

# Gatton National 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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May 2026

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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

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

Gatton National Park is located approximately 4.5 km southeast of the town of Gatton in south-east Queensland and accessible from Edwards Rd.

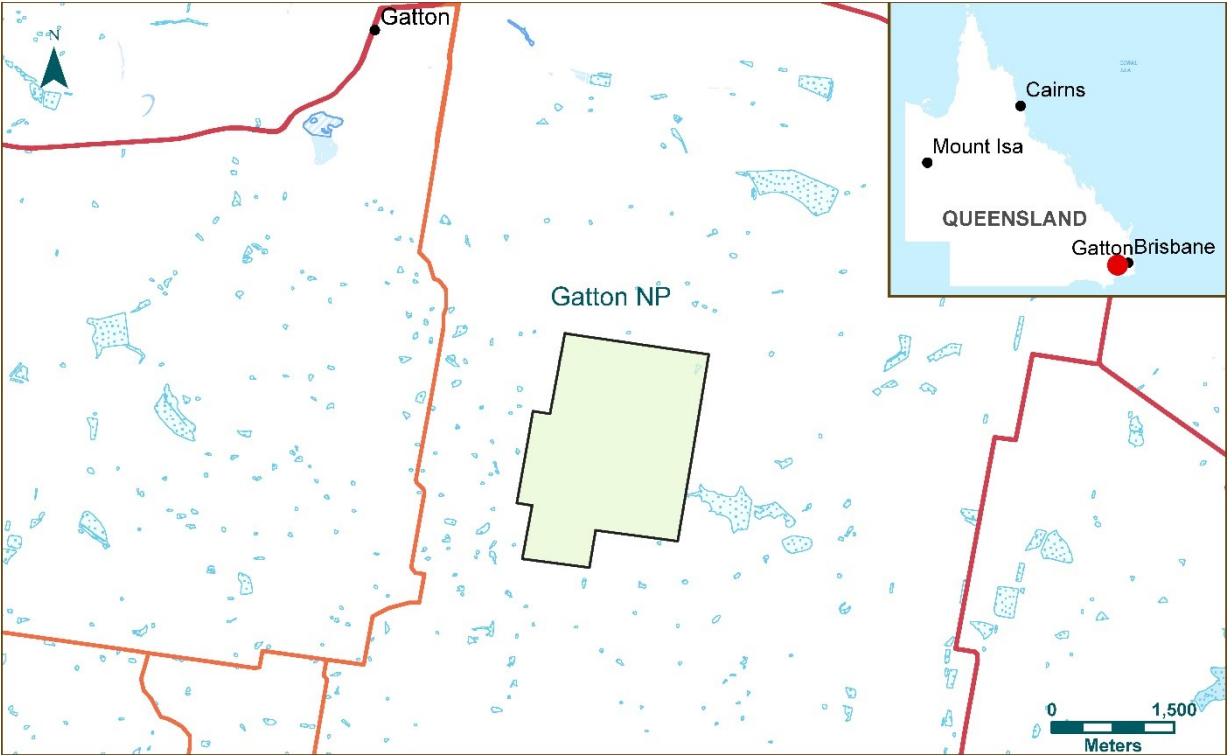


Figure 1. Locality of Gatton National Park

Table 1. Overview of Gatton National Park

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                     |        |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Park size</b>             | Gatton National Park                                                                                                                                                | 426 ha |
| <b>Bioregion</b>             | South Eastern Queensland                                                                                                                                            |        |
| <b>QPWS region</b>           | South West                                                                                                                                                          |        |
| <b>Local government area</b> | Lockyer Valley Regional Council                                                                                                                                     |        |
| <b>State electorate</b>      | Lockyer                                                                                                                                                             |        |
| <b>Relevant legislation</b>  | <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>                                                                                                                        |        |
|                              | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth)                                                                                        |        |
|                              | <i>Fire Services Act 1990</i>                                                                                                                                       |        |
|                              | <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cwlth)                                                                                                                                |        |
|                              | <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>                                                                                                                                 |        |
|                              | <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>                                                                                                                               |        |
| <b>Plans and agreements</b>  | China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement                                                                                                                            |        |
|                              | Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement                                                                                                                            |        |
|                              | National Recovery Plan for the Australian Painted Snipe <i>Rostratula australis</i> , 2022                                                                          |        |
|                              | National Recovery Plan for the Grey-headed Flying-fox <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i> , 2021                                                                          |        |
|                              | National Recovery Plan for the Koala <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory), 2022 |        |
|                              | Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement                                                                                                                |        |

