

Coolloothin 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

Coolloothin Conservation Park is in South East Queensland, at the northern end of the Sunshine Coast and 125 kilometres north of Brisbane. Louis Bazzo Drive and McKinnon Drive run alongside the park.

The small town of Boreen is 3.5 kilometres north-east of the park at Boreen Point on Lake Cootharaba. Coolloothin Creek runs along the southern side of the park, discharging into the Noosa River, and from there into Lake Cootharaba.

The surrounding area includes freehold properties, Tewantin National Park, road reserves and Coolloothin Creek Nature Reserve.

The following figure and table (Figure 1, Table 1) provide an overview of information related to the park, including locality, legislative framework and applicable plans/agreements.

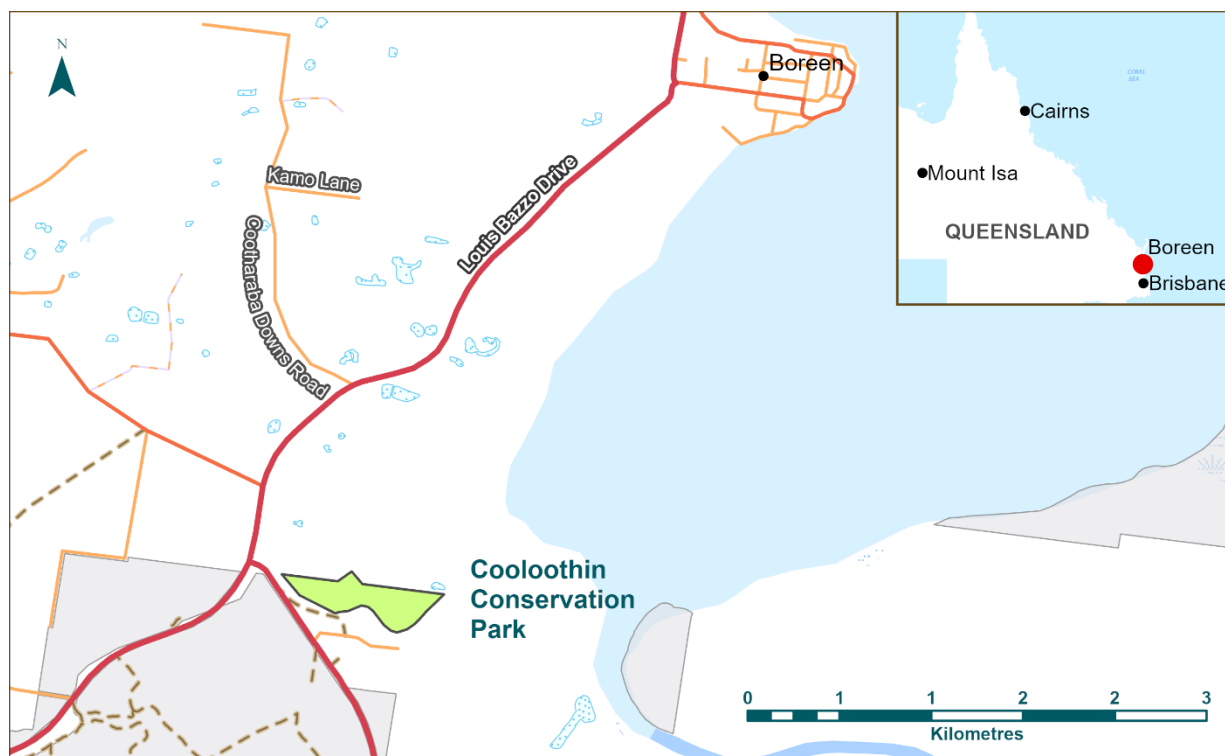


Figure 1. Locality of Coolloothin Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Coolloothin Conservation Park

Park size	Coolloothin Conservation Park	11.3 ha
Bioregion	South Eastern Queensland	
QPWS region	Coastal and Islands	
Local government area	Noosa Shire Council	
State electorate	Noosa	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>	
	<i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>	
	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth)	
	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cwlth)	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> (NCA)	
Plans and agreements	<i>Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia</i>	

3. Resource information

3.1 Kabi Kabi People

The Kabi Kabi People have traditional connection to the park.

A native title claim including the park and other areas was registered on 5 February 2019 and determined on 17 June 2024 (Tribunal Number QCD2024/002, Federal Court Number QUD20/2019). Native title is held by the Kabi Kabi People described in the determination, with the registered native title body corporate being the Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC. While there is an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) that incorporates other areas nearby, such as Tewantin National Park and Lake Cootharaba, there is no current ILUA for the park.

The Kabi Kabi People's cultural landscape covers a vast area along the Sunshine Coast north of Brisbane to the Gregory and Isis Rivers south of Bundaberg. For tens of thousands of years, Kabi Kabi Country has provided an abundance of resources, which has sustained the community and the practice of Kabi Kabi culture across many different ecosystems and landscapes. The cultural landscape contains tangible and intangible values that are interwoven with the ecological landscape. The health of culture is dependent on the health of the landscape, its forests, beaches and waterways.

The Kabi Kabi People continue to actively practise their customs and lore on Country. Continuing this connection to Country and ongoing use of cultural resources is of great importance to the Kabi Kabi People.

