered spotted-tailed quoll (southern subspecies) <i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i> (also endangered under EPBC) - endangered swift parrot <i>Lathamus discolor</i> - vulnerable austral cornflower <i>Leuzea australis</i> (also vulnerable under EPBC) - vulnerable hawkweed <i>Picris evae</i> (also vulnerable under EPBC) - near threatened Bailey's cypress <i>Callitris baileyi</i>	Good with some concern 	Inferred 	Stable 	Inferred 	Good with some concern 	Good 
Desired outcome The eucalypt woodlands are healthy, resilient, protected and effectively managed, supporting thriving biodiversity, sustaining natural processes, and providing long-term viable habitats for fauna species.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	White moth vine <i>Araujia sericifera</i> smothers native plants with thick, tangled growth. Brazilian nightshade <i>Solanum seaforthianum</i> is a major invasive species in the area. Many areas in the region (including the park) have been invaded by exotic <i>Latana camara</i> and pasture grasses. These exotic weed species provide increased fuel loads which lead to increased bushfire risk and damage to the tree layer. Pasture weed <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>, crofton weed <i>Ageratina adenophora</i>, Madeira vine <i>Anredera cordifolia</i> and balloon cotton <i>Gomphocarpus physocarpus</i> occur within a five kilometre radius of park and have the potential to encroach into the park if not managed properly. Devil's rope cactus <i>Cylindropuntia imbricata</i> has been identified in the rural areas surrounding the park. Dense infestations compete with native vegetation.	Secondary	Medium
Introduced animals	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Pest animals such as foxes, pigs, deer and cats have been identified in rural areas surrounding the park. Can injure people and wildlife.	Other	High

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Reduce impacts of priority pest plant species including, devil's rope cactus <i>Cylindropuntia imbricata</i> , velvety tree pear <i>Opuntia tomentosa</i> , white moth vine <i>Araujia sericifera</i> , <i>Lantana camara</i> , <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> , crofton weed <i>Ageratina adenophora</i> , Madeira vine <i>Anredera cordifolia</i> , cotton bush species <i>Gomphocarpus physocarpus</i> and <i>Asclepias curassavica</i> , pepper tree <i>Schinus molle</i> var. <i>areira</i> , ornamental asparagus <i>Asparagus africanus</i> and Brazilian nightshade <i>Solanum seaforthianum</i> through coordinated pest programs.	3
Reduce impacts of feral pigs <i>Sus scrofa</i> through coordinated pest programs.	3
Reduce impacts of red foxes <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> through coordinated pest programs.	3
Reduce impacts of feral deer species through coordinated pest programs.	4
Reduce impacts of feral cats <i>Felis catus</i> through coordinated pest programs.	3

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.

