

Belmah Conservation Park



Management Statement

2024

Prepared by: **Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Science and Innovation**

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1.Introduction

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service works with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to manage protected areas and forests, to ensure the protection of cultural sites, and to enhance their connection with Country.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the Traditional Owners of this Country and they retain their relationship and connection to the land, sea and community. We pay our respects to all Traditional Owners, and to the Elders past, present and in the future for the land and sea on which we work, live and walk.

1.1 Approach to best practice management

Queensland's parks, forests and reserves are places we want to protect for future enjoyment and wellbeing. What makes these places special are the presence and diversity of natural, cultural, social and economic values. These areas experience natural cycles—they live and breathe—and therefore our management needs to be dynamic too. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), within the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI), 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. We want to keep our parks, forests and reserves healthy by:

- managing and protecting the things that matter most—our key values
- strategically directing management effort towards priorities
- delivering our **custodial obligations** as a land manager
- setting a **level of service** for all parks, forests and reserves
- building systems that support decision-making for adaptive management
- building support for what we do through accountability and transparency
- striving for improvement through structured learning and doing.

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 a level of service for each park. Level of service is a management standard that considers an area's values, threatening processes, custodial obligations, risks and overall management complexity.

By assessing an area's key values and level of service, QPWS can prioritise management efforts, balancing the importance of values and threats with our custodial obligations. Each year, we track work programs, monitor the condition of values and evaluate our performance across all aspects of management. The evaluation process documents how efficiently and effectively we are working toward achieving the objectives we set for managing parks, forests and reserves, and how the condition of key values is changing in response to our management efforts. This evaluation supports transparent and accountable reporting, enabling us to continuously improve park management and demonstrate outcomes to the community.

Figure 1 illustrates phases of the VBMF cycle for management planning. A glossary of the key concepts (in **bold**) used throughout the document is listed in Appendix 2.

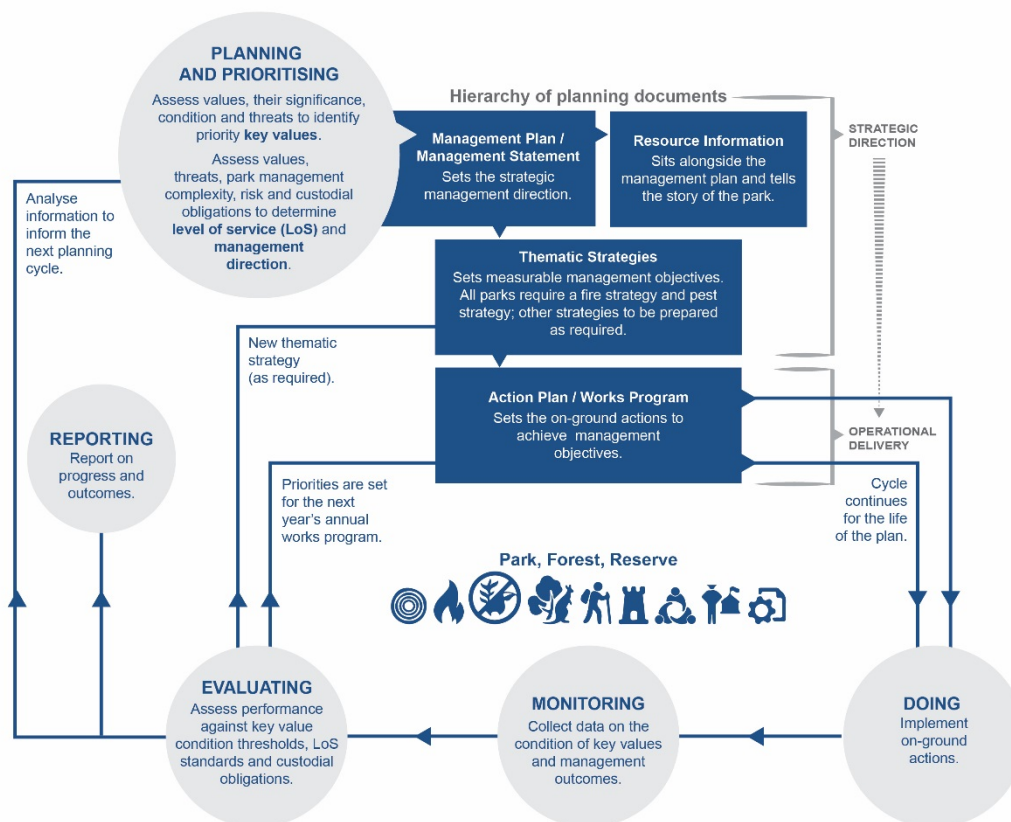


Figure 1. Phases of the VBMF cycle for planning and the hierarchy of planning documents

