Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation

# Causeway Lake 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.



May 2026

*This resource information does not intend to affect, diminish or extinguish native title or associated rights.*

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this document may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs and printed material that some people may find distressing.*

# Contents

# 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.

Causeway Lake Conservation Park is approximately 6 km south of the town of Yeppoon and approximately 6 km north of the town of Emu Park. There are no public access roads to Causeway Lake Conservation Park. Access is possible via watercraft up Mulambin Creek.

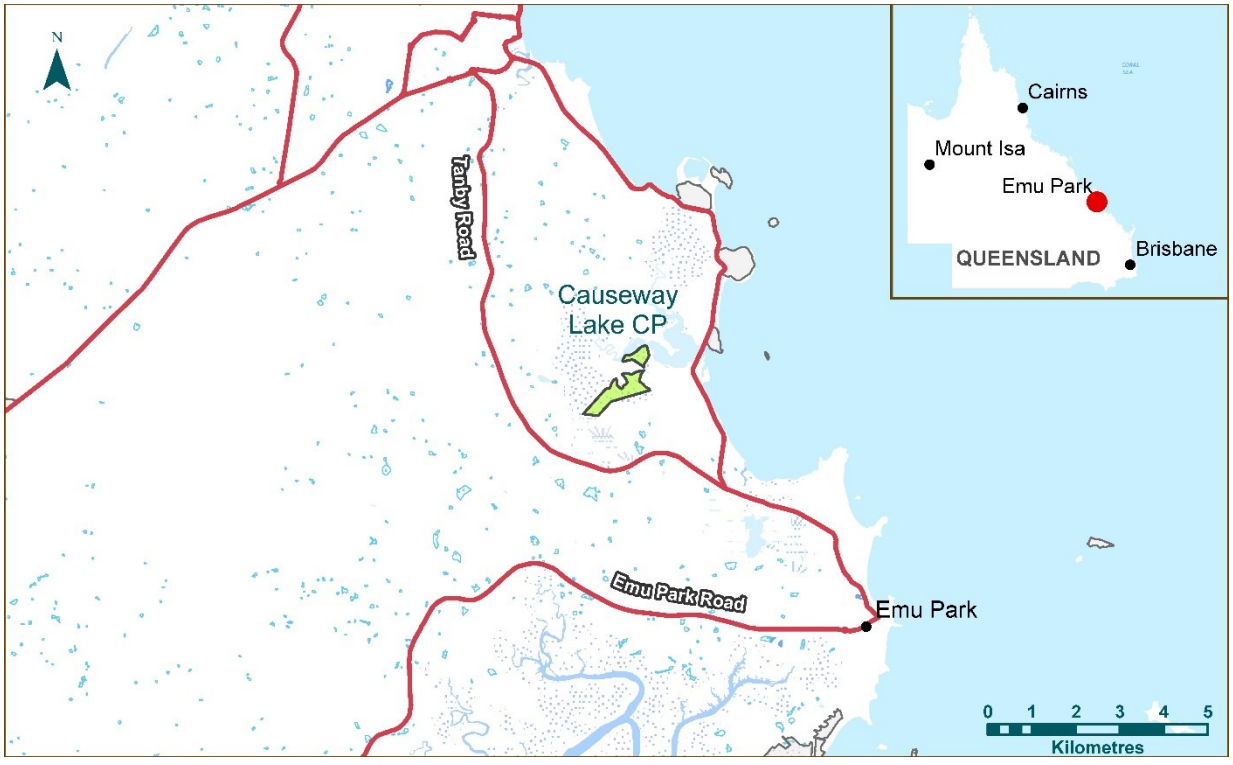


Figure 1. Locality of Causeway Lake Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Causeway Lake Conservation Park

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Park size** | Causeway Lake Conservation Park | 63.5 ha |
| **Bioregion** | Brigalow Belt North | |
| **QPWS region** | Central | |
| **Local government area** | Livingstone Shire | |
| **State electorate** | Keppel | |
| **Relevant legislation** | *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* | |
| | *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)* | |
| | *Fire Services Act 1990* | |
| | *Fisheries Act 1994* | |
| | *Marine Parks Act 2004* | |
| | *Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)* | |
| | *Nature Conservation Act 1992* | |
| | *Vegetation Management Act 1999* | |
| **Plans and agreements** | *National Multi-species Recovery Plan for the cycads,* Cycas megacarpa, Cycas ophiolitica, Macrozamia cranei, Macrozamia lomandroides, Macrozamia pauli-guilielmi *and* Macrozamia platyrhachis | |
| | *National Recovery Plan for the Grey-headed Flying-Fox* Pteropus poliocephalus | |

# 3. Resource Information

## 3.1 First Nations

There are currently no Native Title claims or determinations which cover Causeway Lake Conservation Park. The Darumbal People have registered Native Title determination in areas which abut Causeway Lake Conservation Park (QCD2016/006 – Darumbal People) to the north and east.

Two Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) are in place over Causeway Lake Conservation Park (QI2016/006 – Ergon Energy and Darumbal People ILUA; QI2016/024 – Darumbal People, Livingstone Shire Council and Rockhampton Regional Council Local Government ILUA). These ILUAs relate primarily to access, Native Title Settlement and Consultation protocols.

## 3.2 World Heritage

Causeway Lake Conservation Park is divided into two separate land parcels. The northern section of the park lies partially within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (WHA) as the WHA includes sections of Mulambin Creek.

## 3.3 Wetlands of international importance (Ramsar site)

Much of Causeway Lake Conservation Park is mapped as intertidal or palustrine wetlands and the entirety of the park is part of the Yeppoon–Keppel Sands Tidal Wetlands, a Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (DIWA) listed nationally important wetland. However, Causeway Lake Conservation Park is not considered a wetland of international importance and is not designated as a Ramsar site.

# 3.4 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 Causeway Lake Conservation 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.

# 3.5 Other values

## 3.5.1 Yeppoon-Keppel Sands Tidal Wetland

The Yeppoon-Keppel Sands Tidal Wetland (YKSTW) is a DIWA listed nationally important wetland. The entirety of Causeway Lake Conservation Park falls within the boundaries of the YKSTW. There are several *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) listed species which occur in this tidal wetland system and may, or may not be present in Causeway Lake Conservation Park, such as Marlborough blue *Cycas ophiolitica* and *Cycas megacarpa* (both listed as endangered under the NCA and EPBC Act) and *Macrozamia serpentina*, also listed as endangered under the NCA.

There is a National Recovery Plan in place for the aforementioned *Cycas*.

The Australian Federal Government has determined that no significant wetland area of the YKSTW is enclosed within any national or conservation parks, including Causeway Lake Conservation Park.

## 3.5.2 Melaleuca Wetlands

Approximately 1.5 ha of the southern section of the park is mapped as Melaleuca Wetalnds and considered wetlands of high ecological significance (WHES). A large buffer surrounding the WHES is mapped as a trigger area for the Great Barrier Reef wetland protection area; this includes the majority of the southern section of the park.

# 3.6 Ecosystems and biodiversity

Causeway Lake Conservation Park has 8 regional ecosystems (RE) with one Endangered (8.1.5 - *Melaleuca* spp. and/or *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and/or Corymbia tessellaris woodland with a ground stratum of salt tolerant grasses and sedges, usually in a narrow zone adjoining tidal ecosystems) and one Of Concern (8.3.13 - *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and/or *Corymbia tessellaris* and/or *Melaleuca* spp. woodland on alluvial and marine plains, often adjacent to estuarine areas), The entirety of Causeway Lake Conservation Park is mapped as having State biodiversity significance or Local values. Much of the park is habitat for EVNT, and the park scores highly or very highly on biodiversity significance criteria such as condition, ecosystem diversity, context and connection and bioregional ecosystem value.

## 3.6.1 Tussock Grassland

Tussock Grassland accounts for approximately one third of the total park area. This RE (11.1.1 – *Sporobolus virginicus* grassland on marine clay plains) is an intertidal wetland with a VMA listing of least concern. Tussock Grassland provides estuarine wetland habitat and is specifically protected under the *Fisheries Act 1994*. The majority of the tussock grassland of Causeway Lake Conservation Park is in the southern portion of the park.

## 3.6.2 Open Succulent Shrubland

Open Succulent Shrubland is present across the northern and southern allotments of the park. One RE (made up of 2 sub-REs) is present:

- 11.1.2a – Bare mud flats on Quaternary estuarine deposits, with very isolated individual stunted mangroves such as *Avicennia marina* and/or *Ceriops australis*. May have obvious salt crusts on the soil surface. Intertidal. (BVG1M: 35b).
- 11.1.2b – Samphire forbland on Quaternary estuarine deposits. Mainly saltpans and mudflats with clumps of saltbush including one or several of the following species; *Tecticornia spp*. (e.g. *Tecticornia indica subsp. julacea*, *Tecticornia indica subsp. leiostachya*), *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Salicornia quinqueflora subsp. quinqueflora*, *Suaeda australis*, *S. arbusculoides*, *Tecticornia australasica*, *Scleria ciliaris*, *Marsilea mutica*, *Salsola australis*, algal crusts and the grass *Sporobolus virginicus*. Sedges may be common. Intertidal. (BVG1M: 35b).

These REs are intertidal wetlands and provide estuarine wetland habitat. The VMA status for this vegetation community is least concern. This RE accounts for approximately one sixth of the park's total area. This community is well protected across Queensland's protected area estates.

## 3.6.3 Low Open Forest

Low Open Forest (RE 11.1.4b – Samphire forbland on Quaternary estuarine deposits. Mainly saltpans and mudflats with clumps of saltbush including one or several of the following species; *Tecticornia spp*. (e.g. *Tecticornia indica subsp. julacea*, *Tecticornia indica subsp. leiostachya*), *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Salicornia quinqueflora subsp. quinqueflora*, *Suaeda australis*, *S. arbusculoides*, *Tecticornia australasica*, *Scleria ciliaris*, *Marsilea mutica*, *Salsola australis*, algal crusts and the grass *Sporobolus virginicus*. Sedges may be common. Intertidal.) is the largest vegetation community by area in the park. It is an intertidal wetland which provides estuarine wetland habitat. This RE often occurs in close proximity to *Sporobolus virginicus* grasslands (RE 11.1.1 above) and salt flats (RE 11.1.2 above).

RE 11.1.4b is specifically protected under the *Fisheries Act 1994*. This RE has a listing of least concern under the VMA.

## 3.6.4 Open Forest

The Open Forest of Causeway Lake Conservation Park consists of a single RE (8.3.13 – *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and/or *Corymbia tessellaris* and/or *Melaleuca spp*. woodland on alluvial and marine plains, often adjacent to estuarine areas). This RE is a palustrine wetland and is listed as of concern under the VMA. Open Forest is potential habitat for the near threatened NCA listed species *Xylosma ovata*.

## 3.6.5 Woodlands

The Woodlands of Causeway Lake Conservation Park are made up of 3 vegetation communities:

- RE 8.1.5 – *Melaleuca spp.* and/or *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and/or *Corymbia tessellaris* woodland with a ground stratum of salt tolerant grasses and sedges, usually in a narrow zone adjoining tidal ecosystems
- RE 11.2.5 – Corymbia-Melaleuca woodland complex of beach ridges and swales
- RE 11.11.4 – *Eucalyptus crebra* woodland on old sedimentary rocks with varying degrees of metamorphism and folding. Coastal ranges

REs 8.1.5 and 11.2.5 are woodlands which are palustrine wetlands or contain palustrine wetlands. The *Melaleuca spp.* woodland has a VMA listing of of concern and is known to provide suitable habitat for the vulnerable NCA species False Water Rat *Xeromys myoides*, and the locally rare species Swamp Rat *Rattus lutreolus* and Pale Field Rat *Rattus tunneyi*. Locally uncommon plants such as *Ceratopteris thalictroides* may be present in these REs. Additionally, RE 8.1.5 is considered a Wetland of High Ecological Significance in the park.

The Corymbia-Melaleuca woodland is listed as least concern under the VMA. There are many invasive species common in this vegetation community such as rubber vine *Cryptostegia grandiflora* and buffel grass *Cenchrus ciliaris*.

The *E. crebra* woodland accounts for less than one square metre of the park area and has a VMA status of least concern. This is the only RE in the park that is not a wetland.