Kabi Kabi People, through co-stewardship park management with the QPWS, are building ways to care for Country together and share culture with visitors to ensure all values are protected for current and future generations. The Kabi Kabi People's rights, knowledge and expertise are considered in planning and day-to-day management activities. This engagement builds co-stewardship and increases the shared knowledge and respect for the cultural landscape.

3.2 Key value information

Based on an evaluation, the park's values 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.

3.3 Other values information

3.3.1 Wet eucalypt open forest

There are 6.6 hectares of wet eucalypt open forest in the park, which together with the melaleuca open woodlands, provide important connectivity in the landscape. The regional ecosystem (12.3.2) within this forest requires fire to regenerate and maintain structure, but at long 20 year or more intervals. The main threats to the forest are bushfires and changed fire frequency or intensity.

3.3.2 Melaleuca open woodlands

Melaleuca open woodlands are found in the park on the northern side of Coolloothin Creek. The regional ecosystem (12.3.5) within these woodlands requires fire to stay healthy, but unless burning is aligned with the understorey composition, it can prevent regeneration and lead to lower species richness. The main threats to the woodlands are consistent with those for the wet eucalypt open forest — bushfires and changed fire frequency or intensity.

3.4 Ecosystems and biodiversity

The park is within the Noosa River catchment and Coolloothin Creek subcatchment. It is also within the Noosa Biosphere Reserve designated under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) Man and Biosphere Program in 2007. The program is an intergovernmental scientific program that aims to establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments. The biosphere reserve is one of five within Australia and covers 110,728 hectares of land and water.

The park is part of a larger area of remnant vegetation in the landscape. It provides important connectivity for species, including those moving between the nearby State Biodiversity Corridor (Noosa River and Lake Cootharaba), Tewantin National Park and the nature refuges.

3.4.1 Regional ecosystems

The park's two regional ecosystems are part of a moderately large tract of these regional ecosystems in the landscape. They provide high connectivity and buffer a nearby endangered regional ecosystem. Each regional ecosystem represents less than one per cent of that regional ecosystem remaining in Queensland, or within the protected area estate.

Eucalyptus grandis tall open forest on alluvial plains (12.3.2) has of concern biodiversity status and covers 6.62 hectares (58.19 per cent) of the park. While this regional ecosystem is known to provide habitat for threatened plants including *Marsdenia longiloba*, near threatened plant species including *Diteilis simmondsii*, and suitable habitat for koalas *Phascolarctos cinereus*, none of these has been recorded from the park. The Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD) fire management guideline for this regional ecosystem is for late summer to autumn burns of moderate to high intensity, with 20 year minimum intervals.

Melaleuca quinquenervia open forest on coastal alluvium (12.3.5) has no concern at present biodiversity status and covers 4.58 hectares (40.31 per cent) of the park. While this regional ecosystem is known to provide habitat for threatened plants including *Phaius australis* and *P. bernaysii*, threatened animals including the wallum froglet *Crinia tinnula*, and suitable habitat for koalas *Phascolarctos cinereus*, none of these has been recorded from the park. The REDD fire management guideline for this regional ecosystem is for late summer to mid-winter burns with intervals of 8–12 years for heath, 12–20 years for sedge and 6–20 years for mixed grass/shrub, with a 25–70 per cent burn mosaic.

The park is very close to gallery rainforest (notophyll vine forest) on alluvial plans (12.3.1) in nearby Tewantin National Park, which has endangered biodiversity status and needs active protection from fire.

3.4.2 Wetlands

The park includes part of the Noosa River wetlands, which is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands (QLD135). The Noosa River wetlands cover 9945 hectares and include 15 different wetland types. It meets all six criteria for inclusion in the directory.

Within the park, riverine wetland covers seven hectares (58 per cent) and palustrine (natural) wetland covers five hectares (40 per cent).

The Noosa River Fish Habitat Area (FHA-051) extends up Coolloothin Creek beside the park.

3.5 Species

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

Sixty-eight native animal species (1 frog, 59 birds, 7 mammals, 1 reptile) and 154 native plant species have been found within one kilometre of the park, including endangered koala *Phascolarctos cinereus*. Most of the park is mapped as koala habitat (core).

3.6 Recreational opportunities

There are no visitor facilities within the park and camping is not permitted.

3.7 Post-contact cultural heritage

There are no known post-contact cultural heritage sites within the park.

3.8 Fire

The melaleuca open woodlands and wet eucalypt open forest both need fire to be healthy.

There are no historical fire records for the park.

There are no established fire breaks within the park.

3.9 Pests

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

4. Bibliography

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5. Appendices

Appendix A. Legal, policy and management commitments

Gazettal details

The park was originally gazetted as Coolloothin Environmental Park on 3 April 1992 under the *Land Act* 1962 and was managed under a trustee agreement by the Director of National Parks and Wildlife.

It was gazetted as a Coolloothin Conservation Park under the NCA on 16 December 1994 and again on 1 July 2016.

There was a short period during 2014 to 2016 when certain classes of protected area under the NCA were removed, including conservation parks. During this time, the park was a regional park under the NCA, until legislative amendments in 2016 removed the 'regional park' class of protected area and it was reinstated as a conservation park.

Appendix B. Regional ecosystems of significance

Regional ecosystem	Description	Regional ecosystem class*	Biodiversity status**
12.3.2	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> tall open forest on alluvial plains	Of concern	Of concern

* Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Description Database (VM REDD)

** Queensland Herbarium, Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD)