

# Gatton National Park

## Management Statement

2026



**Queensland**  
Government

This management statement has not been co-designed with First Nations partners. This document has been prepared by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation to provide management guidance and adaptive management until such a time as the department can engage with First Nations partners in the co-design of a management instrument.

Management statements are prepared under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. These documents may also include management direction for other State tenure for 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. A glossary of VBMF terms and concepts used within this document is provided at the end of this document (Section 5 – Glossary).

As a land manager, QPWS has a custodial obligation to ensure our estate is managed to provide appropriate and safe access, protect life and property, be a good neighbour and work cooperatively with partners across the landscape. The agency does this as part of setting the 'levels of service' for each park. Levels of service is a management standard that considers an area's values, threatening processes, custodial obligations, risks and overall management complexity.

This management statement has been prepared by QPWS to provide management guidance and adaptive management until such a time as the department can engage with First Nations partners in co-design of a management instrument.

## 2. Park overview

The following figure and table (Figure 1, Table 1) provide an overview of information relating to the park including locality, legislative framework and applicable plans/agreements.

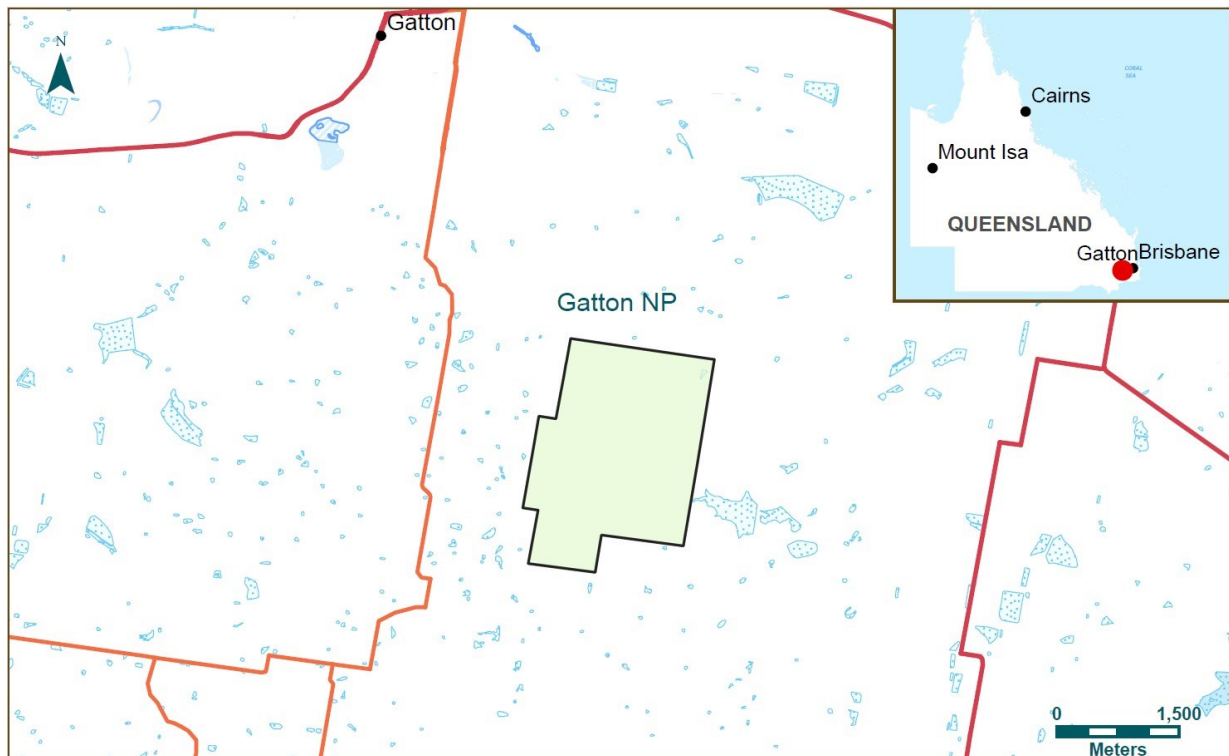


Figure 1. Locality of Gatton National Park

Table 1. Overview of Gatton National Park

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                     |        |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Park size</b>             | Gatton National Park                                                                                                                                                | 426 ha |
| <b>Bioregion</b>             | South Eastern Queensland                                                                                                                                            |        |
| <b>QPWS region</b>           | South West                                                                                                                                                          |        |
| <b>Local government area</b> | Lockyer Valley Regional                                                                                                                                             |        |
| <b>State electorate</b>      | Lockyer                                                                                                                                                             |        |
| <b>Relevant legislation</b>  | <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>                                                                                                                               |        |
| <b>Plans and agreements</b>  | China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement                                                                                                                            |        |
|                              | Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement                                                                                                                            |        |
|                              | National Recovery Plan for the Australian Painted Snipe <i>Rostratula australis</i> , 2022                                                                          |        |
|                              | National Recovery Plan for the Grey-headed Flying-fox <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i> , 2021                                                                          |        |
|                              | National Recovery Plan for the Koala <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory), 2022 |        |
|                              | Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement                                                                                                                |        |

### 3. Park values

All parks, forests 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 on Gatton National Park do not reach the thresholds required to be considered key values. 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 conserving the natural, cultural and social values that support its importance as a protected area, ensuring that management aligns with the legislative and custodial obligations in relation to these values.

Threats to values will primarily be managed through fire and pest management. Key actions will include:

- protecting life and property within and adjacent to the park
- managing fire to conserve and maintain regional ecosystems in line with the planned burn guidelines
- reducing the impacts of existing pest species on neighbouring land uses
- managing pest threats to preserve regional ecosystems and species of conservation significance.

# 4. Management direction

QPWS manages protected areas and forests to protect their values and deliver our custodial obligations as a land manager. A level of service (LoS) assessment allows QPWS to consider the management of each park in a state-wide context and determine desired levels of management effort for each park in a consistent and equitable way. An LoS assessment lets QPWS staff and the public know what level of management activity to expect on each park, forest or reserve. There are six LoS ratings ranging from 'below acceptable' to 'exceptional', and an 'acceptable' rating is the minimum standard required to deliver good management and meet our legislative and custodial obligations.

This section provides a strategic management direction for each management theme, identifying its current LoS and desired LoS, which can be interpreted using Figure 3.

