

Kurrimine Beach National Park

Incorporates Kurrimine Beach 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.

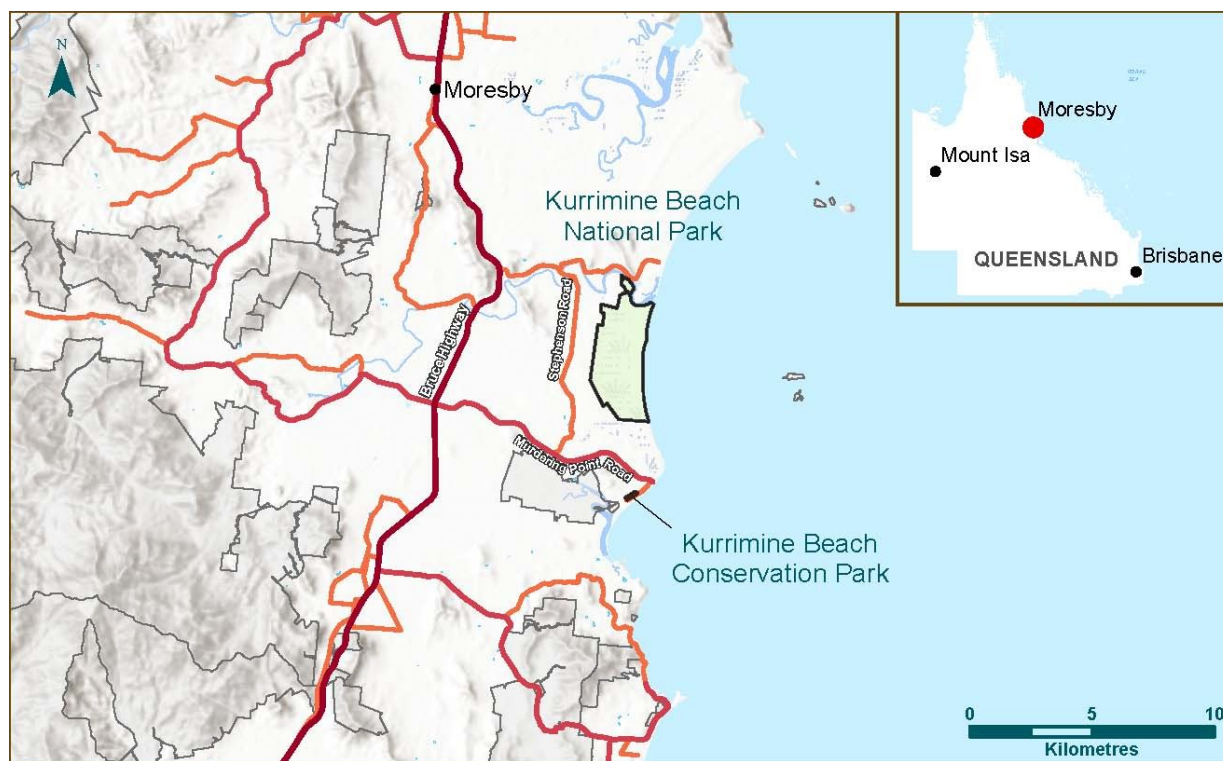


Figure 1. Locality of Kurrimine Beach National Park and Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Kurrimine Beach National Park and Conservation Park

Park size	Kurrimine Beach National Park	910.0 ha
	Kurrimine Beach Conservation Park	5.7 ha
Bioregion	Wet Tropics	
QPWS region	Northern	
Local government area	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	
State electorate	Hill	
Relevant legislation	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth) (EPBC)	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	
	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>	
	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cwlth)	

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. Kurrimine Beach National Park and Conservation Park key values

