

Shoalwater Bay Conservation Park and Charon Point 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.

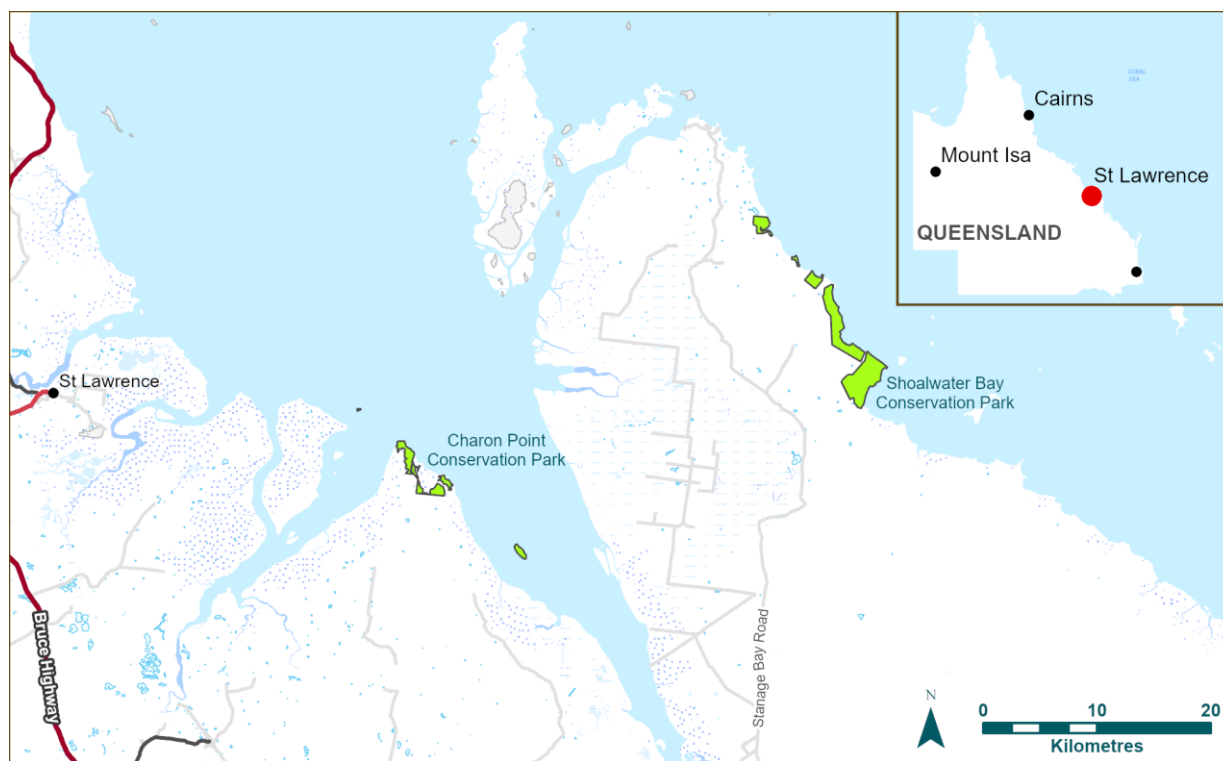


Figure 1. Locality of Shoalwater Bay Conservation Park and Charon Point Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Shoalwater Bay Conservation Park and Charon Point Conservation Park

Park size	Shoalwater Bay Conservation Park	1650 ha
	Charon Point Conservation Park	542 ha
Bioregion	Brigalow Belt North	
QPWS region	Central	
Local government area	Livingstone Shire Council	
State electorate	Mirani	
Relevant legislation	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	
	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>	
	<i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>	
Plans and agreements	<i>Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance)</i>	
	<i>Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia</i>	
	World Heritage Register – Great Barrier Reef	