## 3. Resource Information

### 3.1 Yuggera Ugarapul People

A Registered Native Title claim (QC2017/005 – Yuggera Ugarapul People) covers the entirety of Gatton National Park.

There are currently no Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) in place over the park.

### 3.2 Key value information

All parks, forest and reserves contain a range of natural, cultural, social and economic values that contribute to Queensland's protected area and forest estate. The VBMF provides a framework for identifying and protecting the most important of these—referred to as *Key Values*.

Based on an evaluation, the values of Gatton National Park 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.

Park management will focus on sustaining the natural, cultural, social and economic values that support its importance as a protected area, ensuring that management aligns with the legislative and custodial obligations in relation to these values.

### 3.3 Other values

#### 3.3.1 Semi-Evergreen Vine Thicket

Semi-evergreen vine thicket occurs in areas of Gatton National Park however it does not reach the threshold to be considered as a Key Value.

This vegetation community is more strongly represented in other QPWS estates.

#### 3.3.2 Eucalypt Open Forest

Eucalypt open forest is found on the National Park, it is considered an 'other value' as it does not meet the threshold for a key value.

This vegetation community is more strongly represented in other QPWS estates.

### 3.4 Ecosystems and biodiversity

Containing six Regional Ecosystems (RE), three of which are listed as of concern and two of which are endangered, Gatton National Park protects areas of both Regional and State biodiversity significance. The park rates highly on tract size, connectivity, and habitat for endangered, vulnerable, and near threatened (EVNT) taxa.

#### 3.4.1 Open Forest

Covering more than 95% of Gatton National Park, the open forest community is comprised of three RE's (RE 12.9-10.2 *Corymbia citriodora* subsp. *variegata* +/- *Eucalyptus crebra* open forest on sedimentary rocks; RE 12.9-10.3 *Eucalyptus moluccana* open forest on sedimentary rocks; RE 12.9-10.7 – *Eucalyptus crebra* +/- *E. tereticornis*, *Corymbia tessellaris*, *Angophora* spp. and *E. melanophloia* woodland on sedimentary rocks), of which, the latter two RE's have a biodiversity status of of concern while RE 12.9-10.2 remains no concern at present.

Within Gatton National Park, these communities tend to be intermingled and are mapped in order of dominance, with RE 12.9-10.2 being most dominant in the open forest across the park. The open forest within Gatton National Park is known to provide habitat for several conservation significant flora species

such as Lloyd's native olive *Notelaea lloydii*, and *Grevillea quadricauda*, as well as being known suitable habitat for the koala *Phascolarctos cinereus*.

### 3.4.2 Woodland

Found across the park, the Eucalypt and Corymbia woodlands are fringing woodlands, growing along riverbanks, creeks and drainage lines. These vegetation communities (RE 12.3.3 *Eucalyptus tereticornis* woodland on Quaternary alluvium; RE 12.3.7 *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *Casuarina cunninghamiana* subsp. *cunninghamiana* +/- *Melaleuca* spp. fringing woodland) are known to provide suitable habitat for koala *Phascolarctos cinereus*.

As with the low closed forest of Gatton National Park, fire should be avoided in this vegetation, although full fire exclusion is not necessary. Prescribed burns in the surrounding open forest ecosystems will help to minimise fire incursions into the fringing woodlands.

### 3.4.3 Low Closed Forest

Located entirely within the south-western corner of Gatton National Park, the semi-evergreen vine thicket vegetation community (RE 12.9-10.15 Semi-evergreen vine thicket with *Brachychiton rupestris* on sedimentary rocks) is known habitat for conservation significant flora species such as Boonah tuckeroo *Cupaniopsis tomentella*, and Mt Berryman phebalium *Phebalium distans*. The biodiversity status of this regional ecosystem is classified as endangered. Due to extensive clearing for pastoral and cropping development, this ecosystem is highly fragmented across the state.