1.2 Management planning

Management plans are developed through a process of research, assessment and consultation to establish priorities and set **strategic management direction** for the park. They are legislative requirements under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) (NCA). Some planning areas may include forest and reserves (*Forestry Act 1959* (Qld)) and marine parks (*Marine Park Act 2004* (Qld)). All plans are prepared in keeping with legislation's management principles, supporting regulations, government policies and procedures, and international agreements. Planning for each park is brought together and communicated through a number of planning documents:

- Management plans and management statements provide the high-level strategic direction for managing an area's key values, levels of service and custodial obligations. Management plans and statements are statutory documents and are generally reviewed every 10 years.
- Resource information documents support management plans and statements and provide a compendium of park information that tells the story of the park. These documents accompany management plans and management statements, providing contextual information. They support information provided in the plan but do not provide management direction.
- Thematic strategies provide specific objectives to achieve the strategic management directions identified in management plans and statements. While all parks and forests require a fire strategy and pest strategy, others are developed based on a protected area's management requirements and priorities. Thematic strategies are generally reviewed every three to five years to enable adaptive management.
- Action plans outline the work program for delivering on-ground actions.

Further information on the VBMF, copies of management plans/statements and resource information documents are available on the department's website at www.des.qld.gov.au.

2. Western Kangoulu People

Belmah Conservation Park lies within the cultural lands of the Western Kangoulu People. The Western Kangoulu People's traditional Country is the area surrounding Emerald and is covered by the registered Native Title Claim QC2013/002.

The Western Kangoulu People's Country is rich in history and natural resources, contains both tangible and intangible values, and is of great cultural significance to the Western Kangoulu People. QPWS is committed to meaningful engagement to ensure the protection of cultural sites, and to partner with the Western Kangoulu People.

Aboriginal cultural heritage or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage, as defined in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* or the *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (the Acts) is anything that is:

- a significant Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander area in Queensland
- a significant Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander object in Queensland
- or
- evidence of archaeological or historic significance of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander occupation of an area of Queensland.

QPWS is committed to working in partnership with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, taking all reasonable and practical steps to protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage.

The Acts provide for:

- blanket protection of areas and objects of traditional, customary and archaeological significance
- recognition of the key role of Traditional Owners in cultural heritage matters
- establishing practical and flexible processes for dealing with cultural heritage in a timely manner.

The Acts require anyone who carries out a land-use activity to exercise a duty of care. Duty of care is taking all reasonable and practical measures to ensure actions and activities do not harm Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage. QPWS must meet its duty of care obligations when managing protected areas.

Desired outcome and strategic management direction

Desired outcome	
The relationship with the Western Kangoulu People and the protection of their cultural heritage will be managed by improved knowledge and partnership, recognising their connection to Country and role in managing the park's cultural heritage values.	
Strategic management direction	Priority
Improve the current level of knowledge of the Western Kangoulu People's sites and values.	1
Maintain at least an annual level of consultation and engagement with the Western Kangoulu People.	1
Continue to ensure that operational activities do not impact on Western Kangoulu People's sites and values.	1

3. Belmah Conservation Park

3.1 Management statement and thematic strategies

The Belmah Conservation Park Management Statement provides the strategic management direction for managing its keys values (Section 4) and meeting our custodial obligations across eight **management elements** (Section 5). The plan is supported by the Belmah Resource Information document, a compendium of park information that tells the story of the park. The strategic management directions set out in this management plan link to a set of thematic strategies that detail management objectives, providing the connection between high-level strategies and on-ground operations. The complexity of a park's values and custodial obligations determines the requirements for specific strategies. Belmah Conservation Park has three thematic strategies:

- Fire
- Pest
- Monitoring and research.

3.2 Park overview

Belmah Conservation Park is located 6 kilometres east of Emerald in the state electorate of Gregory and the local government area of Central Highlands Regional Council (Map 1).

