

Ex-HMAS Brisbane Conservation Park

Management Statement 2015

Extended April 2026



Queensland
Government

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

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The Ex-HMAS Brisbane 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	Ex-HMAS Brisbane Conservation Park	35.3ha
Bioregion	N/A	
QPWS region	Great Barrier Reef and Marine Parks	
Local government area	N/A	
State electorate	N/A	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld)</i> <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> <i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i> <i>Marine Parks Act 2004</i>	

Park purpose

Ex-HMAS Brisbane Conservation Park was formally gazetted as a conservation park in 2005.

The park was gazetted around the scuttled HMAS Brisbane to protect and manage this structure as a world class dive site and artificial reef. The ship was scuttled as a regional economic development project to provide significant tourism, economic and industry development opportunities for the Sunshine Coast and Queensland.

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Ex-HMAS Brisbane Conservation Park has been assessed as having a basic level of priority for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, (QPWS) management and will be managed according to this rating. The base level means it will receive annual routine inspections with occasional planned visits where issues have been identified. The focus is largely expected to be on visitor management through permits and approvals to enable visitors to explore the site's abundant marine life. A restricted access area is in place to protect and maintain the wreck as a high-quality dive site.

Park management will be based on the best available local knowledge, professional judgement and anecdotal information.

This park currently has high levels of visitor use, with access largely provided by commercial dive operators. Visitors are unlikely to encounter a QPWS ranger on site during their visit. Park information is provided off-site, primarily through the Departmental website and commercial dive operators.

Informal ad-hoc consultation with community stakeholders will be undertaken on specific issues of park management as they arise.

Park assets will consist of infrastructure to support diving to explore the former warship wreck and the artificial reef. Mooring infrastructure is provided to support sustainable anchoring by visitors.

General park values, uses and management

Species of conservation significance

There are currently no formal records of species of conservation significance listed for this park.

Many species of marine life rely on the establishing reef for food and shelter, and the composition of species will evolve over time.

Cultural heritage

The HMAS Brisbane was a Charles F Adams class Guided Missile Destroyer which served 34 years in the Royal Australian Navy, including deployments to both the Vietnam and Gulf wars. It was the last steam-powered ship in the Australian Navy and the wreck's resting place and associated mainland lookout, which includes a portion of the ship's mast, are places of significance to former ship's crew and the Navy.

Priorities for park management

Keys values of this park are the world class scuba diving experience and opportunities for research studies on a developing artificial reef.

Priorities for park management will be to manage site access through the declared restricted access area to ensure high quality scuba diving experiences and sustainable use through the careful management of visitor numbers and exclusion of fishing and general boating from the area.

Site management and use does not compromise endangered grey nurse shark feeding behaviours.

Any emergent pest threats will be managed to conserve or maintain the condition of the developing reef.