

Smithfield Conservation Park

Management Statement 2015

Extended May 2026



Queensland
Government

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

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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.

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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 Smithfield Conservation Park Management Statement 2015 has been extended in 2026, 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.

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Park overview

Park size	Smithfield Conservation Park	279ha
Bioregion	Wet Tropics	
QPWS region	Northern	
Local government area	Cairns Regional	
State electorate	Barron River	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld)</i>	
	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>	
	<i>Aboriginal Land Act 1991</i>	
	<i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	
	<i>Forestry Act 1959</i>	
	<i>Queensland Heritage 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

Smithfield Regional Park (now Smithfield Conservation Park) was formally gazetted on 23 June 2000 as a conservation park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. In 2009, a small parcel was excised from the park to provide road access to residential development. The park reverted to a conservation park in 2016.

This park was acquired to provide a suitable location for off-road mountain -bike riding in the Cairns region.

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Smithfield 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 respond to issues. The focus is largely expected to be on recreation and natural resource 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 Traditional Owners and Indigenous stakeholders will be undertaken.

This park currently has high levels of visitor use particularly from mountain bike enthusiasts and people walking their dogs. The public may opportunistically have contact with rangers who are likely to be on site undertaking a range of protection and presentation tasks. A high level of infrastructure is provided to support safe and sustainable use. The park accommodates a network of mountain bike tracks for recreational purposes and also accommodates challenging competition tracks including some which are considered amongst the best in the world. Information on the park is provided through an extensive network of park signs and is also available on the Departmental website.

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

Park assets are regularly maintained to ensure the safety of park users and to protect the natural and cultural values and management capacity. The Cairns Mountain Bike Club has an agreement under section 34 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* for the use and management of trails for mountain bike riding on part of the park. This agreement includes the public-use of some of the mountain bike tracks. A restricted access area exists over sections of track for the protection of natural resources. Permits to access this area for competition are required. A 22 kV Ergon power-line transects the regional park.

Regional ecosystems

The park protects 11 regional ecosystems of which two have endangered biodiversity status and four are of concern, Table 1.

Plants and animals

Species of conservation significance that are recorded from this park include three bird species and four plant species, Table 2.

Aboriginal culture

All protected areas are recognised as cultural landscapes and Aboriginal people see themselves as inextricably linked to country both spiritually and physically. Although cultural records on physical artefacts and sites of spiritual significance are not well documented for this area, all proposed activities need to meet duty of care requirements under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*.

Shared-history culture

Non-indigenous historic places will be managed in accordance with the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

Management directions

Priorities for park management

The six regional ecosystems, nine bird species, one plant species of conservation significance and the recreation opportunities are the main values of this park. The priorities for park management will be fire and pest management.

Management actions will be undertaken which aim to ensure:

- mountain biking opportunities continue to be provided at Smithfield Conservation Park with the track network managed by the Cairns Mountain Bike Club under a Memorandum of Understanding arrangement
- 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, plant and animal species of conservation significance.

Appendix

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.3.12a	Mixed eucalypt open forest to woodland, dominated by <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> and <i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Melaleuca dealbata</i> , (or vine forest with these species as emergents). Lowland alluvial plains	Endangered
7.3.20f	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> , or <i>C. intermedia</i> and <i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> , or <i>S. glomulifera</i> and <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp., or <i>E. cloeziana</i> , or <i>C. torelliana</i> open forest (or vine forest with these emergents) on alluvial fans at the base of ranges	Of concern
7.11.18h	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and/or <i>C. tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents) on coastal metamorphic headlands and foothills	Of concern
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
7.12.5b	<i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> +/- <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest, or <i>Acacia mangium</i> and <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on granites and rhyolites	Endangered

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth) status
Plants			
<i>Senegalia albizioides</i>	-	Near threatened	-
<i>Cardiopteris moluccana</i>	-	Special least concern	-
<i>Cordyline cannifolia</i>	-	Special least concern	-
<i>Rhodamnia spongiosa</i>	-	Critically endangered	-
Animals			
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	fork-tailed swift	Special least concern	-
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i> ²³⁴	white-throated needle-tail	Special least concern	Vulnerable
<i>Pandion cristatus</i> ¹	eastern osprey	Special least concern	-

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	CMS	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	fork-tailed swift		✓	✓	✓
<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	cicadabird			✓	
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	white-throated needle-tail		✓	✓	✓
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater		✓		
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	black-faced monarch	✓			
<i>Pandion cristatus</i>	eastern osprey	✓			
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	✓			
<i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i>	spectacled monarch	✓			

CMS – Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement