

Baddow Island 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

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 its locality, legislative framework and applicable plans/agreements.

Baddow Island Conservation Park is located in the Mary River, close to the city of Maryborough. There is no vehicle access to Baddow Island.



Figure 1. Locality of Baddow Island Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Baddow Island Conservation Park

Park size	Baddow Island Conservation Park	4.1 ha
Bioregion	South East Queensland	
QPWS region	South East Queensland	
Local government area	Fraser Coast Regional Council	
State electorate	Maryborough	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i> <i>Fire Services Act 1990</i> <i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i> <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 grey-headed flying-fox <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i> 2021 Planned Burn Guidelines Southeast Queensland Bioregion of Queensland 2022	

3. Resource information

3.1 First Nations people

There are currently no registered native title claims or determinations over Baddow Island Conservation Park.

A registered native title determination (QCD2019/008 – Butchulla People Land & Sea Claim #2) covers the surrounding Mary River and a small strip of the eastern edge of Baddow Island adjacent to the Conservation Park.

There are no Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA) 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 Baddow Island 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.

3.3 Ecosystems and biodiversity

The entirety of Baddow Island Conservation Park is mapped as eucalypt fringing woodlands. The park protects areas of both state biodiversity significance and supporting State Habitat for Endangered, Vulnerable and Near Threatened (EVNT) taxa. The park rates highly on condition, wildlife refugia and species richness; however, rates low for tract size, ecosystem diversity and context and connection.

3.3.1 Eucalypt fringing woodland

Baddow Island Conservation Park comprises one regional ecosystem (RE 12.3.7 – *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *Casuarina cunninghamiana* subsp. *cunninghamiana* +/- *Melaleuca* spp. fringing woodland). This regional ecosystem's biodiversity status is of concern and its wetland code is 'Riverine,' defined as a riverine wetland or fringing riverine wetland with an open, non-vegetated channel (State of Queensland 2024).

This ecosystem provides habitat for an extensive range of aquatic flora and fauna. While its overall distribution and extent do not appear to have changed significantly since European settlement, its condition has declined due to the invasion of weeds, changes in land use and flood impacts. It is particularly susceptible to invasion by weeds such as Chinese elm *Celtis sinensis*, broad-leaved pepper tree *Schinus terebinthifolius*, lantana *Lantana camara* and cat's claw creeper *Macfadyena unguis-cati* (Healthy Land and Water 2023).

3.3.2 Mary River

Baddow Island Conservation Park is situated within the Mary River. The Mary River rises near Boorobin in the Sunshine Coast hinterland and flows north through towns such as Kenilworth, Gympie, Tiaro and Maryborough before emptying into the Great Sandy Strait near River Heads (DETSI 2017).

The Mary River catchment covers about 9,595 km², making it a major coastal river system in south-east Queensland. The river supports a high diversity of aquatic and terrestrial life — including unique and nationally threatened species, such as the Mary River cod *Maccullochella mariensis* and Australian lungfish *Neoceratodus forsteri* (DETSI 2013).

3.4 Species

3.4.1 Native animals

Ten conservation significant fauna species have been recorded on *WetlandInfo* for the park, including the tusked frog *Adelotus brevis* and white-throated needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*, both listed as vulnerable under both the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), and the grey-headed flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*, listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act. There is a National Recovery Plan for the Grey-headed Flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus* (Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment 2021).

There are no species records for Baddow Island Conservation Park in the department's WildNet database.

3.4.2 Native plants

Nine conservation significant flora species have been recorded on *WetlandInfo*, including *Macrozamia pauli-guilielmi*, listed as endangered under both the NCA and EPBC Act. A National Multi-species Recovery Plan for the Cycads has been developed, which includes *M. pauli-guilielmi* (Queensland Herbarium 2007). Other species include *Samadera bidwillii*, listed as vulnerable under both the NCA and EPBC Act, as well as seven additional flora species classified as special least concern.

There are no species records for Baddow Island Conservation Park in the department's WildNet database.

3.5 Geophysical features

Baddow Island Conservation Park lies within the Maryborough Basin and the land zone is classified as Quaternary alluvial river systems and creek flats. The dominant rock is alluvium, with the rock type classified as a stratified unit (including volcanic and metamorphic rocks). Dermosols soils are the primary soil type mapped across the park.

3.6 Ecotourism

3.6.1 Tourism and visitor opportunities

Public access to Baddow Island Conservation Park is only possible by water, resulting in relatively low levels of visitor use.

3.7 Partnerships

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

3.8 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.

3.8.1 Planned Burn Guidelines

The Planned Burn Guidelines for the Southeast Queensland Bioregion for eucalypt open forests to woodlands on floodplains should be followed for this park (NPRSR 2012). Fire management in these fringing communities requires careful planning, especially as the river she-oak *Casuarina cunninghamiana* (dominant within the RE 12.3.7) is sensitive to fire and germination after fire is typically low. These floodplain communities typically respond to flood damage, which enhances germination (DETSI 2025).

3.9 Pests

3.9.1 Pest plants

Pest plants of Baddow Island Conservation Park are poorly understood.

3.9.2 Pest animals

Feral pigs *Sus scrofa* are known to the park. Feral pigs are strong swimmers and the Mary River does not appear to be an obstacle in reaching the island. Given the small size of the park, they may place significant pressure on the eucalypt woodland.

4. References

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, 2021, *National Recovery Plan for the Grey-headed Flying-fox 'Pteropus poliocephalus'*, Australian Government.

Department of Environment, Science and Innovation, Queensland, 2013, Wildlife of Baddow Island Conservation Park, Wetland/Info website, accessed 25 November 2025 at <https://wetlandinfo.des.qld.gov.au/wetlands/facts-maps/wildlife/?AreaID=conservation-park-baddow-island>

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NPRSR, 2012, *Planned Burn Guidelines Southeast Queensland Bioregion of Queensland*. National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing, Brisbane.

State of Queensland, 2025, Regional Ecosystem Descriptions, accessed 26 November 2025 at <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/descriptions/land-zones>

State of Queensland, 2025, Traditional owners – Butchulla people, accessed 25 November 2025 at <https://parks.qld.gov.au/parks/kgari-fraser/about/butchulla>

5. Appendices

Appendix A. Policy and management commitments

Gazettal details

Baddow Island Regional Park was formally gazetted as Baddow Island Environmental Park in 1988 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 Baddow Island Conservation Park under the NCA.

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

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*, 2007
- National Recovery Plan for the grey-headed flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus* 2021
- Planned Burn Guidelines Southeast Queensland Bioregion of Queensland 2022

Appendix B. Regional ecosystems of significance

Regional ecosystem	Description	Regional ecosystem class*	Biodiversity status**
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

* 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
Animals			
<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Feral pig	Category 3, 4 and 6 Restricted Invasive	Park-wide impacts: • Degrades wetlands • Direct predation of ground-nesting birds • Spreads invasive plants