

White Mountains Resources Reserve

Management Statement 2015

Extended March 2026



Queensland
Government

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

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All due diligence and care has been taken in the preparation of this document based on the information in the 2015 management statement. The department holds no responsibility for any errors or omissions within this document. Any decisions made by other parties based on this document are solely the responsibility of those parties.

The White Mountains Resources Reserve 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	White Mountains Resources Reserve	12056ha
Bioregion	Desert Uplands (72.3%) Einasleigh Uplands (27.7%)	
QPWS region	Central	
Local government area	Charters Towers Regional Council	
State electorate	Traeger	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld)</i> <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> <i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>	

Park purpose

White Mountains Resources Reserve was formally gazetted as a resources reserve in September 1988.

The reserve purpose was identified as part of the gazettal as enabling access to mineral resources while protecting the areas natural values.

Under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, the reserve is managed by joint trustees, the Chief Executive of the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation and the Chief Executive of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development. This resources reserve is declared as a resource use area to enable access to mineral resources to continue.

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, White Mountains Resources Reserve has been assessed as having a medium priority for management. The reserve will be managed according to this priority rating.

Reserve 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 and mineral 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 Services, (QPWS). Ongoing consultation, collaboration and relationships with First Nations people and stakeholders will be undertaken as required to support broader continuing reserve management programs.

This resources reserve currently has relatively low levels of visitor use. There are no visitor facilities on the resources reserve but basic facilities are provided on the adjoining National Park. 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. A basic level of infrastructure is provided to support safe and sustainable use by predominantly self-reliant visitors. Public consultation on reserve management will be undertaken through ongoing local consultations with community stakeholders to support broad continuing management programs.

Resource reserve 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 resources reserve protects 17 regional ecosystems, three of which have of concern biodiversity status, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

There are currently three species of conservation significance on Queensland Government wildlife databases for this reserve, including one vulnerable plant species

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*.

Resource Use

White Mountains enables access to metallic mineral resources, principally gold and molybdenum. Thermal coal resources are mapped in the resources reserve.

Priorities for park management

The three regional ecosystems of conservation significance and the mineral resources are the main values of this reserve. The priorities for reserve management will be to mitigate any threats to these ecosystems through fire and pest management.

Management actions will be undertaken which aim to ensure:

- life and property on and adjacent to the reserve 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 these regional ecosystems.

Appendix

Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
9.3.1	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> and/or <i>E. tereticornis</i> +/- <i>Melaleuca</i> spp. +/- <i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> fringing woodland on channels and levees	Of concern
10.3.13a	<i>Melaleuca fluviatilis</i> and/or <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> woodland along watercourses	Of concern
10.3.11b	<i>Corymbia citriodora</i> or <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> and <i>Angophora costata</i> woodland to tall open forest in sandstone gorges and valleys	Of concern

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth) status
Plants			
<i>Lobelia leucotos</i>		Special Least Concern	
<i>Wahlenbergia gracilis</i>	Sprawling bluebell	Special Least Concern	
<i>Cycas couttsiana</i>		Vulnerable	