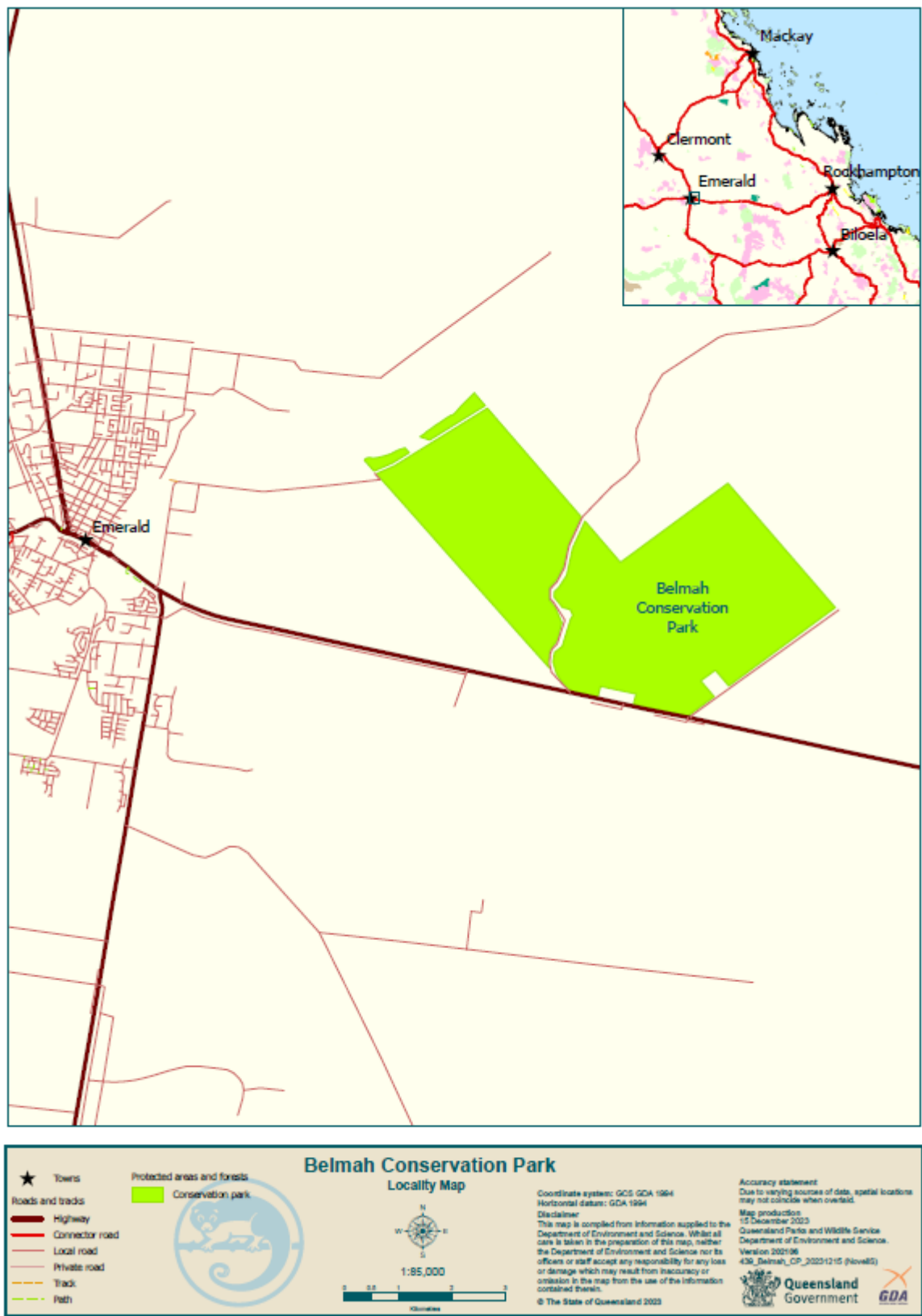
Belmah was purchased in 2011 through the National Reserve System component of the Australian Government's *Caring for our Country* initiative. Belmah conserves 2,041 hectares of the Brigalow Belt North bioregion.

Ninety-four per cent of Belmah is mapped as having state biodiversity significance due to the representation of threatened regional ecosystems.

The north-western section of Belmah Conservation Park adjoins the Nogoa River, and forms part of a riparian corridor of state and regional significance and aquatic conservation values for diversity and richness, priority species and ecosystems. This connectivity enhances Belmah's ecological value and contributes to management of the Nogoa River catchment.

The purpose for the acquisition of Belmah was to increase representation of threatened brigalow *Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant woodlands and Queensland blue grass *Dichanthium sericeum* dominant natural grasslands.

Limited flora and fauna information is available for Belmah. However, the 'endangered' shrub, *Solanum elaeagnifolium*, has been recorded from the brigalow woodlands on Belmah. Three species listed under the NCA and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)—ornamental snake *Denisonia maculata* (vulnerable, NCA and EPBC Act), Australian painted snipe *Rostratula australis* (vulnerable, NCA, and endangered, EPBC Act), and Queensland blue grass *Dichanthium queenslandicum* (vulnerable, NCA, and endangered, EPBC Act)—have been recorded locally. Belmah contains core habitat for these species and they could potentially occur on the reserve.



