

Mount Whitfield Conservation Park

Management Statement 2015

Extended December 2025



Queensland
Government

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

© State of Queensland 2025

The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation acknowledges Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land. We recognise their connection to land, sea and community, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

The department is committed to respecting, protecting, and promoting human rights, and our obligations under the Human Rights Act 2019.

This management statement does not intend to affect, diminish, or extinguish native title or associated rights.

The Queensland Government supports and encourages the dissemination and exchange of its information. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.



Under this licence you are free, without having to seek our permission, to use this publication in accordance with the licence terms. You must keep intact the copyright notice and attribute the State of Queensland as the source of the publication.

For more information on this licence, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Disclaimer

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 Mount Whitfield Conservation Park Management Statement 2015 has been extended in 2025, 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.

If you need to access this document in a language other than English, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to telephone Library Services on +61 7 3170 5470.

This publication can be made available in an alternative format (e.g. large print or audiotape) on request for people with vision impairment; phone +61 7 3170 5470 or email <library@detsi.qld.gov.au>

Park overview

Park size	Mount Whitfield Conservation Park	329ha
Bioregion	Wet Tropics	
QPWS region	Northern	
Local government area	Cairns Regional Council	
State electorate	Cairns	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld)</i>	
	<i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>	
	<i>Nature Conservation 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

Mount Whitfield Conservation Park was formally gazetted as an environmental park in 1989. The property became a conservation park in 1994 under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

The purpose of the park is to protect a significant example of intact rainforest and significant *Cycas* woodland adjacent to an urban environment.

Under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, Cairns Regional Council is trustee of the park.

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Mount Whitfield Conservation Park has been assessed as having a high 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 published information. The high level means that it will receive a minimum of monthly routine inspections with occasional planned visits to deliver prepared work programs and to respond to issues. The focus is largely expected to be on natural resource and visitor management involving a proactive management effort at a high 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). Continuing engagement, consultation, collaboration and relationships with First Nations people and stakeholders will be undertaken.

This park currently has high levels of visitor use and is used extensively for fitness training and walking. The public may opportunistically have contact with maintenance staff that are likely to be on site undertaking a range of protection or presentation tasks. A high level of infrastructure is provided by Cairns Regional Council including a network of walking tracks, comprising of steps, bridges, shelter sheds, lookouts and extensive interpretation material to support safe and sustainable use by predominantly self-reliant visitors.

Public consultation on park management and development will be undertaken through continuing engagement and involvement in management with community stakeholders.

Park assets include the red and blue arrow walking tracks which are functional and robust and require annual maintenance to protect the natural and cultural values and management capacity. Potential for expansion of the trail network exists and will be investigated. A 22 kV power-line crosses this conservation park.

The area is zoned as conservation under the CairnsPlan.

General park values, uses and management

Regional ecosystems

The park protects nine regional ecosystems two of which have endangered biodiversity status and four are of concern, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance that are recorded from this park include two bird and two bat 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. Cultural records on physical artefacts and sites of spiritual significance are 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*.

Priorities for park management

The six regional ecosystems and nine animal 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 animal species of conservation significance.

Appendix

Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.3.25a	<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> +/- vine forest species open forest to closed forest on alluvium fringing streams	Of concern
7.11.10a	<i>Acacia celsa</i> open forest to closed forest on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.13	<i>Blakella torelliana</i> open forest, usually with a vine forest element, on metamorphics	Endangered
7.11.16a	<i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> and <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest to woodland on metamorphics of foothills and uplands	Endangered
7.11.44	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest to woodland on coastal metamorphic foothills	Of concern
7.11.49	<i>Eucalyptus leptophleba</i> , <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> and <i>E. platyphylla</i> open forest to woodland on metamorphic foothills	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
Animals			
<i>Casuarus casuarius</i> (southern population)	Southern cassowary (southern population)	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>	white-tailed tropicbird ¹	Special Least Concern	
<i>Taphozous australis</i>	Coastal sheath-tail bat	Near Threatened	
<i>Hipposideros diadema reginae</i>	diadem leaf-nosed bat	Near threatened	
<i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>	spectacled flying-fox	Endangered	Endangered

¹CAMBA: China-Australia Migratory Agreement