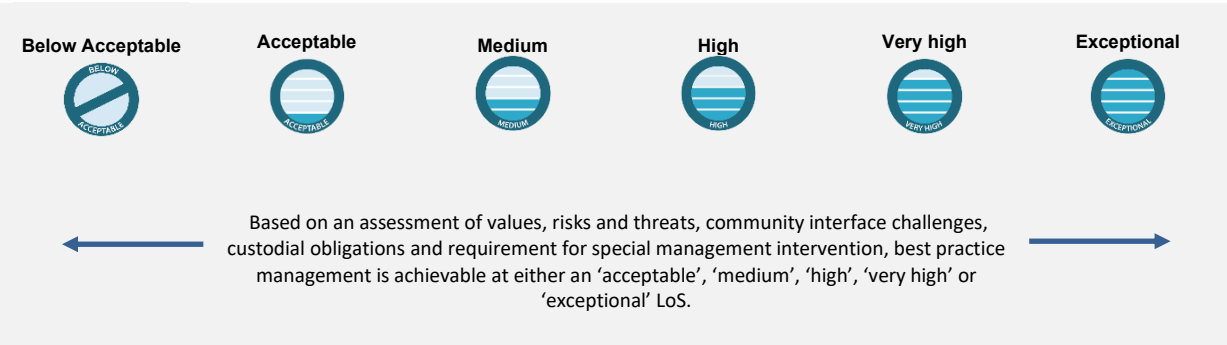


Figure 3. Description of LoS icons

## 4.1 Management directions

| Management theme                            | Current                                                                             | Desired                                                                             | Strategic management direction                                                                                                                                            | Priority (1–5) * |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Fire management                             |    |    | Maintain current level of consultation with neighbours, Rural Fire Service Queensland and relevant stakeholders.                                                          | 4                |
|                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                                     | Improve current approach to fire management through the development of a fire strategy in FLAME.                                                                          | 3                |
| Pest management                             |    |    | Improve current approach to pest management through the development of a pest strategy in FLAME.                                                                          | 3                |
| Natural values management                   |    |    | Maintain contemporary knowledge of natural values and their management requirements.                                                                                      | 4                |
|                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                                     | Maintain current level of consultation and engagement with regional and centric units to support natural values management.                                               | 4                |
|                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                                     | Maintain the current management effort to improve the condition of natural values.                                                                                        | 4                |
| Post-contact cultural heritage management   |    |    | Maintain a contemporary knowledge of the park's post-contact cultural heritage and management requirements.                                                               | 4                |
|                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                                     | Maintain the current level of consultation with heritage groups and stakeholders, and QPWS Principal Heritage Officer to guide post-contact cultural heritage management. | 4                |
| Visitor management                          |    |    | Maintain current level of knowledge of visitor infrastructure and use.                                                                                                    | 4                |
|                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                                     | Maintain current level of engagement with neighbours and stakeholders.                                                                                                    | 4                |
|                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                                     | Improve facilities management through fencing at the north-western access point.                                                                                          | 3                |
| Community, partnerships and other interests |    |    | Increase staff's capabilities in cultural heritage management and cross-cultural engagement through training opportunities.                                               | 3                |
|                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                                     | Maintain current approach to management of partnerships, community and other interests.                                                                                   | 4                |
| Field management capability                 |  |  | Maintain a contemporary knowledge base to deliver required management.                                                                                                    | 4                |
|                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                                     | Maintain current levels of consultation with regional support units regarding field management capacity.                                                                  | 4                |
|                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                                     | Maintain current site inspection regime.                                                                                                                                  | 4                |
| Operational planning and management support |  |  | Maintain knowledge of available operational planning and management support within the region to guide and support park management operations.                            | 4                |
|                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                                     | Maintain relationships with regional and centric support units.                                                                                                           | 4                |
|                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                                     | Maintain levels of operational planning for key management priorities including fire and pest.                                                                            | 4                |

\*Level of Service priority: 1 – extremely urgent and extremely necessary, 2 – very necessary and very urgent, 3 - moderately necessary and moderately urgent, 4 – somewhat necessary and somewhat urgent, 5 – optional and not urgent (see Appendix 1)

## 5. Glossary

The following glossary contains VBMF terms and concepts used within this document.

| Term                                  | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Adaptive management</b>            | The process of adjusting and improving how we manage parks, forests and reserves after assessing the outcomes of previous strategies and on-ground actions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Custodial obligations</b>          | The legal and policy requirements QPWS has as a land manager to ensure that parks, forests and reserves are managed properly and lawfully. This includes protecting life and property, maintaining biosecurity, building positive relationships with adjacent communities and landholders, and safeguarding the values of the land.                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Key value</b>                      | A natural, cultural, social or economic value that is most important, significant, unique or irreplaceable and helps define the essence of the area. If lost, it would diminish what makes the area distinct from others.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Level of service (LoS)</b>         | Management standards for maintaining an area based on its values, threats and the complexity of management. There are six LoS ratings ranging from 'below acceptable' to 'exceptional', noting that an 'acceptable' rating is the minimum standard required to deliver good management and meet our custodial obligations under law as a land manager. A 'current' LoS rating is the level at the time of planning, the 'desired' LoS is where we want to be. |
| <b>Management direction</b>           | An assessment of the current and desired LoS for each management theme, with prioritised strategic management directions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Management instrument</b>          | A management plan or management statement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Management theme</b>               | Common management themes across parks, forests and reserves, including fire management; pest management; natural values management; post-contact cultural heritage management; visitor management; community, partnerships and other interests; field management capability; operational planning and management support.                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Strategic management direction</b> | A broad strategy aimed at mitigating or removing a threat to a key value and maintaining or improving the condition of a park's value; or addressing the gap between the current LoS and desired LoS for a management theme.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

# Appendix 1

| Term                              | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Priority rating (LoS SMDs)</b> | <p>A rating given to an LoS or custodial obligation strategic management direction.</p> <p>A scale from 1 (extremely urgent) to 5 (not urgent or optional) is assigned, with consideration given to legislative obligations, cost, and social, economic and political factors.</p> |