## 3.5 Species

### 3.5.1 Native animals

13 conservation significant fauna species have been recorded on WetlandInfo and WildNet for the park.

The vegetation communities of Gatton National Park are known to provide good habitat for the koala *Phascolarctos cinereus*, listed as endangered under both the Queensland's *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) and Federal *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC). The common greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, and the Australian painted-snipe *Rostratula australis*, both listed as endangered under the NCA and EPBC are found in the park as well.

See Appendix C for the full WetlandInfo and WildNet list of conservation significant fauna.

### 3.5.2 Native plants

Six conservation significant flora species have been recorded on WetlandInfo, all of which are listed as special least concern under the NCA. These include wetland indicator species such as the swamp lily *Ottelia ovalifolia*, wavy marshwort *Nymphoides crenata*, and floating pondweed *Potamogeton tricarlinatus*, among others.

There are no flora species records for Gatton National Park in the Department's Wildnet Database.

See Appendix C for the full WetlandInfo list of conservation significant flora.

## 3.6 Geophysical features

Gatton National Park is located within a Gatton Sandstone Rock Unit. Gatton Sandstone is predominantly very coarse-grained quartz-lithic and lithic sandstone in channel sand bodies and minor overbank deposits. Gatton Sandstone commonly contains fossil wood, and other fossils such as plant remains and spores and pollen grains.

## **3.7 Recreational opportunities**

### **3.7.2 Day-use areas**

Fire access trails exist throughout the park and are commonly used by bush walkers as hiking trails.

## **3.8 Ecotourism**

### **3.8.1 Tourism and visitor opportunities**

Tourism and visitor opportunities are limited within Gatton National Park.

## **3.9 Partnerships**

QPWS works with community stakeholders to support broad continuing management programs.

### **3.9.1 Gatton Glenore Grove Rifle Club**

There is an active Firing Rights Agreement in place between Gatton Glenore Grove Rifle Club (GGGRC) and the State of Queensland acting through the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation.

This agreement includes the use of a designated zone within Gatton National Park which borders the rifle range when GGGRC is operating. The GGGRC operates most Saturdays.

### **3.9.2 Apiary Permits**

Three apiary sites (AS0273, AS0274, AS0275) have been granted permits to operate in Gatton National Park. One site is located on the western edge of the park, close to Peta Drive; the other two are central/east in the park, near Edwards Road.

## **3.10 Scientific research**

### **3.10.1 University of Queensland**

The University of Queensland Gatton Campus is located approximately 5km from Gatton National Park. There are no research facilities within the park, however, University of Queensland may access the park as part of its courses.

### **3.10.2 Koala Research**

Research on Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus* is undertaken in the park by University and Government researchers.

## 3.11 Fire

Fire management is core business for QPWS to protect life and property, mitigate wildfires and maintain natural diversity in accordance with the NCA and the *Fire Services Act 1990* for the control and prevention of fires.

Key fire management considerations for Gatton National Park should be the management of invasive grasses and the reduction of lantana *Lantana camara*.

Prescribed burns should be planned as to completely avoid the semi-evergreen vine thicket closed forest vegetation community in the southwest of the park.

### 3.11.2 Rural Fire Brigades

QPWS may work with Rural Fire Brigades in the area to manage fire.

## 3.12 Pests

### 3.12.1 Pest plants

Significant pest plants include lantana *Lantana camara* and giant rat's tail grass *Sporobolus pyramidalis* and *S. natalensis* encroach upon the park from neighbouring properties. These plants are category 3 restricted invasive plants under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. They are known to cause significant disruption to ecosystems and may invade and degrade ecological communities.

### 3.12.2 Pest animals

Feral pigs *Sus scrofa* have been seen in the park. Digging and rooting by feral pigs *Sus scrofa* may kill trees by severing roots, thereby opening the canopy layer. Feral pigs *Sus scrofa* may facilitate the invasion of lantana *Lantana camara*.