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 	

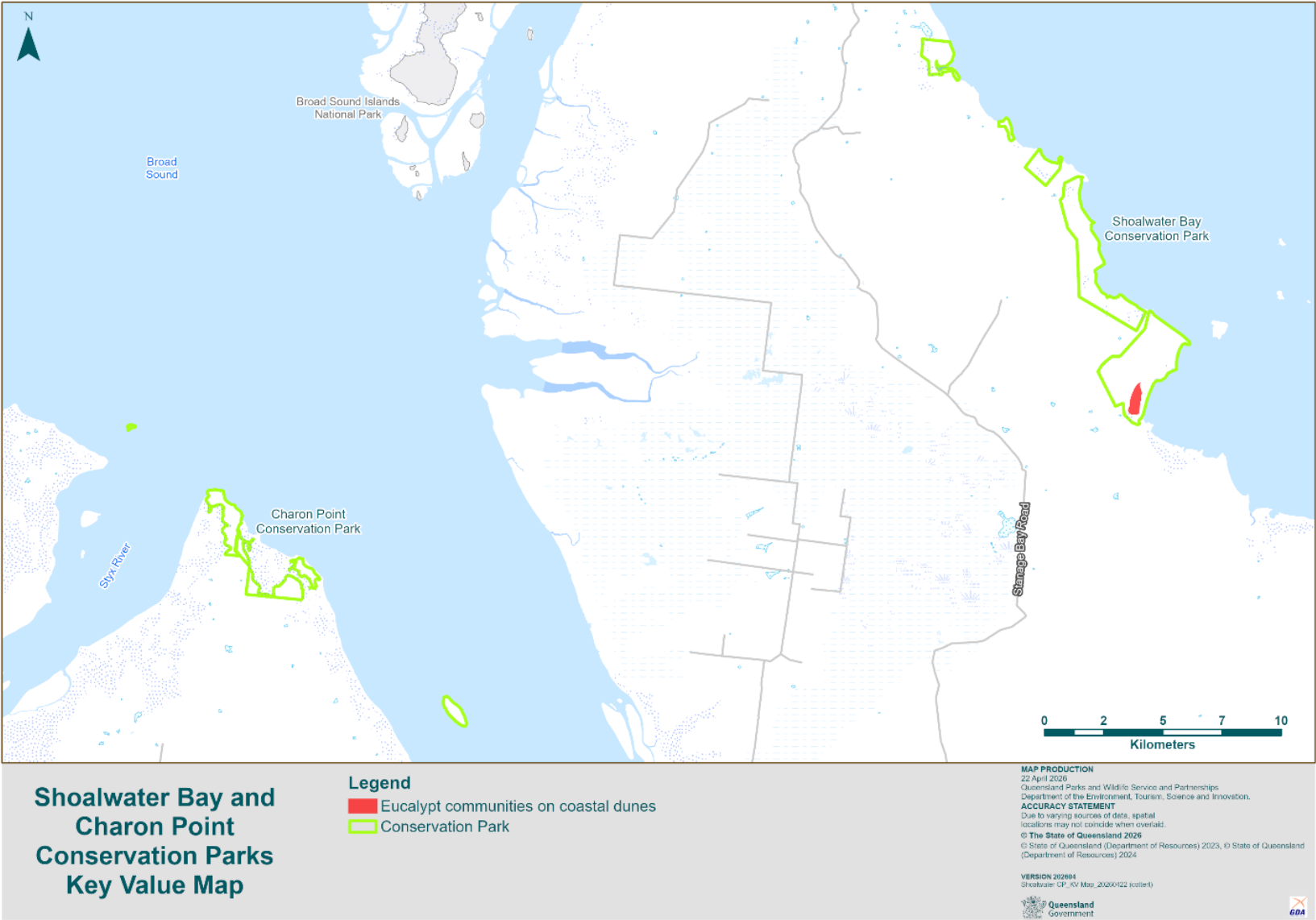


Figure 2. Shoalwater Bay Conservation Park key values

3.1 Eucalypt communities on coastal dunes

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)	Eucalyptus communities on coastal dunes play an important role because they provide habitat for wildlife and help stabilise the dunes against wind and water erosion. Shoalwater Bay contains the highest percentage of this regional ecosystem, which has of concern status, with 32%, and only 12% being found in other protected areas. Regional ecosystems BVG 28 11.2.1 <i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> woodland, with occasional <i>C. clarksoniana</i> and <i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i>. This ecosystem and key value only relate to Shoalwater Bay Conservation Park.						
Desired outcome Eucalypt communities on coastal dunes are managed to provide suitable and healthy habitat for the flora and fauna they support.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Lantana <i>Lantana camara</i> and rubber vine <i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i> are ecosystem changing plants that form dense thickets and outcompete other plants.	Primary	High
Introduced animals	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Feral cats and European foxes prey on wildlife in the eucalypt communities. Pigs disturb the soil, spreading weeds, and prey directly on turtle nests.	Secondary	Medium
Changed fire frequency or intensity	Natural system modifications	This isn't a fire-sensitive community. Too frequent or infrequent fires will change the community structure and reduce biodiversity.	Other	Medium

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Reduce the impact of lantana and rubber vine on eucalypt communities on coastal dunes.	4
Reduce the impact of introduced animals on eucalypt communities on coastal dunes.	5
Maintain healthy communities through achieving a fire mosaic through this community to promote different age classes in the grasses.	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.

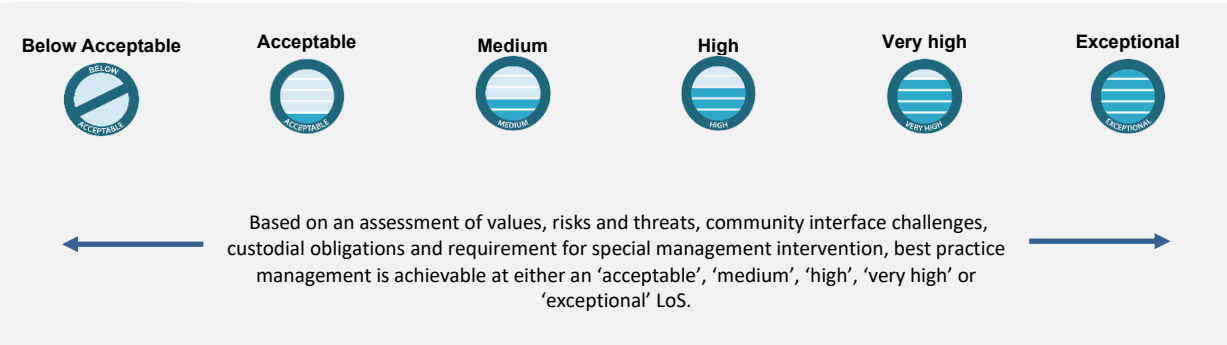


Figure 3. Description of LoS icons

4.1 Management directions

Management theme	Current	Desired	Strategic management direction	Priority (1–5) *
Fire management			Improve the current approach to fire management in key values areas.	3
Pest management			Improve the current approach to pest management in key values areas.	4
			Identify level of pest activity in significant turtle and shorebird habitat.	4
Natural values management			Maintain the current approach to natural values management.	4
Post-contact cultural heritage management			Maintain the current approach to post-contact cultural heritage management.	5
Visitor management			Maintain current approach to visitor management.	5
			Maintain limited beach driving.	5
Community, partnerships and other interests			Maintain the current approach to community, partnerships and other interests.	4
			Maintain good working relationships with Marine Parks and researchers to ensure any concerns for turtle nesting or shore birds are identified and Ramsar guidelines are being met.	4
Field management capability			Improve current approach to field management capability.	4
Operational planning and management support			Maintain the current approach to operational planning and management support.	5

*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.