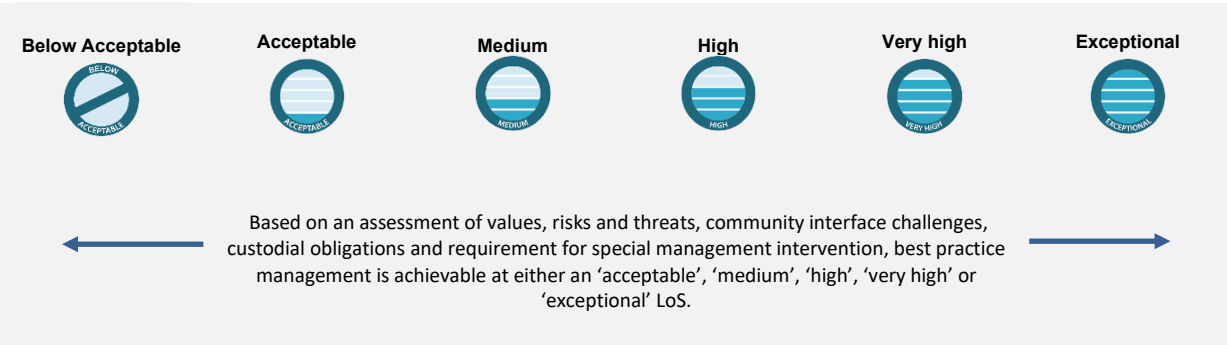


Figure 3. Description of LoS icons

4.1 Management directions

Management theme	Current	Desired	Strategic management direction	Priority (1–5) *
Fire management			Maintain current approach to fire management based on broad regional ecosystems mapping, guided by the planned burn guidelines.	3
			Improve the current knowledge and understanding of fire management requirements to improve and maintain the condition of natural key values.	3
			Maintain current level of consultation with neighbours, fire agencies and relevant stakeholders to support a shared responsibility approach to fire management.	3
			Maintain current priority of fire management to protect life and property and improve the condition of identified key values.	3
			Improve current approach to fire management through the development of a fire strategy in FLAME.	3
			Improve QPWS staff fire management capacity and capability through enhanced accessibility to facilitate fire management operations.	3
Pest management			Maintain contemporary knowledge of pest species that might threaten key values.	4
			Improve knowledge and understanding of current and emerging weeds and their distribution, extent and impacts on natural values.	3
			Improve knowledge of distribution, extent and impacts of vertebrate pests, such as pigs, foxes, deer and cats on natural key values.	3
			Improve current approach to pest management through collaboration with landholders to manage vertebrate pest species in the landscape.	3
			Improve the priority for pest management through increased operational capacity to target identified pest threats in key values.	3
			Improve current approach to pest management by working with neighbours to coordinate cross-landscape pest management on protected area margins and interface.	3
			Improve QPWS staff pest management capacity and capability through enhanced accessibility to facilitate pest management operations.	3
Natural values management			Maintain contemporary knowledge of natural values in the park and their management requirements, particularly for the improvement of key value health.	4
			Improve natural values management in the park by incorporating scientific research and monitoring into on-ground management.	3
			Improve knowledge of the condition of the vegetation communities in the park through the collation of historical vegetation monitoring and the management of the health check program.	3
			Improve knowledge of significant species populations in the park that are listed under the NCA as endangered, near threatened or vulnerable and that have been recorded in the protected area, such as brush-tailed rock-wallaby, to inform future management	3
			Improve consultation with centric units, research institutions and local community natural resource groups to support Mount Dumaesq Conservation Park natural values management and develop monitoring programs for key values.	3
			Increase the management effort, including greater planning support, to improve the condition of key and other values in Mount Dumaesq Conservation Park.	3

Management theme	Current	Desired	Strategic management direction	Priority (1–5) *
			Improve natural values management capacity and capability within Mount Dumaesq CP through enhanced accessibility to facilitate management operations.	3
Post-contact cultural heritage management			Maintain a contemporary knowledge of the park's post-contact cultural heritage and management requirements.	4
			Maintain the current level of consultation with heritage groups and stakeholders, and QPWS&P Principal Heritage Officer to guide post-contact cultural heritage management.	4
			Maintain the current approach for historic structure management.	4
Visitor management			Maintain contemporary knowledge of visitor use at Mount Dumaesq Conservation Park.	4
			Maintain current level of engagement with stakeholders through interpretation of park values via the agency website.	4
			Maintain current approach to visitor management including facilities and visitor safety.	4
Community, partnerships and other interests			Maintain contemporary knowledge of all stakeholders and management requirements.	4
			Maintain current consultation and engagement with key stakeholders.	4
			Maintain relationship and communication with Githabul People for park management as required.	4
			Maintain current approach to management of partnerships, community and other interests.	4
			Maintain current approach to the management of Githabul People's identified cultural heritage areas.	4
Field management capability			Maintain a contemporary knowledge base to deliver required management.	4
			Maintain current levels of consultation with regional support units regarding field management capacity.	4
			Improve field management capability through utilisation of available ranger positions within the management unit.	2
			Maintain operational capacity to actively manage the values of Mount Dumaesq Conservation Park.	4
			Maintain current site inspection regime.	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
			Maintain relationships with regional and centric support units to guide and support park management operations.	4
			Maintain levels of operational planning for key management priorities including fire, pest and key values management.	3

*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.