Feral dogs *Canis familiaris*, likely the offspring of dingo *C. familiaris dingo* and pet dogs *C. familiaris* from the surrounding properties, have been seen in the park.

## 4. Bibliography

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National Recovery Plan for the Australian Painted Snipe (*Rostratula australis*) 2022., Commonwealth of Australia.

State of Queensland, Department of Environment and Science, 2022, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, *Planned Burn Guidelines: Southeast Queensland bioregion of Queensland*. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Department of Environment and Science, Queensland Government.

## 5. Appendices

### Appendix A. Policy and management commitments

#### Gazettal details

Originally gazetted as Gatton Forest Reserve on 10/11/2000, Gatton National Park was gazetted on 2/6/2006 as part of the south-east Queensland Forests Agreement in recognition of the important biodiversity and conservation values of the former Gatton Forest Reserve.

#### Management obligations

- Gatton Glenore Grove Rifle Club 2025
- Fire management

#### Recovery plans and guides

- National Recovery Plan for the Australian Painted Snipe *Rostratula australis*, 2022
- National Recovery Plan for the Grey-headed Flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*, 2021
- National Recovery Plan for the Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus* (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory), 2022

### Appendix B. Regional ecosystems of significance

| Regional ecosystem | Description                                                                                                                                                        | Regional ecosystem class* | Biodiversity status** |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 12.3.3             | <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> woodland on Quaternary alluvium                                                                                                     | Endangered                | Endangered            |
| 12.3.7             | <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> , <i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> subsp. <i>cunninghamiana</i> +/- <i>Melaleuca</i> spp. fringing woodland                          | Least concern             | Of concern            |
| 12.9-10.3          | <i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i> open forest on sedimentary rocks                                                                                                       | Of concern                | Of concern            |
| 12.9-10.7          | <i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> +/- <i>E. tereticornis</i> , <i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> , <i>Angophora</i> spp. and <i>E. melanophloia</i> woodland on sedimentary rocks | Of concern                | Of concern            |
| 12.9-10.15         | Semi-evergreen vine thicket with <i>Brachychiton rupestris</i> on sedimentary rocks                                                                                | Endangered                | Endangered            |

\* Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Description Database (VM REDD)

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

## Appendix C. Species of conservation significance

| Scientific name                         | Common name                     | NC Act status         | EPBC Act status |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Animals</b>                          |                                 |                       |                 |
| <i>Calyptrorhynchus lathami lathami</i> | glossy black-cockatoo (eastern) | Vulnerable            | Vulnerable      |
| <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>            | white-throated needletail       | Vulnerable            | Vulnerable      |
| <i>Pandion haliaetus cristatus</i>      | eastern osprey                  | Special Least Concern | -               |
| <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>           | koala                           | Endangered            | Endangered      |
| <i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>           | short-beaked echidna            | Special Least Concern | -               |

## Appendix D. Species listed in international agreements

| Scientific name              | Common name               | CMS | JAMBA | ROKAMBA | CAMBA |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----|-------|---------|-------|
| <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i> | white-throated needletail |     | ✓     | ✓       | ✓     |

Notes:

This list includes local and migratory birds that regularly use the park for feeding, nesting and/or breeding. Species that may visit intermittently have not been included in this table.

*CMS – Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

*CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement*

*JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement*

*ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement*

## Appendix E. Pests

| Scientific name       | Common name | Biosecurity Act 2014 status | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Plants</b>         |             |                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Lantana camara</i> | Lantana     | Restricted invasive         | Impacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcompetes native species</li> <li>• Reduces park's natural values</li> <li>• Reduces visitors' appreciation of amenities.</li> </ul>                                                                                             |
| <b>Animals</b>        |             |                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Sus scrofa</i>     | Feral pig   |                             | Park-wide impacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degrades wetlands resulting in reduced water quality, wetland extent and the abundance of endemic species</li> <li>• Facilitate incursion of pest plants</li> <li>• Direct predation of ground-nesting birds.</li> </ul> |