# 3.7 Species

## 3.7.1 Native animals

Eight conservation significant fauna species have been recorded on the Department's Wetland*Info* database. These include migratory shorebird species such as the eastern curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*, listed as critically endangered under the NCA and EPBC Act, and the Western Alaskan bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica baueri*, listed as endangered under the NCA and EPBC Act. In 2015, the Australian Federal Government developed the Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds to help guide the conservation of migratory shorebirds and their habitat.

The grey-headed flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus* is recorded on Wetland*Info*. It is listed as common under the NCA but vulnerable under the EPBC Act. There is a national recovery plan in place for the grey-headed flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*.

There are no species records for the park in the Department's Wildnet Database as at March 2026.

## 3.7.2 Native plants

One conservation significant flora species has been recorded on the Department's Wetland*Info* for the park. This was Marlborough blue *Cycas ophiolitica*, an endangered plant under both the NCA and EPBC Act. Marlborough blue *Cycas ophiolitica* has a national recovery plan in place. A further six (five extant) conservation significant flora species were identified in the greater Yeppoon-Keppel Sands Tidal Wetland. These include:

- *Bertya pedicellata*, listed as near threatened under the NCA;
- *Cycas megacarpa*, listed as endangered under the NCA and EPBC Act;
- *Graptophyllum excelsum*, listed as near threatened under the NCA; and
- *Macrozamia serpentina*, listed as endangered under the NCA

There are no species records for the park in the Department's Wildnet Database as at March 2026.

# 3.8 Geophysical features

Causeway Lake Conservation Park is dominated by a single rock unit with the dominant rock being miscellaneous unconsolidated sediments and the rock type being the stratified unit including volcanic and metamorphic rock. The lithology of the park is comprised of mud, sandy mud, muddy sand and minor gravel: estuarine channels and banks, supratidal flats and coastal grasslands.

# 3.9 Ecotourism

## 3.9.1 Tourism and visitor opportunities

Access to the park is limited to watercraft. Fishing may be popular in the watercourses surrounding the park.

# 3.10 Partnerships

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

# 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.

# 3.12 Pests

## 3.12.1 Pest plants

A pest plan is in place for the park and includes African fountain grass *Cenchrus setaceus*, coral creeper *Barleria repens*, dwarf poinsettia *Euphorbia cyathophora*, grader grass *Themeda quadrivalvis*, Guinea grass *Megathyrsus maximus*, Johnson grass *Sorghum halepense*, lantana *Lantana camara*, Mossman River grass *Cenchrus echinatus*, mother of millions *Bryophyllum delagoense*, parthenium *Parthenium hysterophorus*, prickly pear *Opuntia stricta*, red natal grass *Melinis repens*, rubber vine *Cryptostegia grandiflora*, siam weed *Chromolaena odorata*, Singapore daisy *Sphagneticola trilobata*, Siratro *Macroptilium atropurpureum*, snakeweed *Stachytarpheta urticifolia*, and thatch grass *Hyparrhenia rufa*.

The pest plants estimated to have the most significant impact on the park are African fountain grass *Cenchrus setaceus*, coral creeper *Barleria repens*, Guinea grass *Megathyrsus maximus*, prickly pear *Opuntia stricta* and rubber vine *Cryptostegia grandiflora*.

Parthenium *Parthenium hysterophorus* is included in the pest plan as part of Livingstone Shire Council's Biosecurity Plan, however it is not believed to be in the park as of March 2026.

## 3.16.2 Pest animals

A pest plan is in place for the park and includes the following pest animals: European fox *Vulpes vulpes*, cat *Felis catus*, feral pig *Sus scrofa*, wild dog *Canis familiaris*, and the Pandanus leaf hopper *Jamella australiae*. These species may impact the park in different ways. Fox *Vulpes vulpes*, cat *Felis catus*, feral pig *Sus scrofa* and wild dog *Canis familiaris* prey on a wide variety of native fauna and may compete for prey with native predators. Feral pigs *Sus scrofa* may help to spread pest plants.

# 4. Bibliography


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*Queensland Herbarium (2024) Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD). Version 13.1 (May 2024) (DESI: Brisbane). Retrieved from https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/regional-ecosystems/*

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Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements Details, QI2024/024 – Darumbal People, Livingstone Shire Council and Rockhampton Regional Council Local Government ILUA, accessed 26 February 2026 at https://www.nntt.gov.au/searchRegApps/NativeTitleRegisters/Pages/ILUA_details.aspx?NNTT_Fileno=QI2016/024

Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds, Commonwealth of Australia 2015.

# 5. Appendices

## Appendix A. Policy and management commitments

**Gazettal details**

Originally gazetted as Causeway Lake Regional Park, formal gazettal as Causeway Lake Conservation Park took place on 9 February 1996 under the NCA.

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

**Recovery plans and guides**

- National Multi-species Recovery Plan for the cycads, *Cycas megacarpa*, *Cycas ophiolitica*, *Macrozamia cranei*, *Macrozamia lomandroides*, *Macrozamia pauli-guilielmi* and *Macrozamia platyrhachis*
- National Recovery Plan for the Grey-headed Flying Fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*
- Planned Burn Guidelines – Brigalow Belt Bioregion of Queensland
- Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds

## Appendix B. Regional ecosystems of significance

| Regional ecosystem | Description | Regional ecosystem class* | Biodiversity status** |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8.1.5 | *Melaleuca spp*. and/or *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and/or *Corymbia tessellaris* woodland with a ground stratum of salt tolerant grasses and sedges, usually in a narrow zone adjoining tidal ecosystems | Of concern | Endangered |
| 8.3.13 | *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and/or *Corymbia tessellaris* and/or *Melaleuca spp.* woodland on alluvial and marine plains, often adjacent to estuarine areas | Of concern | Of concern |

* Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Description Database (VM REDD)
** Queensland Herbarium, Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD)

## Appendix C. Pests

| Scientific name | Common name | *Biosecurity Act 2014* status | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Plants** | | | |
| *Cenchrus setaceus* | African fountain grass | Category 3 Restricted Invasive | Impacts:<br>• Outcompetes native species<br>• Increase fire intensity due to high biomass which may be especially concerning for this park given it is a wetland and fire should be avoided |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Barleria repens* | Coral creeper | - | Impacts:<br>• Colonises riparian zones<br>• Forms dense thickets that displace native vegetation<br>• Prevent movement of animals |
| *Megathyrsus maximus* | Guinea grass | - | Impacts:<br>• Grows well in disturbed areas |
| *Opuntia stricta* | Prickly pear | Category 3 Restricted Invasive | Impact:<br>• Outcompete native plants |
| *Cryptostegia grandiflora* | Rubber vine | Category 3 Restricted Invasive | Impact:<br>• Smothers riparian vegetation<br>• Spreads outward from waterways<br>• Decreases biodiversity<br>• Impedes native fauna movement |
| **Animals** | | | |
| *Canis familiaris* | Feral dog | Category 3, 4 and 6 Restricted Invasive | Impacts:<br>• Direct predation of native species<br>• Hybridisation between dingoes *Canis familiaris dingo* |
| *Felis catus* | Feral cat | Category 3, 4 and 6 Restricted Invasive | Impacts:<br>• Direct predation of a broad range of taxa including mammals, aves, reptiles, amphibians, insects and fish<br>• Competition with native predators |
| *Sus scrofa* | Feral pig | Category 3, 4 and 6 Restricted Invasive | Impacts:<br>• Degrades wetlands resulting in reduced water quality, wetland extent and the abundance of endemic species<br>• Direct predation of ground-nesting birds and small mammals. |
| *Vulpes vulpes* | European fox | Category 3, 4, 5 and 6 Restricted Invasive | Impacts:<br>• Significant threat to long-term survival of many small marsupial species<br>• Direct predation of ground-nesting birds<br>• Competition with native predators |

# Appendix D. Wetland Management

**Wetland*Info*, Queensland Government**

WetlandInfo provides information regarding wetland identification and management.

Accessed at https://wetlandinfo.detsi.qld.gov.au/wetlands/

More information on the Yeppoon-Keppel Sands Tidal Wetlands can be found here: https://wetlandinfo.detsi.qld.gov.au/wetlands/facts-maps/diwa-wetland-yeppoon-keppel-sands-tidal-wetlands/