

Mouth of Baffle Creek Conservation Park 1

Management Statement 2015

Extended May 2026



Queensland
Government

Prepared by: **Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation.**

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The Mouth of Baffle Creek Conservation Park 1 Management Statement 2015 has been extended in 2026, in line with the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (s120F). Minor amendments have been made. There has been no change to the statement's original management intent and direction.

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Park overview

Park size	Mouth of Baffle Creek Conservation Park 1	125ha
Bioregion	South Eastern Queensland	
QPWS region	South East Queensland	
Local government area	Bundaberg Regional	
State electorate	Burnett	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld)</i>	
	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>	
	<i>Fisheries Act 1994</i>	
	<i>Marine Parks Act 2004</i>	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	
	<i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>	
Plans and agreements	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)	
	China—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement	
	Japan—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement	
	Republic of Korea—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement	

Park purpose

The former Mouth of Baffle Creek Regional Park 1 was formally gazetted as Mouth of Baffle Creek Environmental Park in 1975 under the *Land Act 1962*. At that time there was a Trustee Agreement with Gooburrum Shire Council. In 1994 the Environmental Park was gazetted as Mouth of Baffle Creek Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. In 1995 it was renamed and gazetted as Mouth of Baffle Creek Conservation Park 1.

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

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Mouth of Baffle Creek Conservation Park 1 has been assessed as having a medium priority for management. The park will be managed according to this priority rating.

Park management will be based on the best available local knowledge, professional judgement and anecdotal information. The medium level means that it will receive a minimum of quarterly routine inspections with occasional planned visits where issues have been identified. The focus is largely expected to be on natural resource management involving a proactive management effort at a moderate level to understand or protect known natural values.

Cultural values will be managed proactively to protect those values known to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, (QPWS). Ongoing consultation, collaboration and relationships with Traditional Owners and Indigenous stakeholders will be undertaken as required to support broader continuing park management programs.

This park currently has relatively low levels of visitor use and provides a few relatively undeveloped visitor sites. Visitors are unlikely to encounter a ranger on site during their visit. Current and future recreational opportunities will require that visitors have a high level of self-sufficiency. General park information is provided off-site, primarily through the Departmental website.

Public consultation on park management will be undertaken through ongoing local consultations with community stakeholders to support broad continuing management programs.

Park assets are functional and robust and require limited maintenance to protect the natural and cultural values and management capacity.

General park values, uses and management

Regional ecosystems

The park protects seven regional ecosystems, of which one has endangered biodiversity status and one is of concern, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance that are recorded from this park include three bird species, Table 2.

Cultural heritage

All protected areas are recognised as cultural landscapes and First Nations People see themselves as inextricably linked to country both spiritually and physically. Although cultural records on physical artefacts and sites of spiritual significance are not well documented for this area, all proposed activities need to meet duty of care requirements under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*. Non-indigenous historic places will be managed in accordance with the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

Marine protected areas

Mouth of Baffle Creek Conservation Park 1 adjoins a marine national park zone and a conservation park zone of the Great Sandy Marine Park. A marine national park zone aims to provide the highest level of protection for marine landscapes, and a conservation park zone aims to provide a high level of protection for marine landscapes. Both marine national park zones and conservation park zones limit extractive uses and works. Any person wishing

to conduct activities in these zones must comply with the *Marine Parks Act 2004*.

The Mouth of Baffle Creek Conservation Park 1 is located within the Baffle Creek declared Fish Habitat Area (FHA) management A area, which significantly constrains development activities. This declaration under the *Fisheries Act 1994* requires that activities on the conservation park must consider potential impacts on the FHA. Approval is required before development can commence, unless works comply with accepted development requirements. Development works may include on-park activities such as construction of boardwalks and bird hides.

Priorities for park management

The two regional ecosystems and three bird species of conservation significance are the main values of this park. The priorities for park management will be to mitigate any threats to these values through fire and pest management.

Management actions will be undertaken which aim to ensure:

- life and property on and adjacent to the park is protected
- fire is managed to conserve or maintain the condition of the regional ecosystems through the application of planned burn guidelines
- the impacts of existing pest species on neighbouring land uses are mitigated
- pest threats are managed to conserve or maintain the condition of regional ecosystems and bird species of conservation significance
- consideration of the impacts on the declared FHA is undertaken when planning and conducting fire or pest management activities on the park in accordance with FHA code of practice.

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.1.1	<i>Casuarina glauca</i> woodland on margins of marine clay plains.	Of concern
12.2.2	Microphyll/notophyll vine forest on beach ridges.	Endangered

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth) status
Animals			
<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>	Western Alaskan bar-tailed godwit	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	Critically endangered	Critically endangered
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	whimbrel	Special least concern	-

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	CMS	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>	Western Alaskan bar-tailed godwit	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	whimbrel		✓	✓	✓

CMS – Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement