

Mount Hopeful 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

Figure 1 and Table 1 provide an overview of information about the park included in this resource information document, including its locality, legislative framework and relevant plans/agreements.

Mount Hopeful Conservation Park is located approximately 20 km east of Dululu and 20 km south of Mount Morgan. Currently, there is no road access to the park.

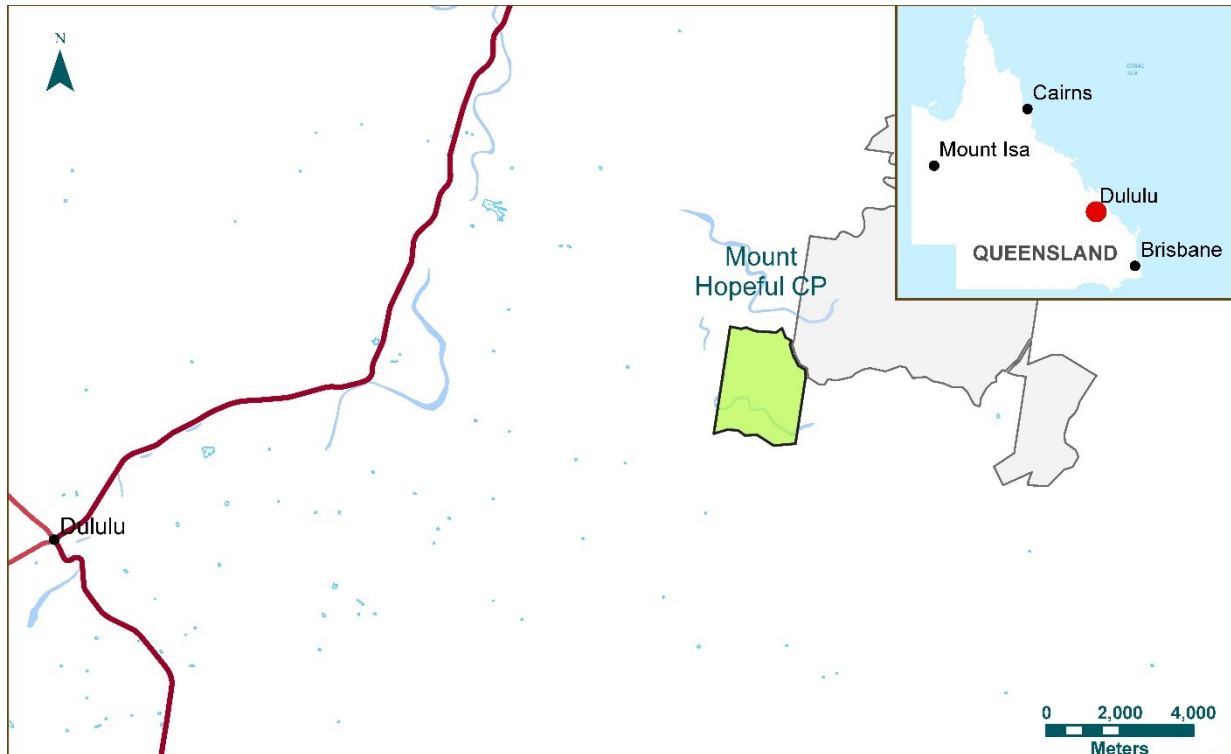


Figure 1. Locality of Mount Hopeful Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Mount Hopeful Conservation Park

Park size	Mount Hopeful Conservation Park	554.4 ha
Bioregion	Brigalow Belt South	
QPWS region	Central	
Local government area	Rockhampton Regional Council	
State electorate	Mirani	
Relevant legislation	<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>	
Plans and agreements	National Multi-species Recovery Plan for the Cycads 2007	
	National Recovery Plan for the Australian Painted Snipe <i>Rostratula australis</i> 2022	
	National Recovery Plan for the Red Goshawk <i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i> 2012	
	National Recovery Plan for the Australasian Bittern <i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i> 2022	
	Planned Burn Guidelines Brigalow Belt Bioregion of Queensland, 2012	

3. Resource Information

3.1 Gaangalu Nation People

The Gaangalu Nation People currently have a registered Native Title claim (QC2012/009 Gaangalu Nation People) that includes Mount Hopeful Conservation Park.

3.2 Key value information

Queensland's parks, forest and reserves contain a range of natural, cultural, social and economic values that contribute to the State'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.

An evaluation of Mount Hopeful Conservation Park found that its values do not reach the thresholds required to be classified as Key Values. However, the park remains an important part of Queensland's comprehensive and representative reserve system, providing biodiversity protection, ecosystem services and landscape connectivity.

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.

3.3 Ecosystems and biodiversity

Mount Hopeful Conservation Park contains two regional ecosystems (REs) classified as of concern, although these ecosystems are more prominently represented in other QPWS protected areas. Most of the park is dominated by microphyll vine forest and semi-evergreen vine thicket communities.

The entire park is mapped as having State biodiversity significance. It rates very highly with respect to bioregional and subregional ecosystem size, condition, connectivity and its role as a centre of endemism. However, it scores moderately for providing habitat for endangered, vulnerable, and near threatened (EVNT) species, as well as for bioregional and subregional ecosystem value and diversity.

3.3.1 Microphyll vine forest and semi-evergreen vine thicket

The park contains two closed forest communities as no concern at present:

- RE 11.11.5 – Microphyll vine forest +/- *Araucaria cunninghamii* on old sedimentary rocks with varying degrees of metamorphism and folding.
- RE11.12.4 – Semi-evergreen vine thicket and microphyll vine forest on igneous rocks).

Together, these REs comprise nearly 85 per cent of the park, covering more than 469 hectares.

3.3.2 Eucalypt woodland

Two of concern regional ecosystems are found along the waterway in the southern part of the park:

- RE 11.3.25 – *Eucalyptus tereticornis* or *E. camaldulensis* woodland fringing drainage lines.
- RE 11.3.4 – *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and/or *Eucalyptus* spp. woodland on alluvial plains).

These are represented as the mixed RE 11.3.25 / 11.3.4 (70% / 30%), which provides suitable habitat for koalas. RE 11.3.25 is classified as a riverine wetland or fringing riverine wetland. These are wetlands with an open, non-vegetated channel (State of Queensland, 2025).

The southern part of the park also contains RE 11.12.1, a no concern at present ecosystem consisting of *Eucalyptus crebra* woodland on igneous rocks.

3.4 Species

3.4.1 Native animals

No listed EVNT fauna species have been recorded in Mount Hopeful Conservation Park, based on searches of the WildNet and WetlandInfo databases. However, limited public access and minimal survey efforts likely contribute to the lack of fauna records. It is possible that EVNT species may be present but unrecorded. Habitat modelling for threatened fauna indicates that the park has strong potential habitat for supporting multiple EVNT species.

A full list of these fauna species, as identified by DETSI, is provided in Appendix C.

3.4.2 Native plants

Cycas megacarpa, a species listed as endangered under both the NCA and EPBC Act, was identified in the WetlandInfo database. This species is typically found in woodland or open woodland dominated by eucalypts and is considered a special value associated with REs 11.12.1 and 11.3.4.

A National Multi-species Recovery Plan for the Cycads (Queensland Herbarium 2007) includes *C. megacarpa* and highlights inappropriate fire regimes as a key threat to its survival. Other flora species listed as special least concern under the NCA, such as *Cymbidium canaliculatum*, *Macrozamia miquelii* and *Brachychiton rupestris*, may also occur in the park.

Currently, there are no species records for the park in the Department's WildNet Database.

3.5 Geophysical features

Mount Hopeful Conservation Park is primarily comprised of igneous rocks that form ranges, hills, and lowlands with soils of low to moderate fertility. The southern waterway is bordered by alluvial river and creek flats, while a small area in the southern part contains old sedimentary rocks with varying degrees of metamorphism and folding. Rudosols soils are mapped across most of the park.

3.6 Partnerships

QPWS works with community stakeholders to support ongoing management programs for the park.

3.7 Fire

Fire management is a core responsibility for QPWS, aimed at protecting life and property, mitigating bushfires and maintaining natural diversity in accordance with the NCA and the *Fire Services Act 1990* for the control and prevention of fires.

3.7.1 Planned Burn Guidelines

The QPWS Planned Burn Guidelines for the Brigalow Belt Bioregion of Queensland (NPRSR 2013) should be applied to conserve or maintain the condition of the REs within Mount Hopeful Conservation Park. On-ground burns across the park will be varied to manage the multiple fire vegetation groups that are present in the park, including eucalypt forest and woodland communities.

Prescribed burns should be planned to avoid impacting the microphyll vine forest and semi-evergreen vine thicket communities within the park.

3.8 Pests

Due to the lack of publicly accessible roads, survey efforts within the park have been limited. Two pest species have been identified as likely to cause significant ecological damage, and it is likely that additional, unrecorded species are present.

3.8.1 Pest plants

Lantana *Lantana camara*, classified as a Category 3 restricted invasive species, is present in riparian zones within the park. It outcompetes native vegetation and altering the natural balance of ecosystems within the park. Rubber vine *Cryptostegia grandiflora* also occurs in the park. It commonly smothers riparian vegetation and can form dense thickets, potentially obstructing the movement of native animals.

3.8.2 Pest animals

Feral pigs *Sus scrofa* are present within the park, particularly along waterways, where their rooting can contribute to sedimentation. They degrade riparian zones and waterways, by reducing water quality, and they prey upon ground-nesting birds.

4. References

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, 2022, National Recovery Plan for the Australian Painted Snipe (*Rostratula australis*), Commonwealth of Australia 2022.

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, 2022, National Recovery Plan for the National Recovery Plan for the Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*), Commonwealth of Australia 2022.

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State of Queensland, 2025, Queensland Globe, accessed 12 November 2025 at <https://qldglobe.information.qld.gov.au/>

State of Queensland, 2025, Regional Ecosystem Descriptions, accessed 12 November 2025 at https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/descriptions/fields-explained#section-wetland_code

5. Appendices

Appendix A. Policy and management commitments

Gazettal details

Mount Hopeful Regional Park was formally gazetted as Mount Hopeful Environmental Park in 1989 under the *Land Act 1962*. At that time, there was a Trustee Agreement with National Parks and Wildlife. In 1994, the environmental park was gazetted to Mount Hopeful Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

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

Applicable Acts and statutory powers

- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld)
- *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth)
- *Fire Services Act 1990* (Qld)
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld)
- *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth)
- *Vegetation Management Act 1999*

Recovery plans and guides

- National Recovery Plan for the Australian Painted Snipe *Rostratula australis*, 2022
- National Recovery Plan for the Red Goshawk *Erythrotriorchis radiatus*, 2012
- National Recovery Plan for the Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*, 2022
- National Multi-species Recovery Plan for the cycads, *Cycas megacarpa*, *Cycas ophiolitica*, *Macrozamia cranei*, *Macrozamia lomandroides*, *Macrozamia pauli-guilielmi* and *Macrozamia platyrhachis*, 2007
- Planned Burn Guidelines Brigalow Belt Bioregion of Queensland, 2012

Appendix B. Regional ecosystems of significance

Regional ecosystem	Description	Regional ecosystem class*	Biodiversity status**
11.3.4	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> and/or <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. woodland on alluvial plains	Of concern	Of concern
11.3.25	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> or <i>E. camaldulensis</i> woodland fringing drainage lines	Least 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				
<i>Lantana camara</i>		Lantana	Category 3 Restricted Invasive	Riparian zones impacted. Impacts: • Outcompetes native species • Alters the natural balance of park ecosystems
Animals				
<i>Sus scrofa</i>		Feral pig	Category 3, 4, and 6 Restricted Invasive	Park-wide impacts: • Pig rooting can contribute to sedimentation along waterways • Reduce water quality, degrading riparian zones and waterways • Prey on ground-nesting birds