3.1 Swamp paperbark and sedge wetlands

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)	Melaleuca in seasonally inundated coastal areas and seasonal swamps (BVG 22a) Regional Ecosystem (RE) 7.2.9a in Kurrimine Beach National Park: <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> open forest to woodland and shrubland. Dune swales and swampy sandplains of beach origin. Palustrine. RE 7.2.9b in Kurrimine Beach National Park: Mixed sedgeland-shrubland complex with <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>. Perennially inundated peat soils. Palustrine. These endangered REs have substantial wetland values as part of the 'Cowley Beach' nationally important wetland and are among the most diverse and significant representations of <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> dominated forest on the wet tropics coastal plain (DCCEW 2004). The key value provides habitat for threatened fauna and flora, including the southern cassowary <i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i>, spectacled flying fox <i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>, estuarine crocodile <i>Crocodylus porosus</i>, ant-house plant <i>Myrmecodia beccarii</i> and the apollo jewel butterfly <i>Hypochrysops apollo apollo</i>.						
Desired outcome The condition of the swamp paperbark and sedge wetlands will be improved in the long term to 'Good' by reducing the impacts of introduced weeds and animals, preventing the spread of myrtle rust via human vectors, and improving the application of planned fire aligned to ecological requirements.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
Changed fire frequency or intensity	Natural system modifications	Late season, high intensity fires can damage or kill swamp paperbarks and associated epiphytes such as ant-house plants <i>Myrmecodia beccarii</i> . The underlying peat layer can also be burnt and damaged in drier months if swamp paperbark and sedge wetlands are subjected to fire when there is no standing water or waterlogging of the peat layer.	Primary	Medium
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	There are several ecosystem changing pest plant species that occur within the local region and have the potential to threaten swamp paperbark and sedge wetlands but are not currently known to occur in Kurrimine Beach National Park (e.g. pond apple <i>Annona glabra</i> and olive <i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>).	Secondary	Low
Introduced animals	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Feral pigs <i>Sus scrofa</i> may harbour and forage within coastal wetlands, particularly in drier months when water levels are lower. Feral pigs dig the soil, degrade habitats, and disturb and consume native plants and ground dwelling fauna. Pigs can also be a vector for weeds and pathogens.	Other	Low
Introduced diseases	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Myrtle rust <i>Austropuccinia psidii</i> occurs in the swamp paperbark forests and has the potential to result in forest dieback. No major diebacks have been observed to date.	Other	Low

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Prevent the establishment of new and emerging ecosystem changing weed species within the swamp paperbark and sedge wetlands.	3
Reduce the impacts of pest animals within swamp paperbark and sedge wetlands.	5
Prevent the human mediated spread of pathogens within swamp paperbark and sedge wetlands.	5
Maintain healthy and resilient swamp paperbark and sedge wetlands through planned fire management aligned to ecological requirements.	2

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

3.2 Littoral rainforest

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)	Rainforests on coastal dunes and sand masses (BVG 3a) RE 7.2.1a in Kurrimine Beach Conservation Park: Complex mesophyll vine forest in lowlands on beach sands, of the very wet rainfall zone. RE 7.2.1e in Kurrimine Beach National Park: Simple notophyll vine forest with <i>Syzygium angophoroides</i>, on sands of beach origin. Dune sands. Palustrine. These endangered REs have a strong association with the 'Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia', a critically endangered ecological community listed under the EPBC Act (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2008). The value provides habitat for threatened fauna and flora, including the southern cassowary <i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i>, spectacled flying fox <i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>, beach stone curlew <i>Esacus magnirostris</i>, <i>Gardenia actinocarpa</i> and <i>Arenga australasica</i>. Threatened marine turtles also nest in the littoral rainforest at Kurrimine Beach National Park. Trend note: The condition of the littoral rainforest in the national park has deteriorated in recent years due to multiple natural disturbance events.						
Desired outcome The condition of the littoral rainforest will be maintained in the long term as 'Good with some concern' by reducing the impacts of introduced weeds and animals, and mitigating the risk of inappropriate fire through the application of planned fire in adjoining fire adapted communities.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
Storms (cyclones)	Climate change and severe weather	Littoral rainforest exists in a naturally dynamic zone susceptible to storms, cyclones and abnormally high tides. These natural disturbance events can result in dune erosion, canopy loss, tree fall and widespread defoliation, leaving the rainforest vulnerable to weed invasion and fire incursion.	Primary	Medium
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	The main ecosystem changing pest species currently impacting the littoral rainforest are lantana <i>Lantana camara</i> , Singapore daisy <i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i> and guinea grass <i>Panicum maximum</i> . These weeds colonise disturbed areas, outcompete native plants and may change fire regimes.	Secondary	Low
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	There are several ecosystem changing pest plant species that occur within the local region and have the potential to threaten littoral rainforest but are not currently known to occur in either Kurrimine Beach National Park or Conservation Park (e.g. Siam weed <i>Chromolaena odorata</i>).	Other	Low
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Dumped garden plants and other invasive weed species are often found along the fringes of the conservation park. They compete with native plants and reduce the habitat quality. Ongoing control is important to reduce the risk of dispersal into other areas.	Other	Low
Introduced animals	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Feral pigs <i>Sus scrofa</i> may harbour and forage within littoral rainforest. Feral pigs dig the soil, degrade habitats, and disturb and consume native plants and ground dwelling fauna, as well as predating on marine turtle nests. Pigs can also be a vector for weeds and pathogens.	Other	Low
Changed fire frequency or intensity	Natural system modifications	While littoral rainforest is usually fire resistant, fires in dry conditions can damage or kill rainforest plants. Extreme fire weather and flammable weeds such as high biomass grasses increase the risk of fire incursion into littoral rainforest.	Other	Medium

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Prevent the establishment of new and emerging ecosystem changing pest plants within the littoral rainforest	3
Reduce impacts of existing ecosystem changing pest plants within littoral rainforest.	3
Reduce impacts of existing invasive pest plants within littoral rainforest.	4
Reduce the impacts of pest animals within littoral rainforest.	5
Prevent fire incursions into littoral rainforest by appropriate fire management in adjoining fire adapted communities.	3
Improve littoral rainforest condition by reducing non-climate stressors to improve climate change resilience.	5

*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.

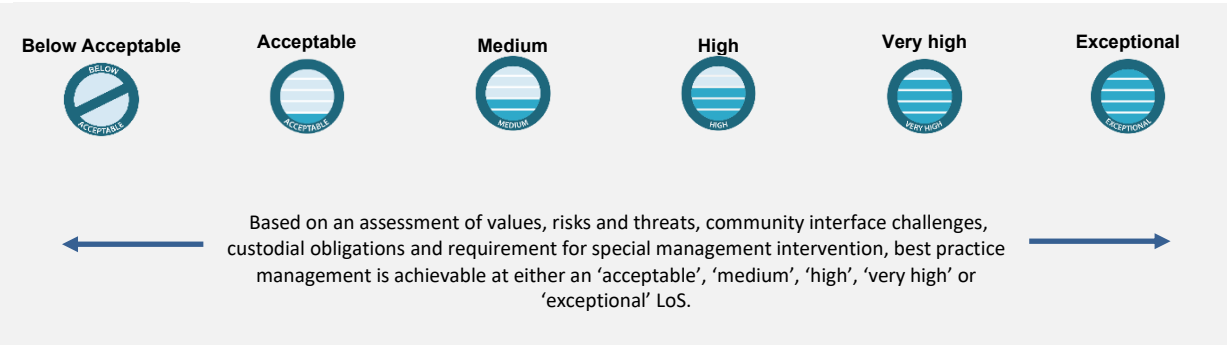


Figure 3. Description of LoS icons

4.1 Management directions

(Where the desired level of service differs between the national and conservation parks, they will be identified as NP or CP)

Management theme	Current	Desired	Strategic management direction	Priority (1–5) *
Fire management	NP 	NP 	Maintain current approach to engaging with stakeholders for cooperative fire operations and planning.	3
			Maintain annual burn programs in accordance with planned burn guidelines, ongoing fire history analysis and seasonal risk assessment.	2
			Improve fire monitoring program to inform and review fire management decisions and approach.	3
			Monitor and adapt management actions to reduce the impacts of climate change on key values and broad vegetation groups.	4
	CP 	CP 	Maintain current approach to fire management.	5
Pest management	NP 	NP 	Improve the current level of focus on pest management within Kurrimine Beach National Park.	3
			Improve the current level of knowledge of pest species and threats to values.	3
			Improve the current level of consultation and stakeholder engagement.	4
			Improve knowledge of pathogens and their impacts on key values.	5
	CP 	CP 	Maintain the current level of focus on pest management within Kurrimine Beach Conservation Park.	4
Natural values management	NP 	NP 	Maintain the current level of focus on protecting natural values within Kurrimine Beach National Park.	2
			Improve knowledge of significant species within Kurrimine Beach National Park.	4
			Engage with external researchers working in the park to improve knowledge of issues that may inform park management.	4
	CP 	CP 	Maintain the current level of focus on protecting natural values within Kurrimine Beach Conservation Park.	4

Management theme	Current	Desired	Strategic management direction	Priority (1–5) *
Post-contact cultural heritage management			Maintain ranger awareness and record potential historic sites and information if discovered during park management activities.	5
Visitor management	NP 	NP 	Maintain current approach to visitor management.	5
	CP 	CP 	Maintain the current visitor experience for the walking track, sitting area and signage for visitors.	3
Community, partnerships and other interests			Maintain engagement with Mamu and Mandubarra Land and Sea Ranger programs for the management of park values.	3
			Engage with external researchers working in Kurrimine National Park to improve knowledge of issues that may inform park management.	4
Field management capability			Maintain current staff resources dedicated to park management.	3
			Identify and explore opportunities to improve operational efficiencies to support the current capacity.	3
			Maintain the level of staff qualifications and expertise for response to wildfires within Kurrimine National Park, and delivery of fire and pest programs.	3
Operational planning and management support			Maintain current capacities and roles while identifying opportunities to improve efficiencies and functions.	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.