Map 1. Belmah Conservation Park location map

4. Key values

All parks, forests and reserves have an array of natural, cultural, social and economic values that are important and contribute to the state's comprehensive and representative protected area and forest estate. The VBMF supports a process for identifying and protecting the most important values, the key values, and this directs the allocation of resources.

In this section, a **key value statement** is provided for each key value, identifying the current **condition and trend**, and a desired condition. The main threatening processes are identified and rated from high to low. A strategic management direction provides a broad strategy to address the threatening process to achieve the **desired outcome** over time. Each strategic management direction is prioritised according to the need for action to prevent further decline, stabilise current condition, or restore and enhance the value (refer to **priority rating** in Appendix 2).

The condition of all key values is (or will be) assessed through regular **health checks** or other monitoring. The monitoring and research strategy outlines opportunities and needs for scientific monitoring and research programs that will enhance our knowledge. Any change to a key value's condition will be identified through health checks and monitoring, enabling QPWS to act quickly, applying best practice adaptive management.

Summary of Belmah Conservation Park's key values

The key value for Belmah Conservation Park is the Brigalow communities, detailed in section 4.1. The location of the key value is shown in Map 2. Figure 2 provides a key to interpreting the condition and trend icons used in this section.

Condition of key value	Good  The value is in good condition and is likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, provided that current measures are maintained	Good with some concern  The value is likely to be maintained over the long-term with minor additional conservation measures to address existing concerns	Significant concern  The value is threatened by a number of current and/or potential threats. Significant additional conservation measures are required to preserve the value over the medium to long-term	Critical  The value is severely threatened. Urgent additional large-scale conservation measures are required or the value may be lost
Trend rating of condition	Improving 	Stable 	Deteriorating 	No consistent trend 
Confidence in assessment	Inferred 	Limited 	Adequate 	

Figure 2: Key to condition, trend and confidence icons

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4.1 Brigalow communities

Key value statement

Description		Current condition	Current trend	Desired condition
Brigalow <i>Acacia harpophylla</i> woodlands on alluvial and Cainozoic clay plains	Condition and trend	2023 		
	Assessment confidence	Inferred 	Inferred 	

Belmah contains three 'endangered' brigalow *Acacia harpophylla* woodland communities on alluvial and Cainozoic clay plains (11.3.1 – *A. harpophylla* and/or *Casuarina cristata* open forest on alluvial plains, 11.4.8 – *Eucalyptus cambageana* woodland to open forest with *A. harpophylla* or *A. argyrodendron* on Cainozoic clay plains, 11.4.9 – *A. harpophylla* shrubby open forest to woodland with *Terminalia oblongata* on Cainozoic clay plains) (Figure 3) (Map 2). These communities have been extensively cleared across the bioregion for cropping and pasture. Less than 30% (2013) of preclearing extent remains and the protected area extent is low. These communities have high biodiversity values and provide potential habitat for a number of threatened species, including the painted honeyeater *Grantiella picta* (vulnerable, NCA and EPBC Act) and the shrub *Solanum elaeagnifolium* (endangered, EPBC Act).

Threats

Primary threat: Invasive high biomass grasses, such as buffel grass *Cenchrus ciliaris*, threaten the brigalow woodland communities by competing with native species and more importantly by significantly increasing the risk of fire encroaching into these communities. **Threat rating: Very high**

Secondary threat: Fire threatens the fire sensitive brigalow woodland communities when buffel grass provides contiguous ground cover.

Threat rating: Very high



Figure 3: Brigalow community, Belmah Conservation Park

Desired outcome and strategic management direction

Desired outcome		
	The condition of the brigalow communities has been improved to 'good with some concern' by managing impacts associated with high biomass grasses, fire encroachment, pest animals and other invasive weeds	
Threatening process	Strategic management direction	Priority
Pest plants	Reduce impacts of buffel grass on the brigalow communities.	2
	Reduce impacts of prickly pear <i>Opuntia</i> spp., parthenium <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> , hymenachne <i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i> and rubber vine <i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i> on the brigalow communities.	4
Pest animals	Reduce impacts of feral cats and feral pigs on the brigalow communities.	5
Fire	Maintain healthy brigalow communities through appropriate planned burning and other mitigation strategies in adjacent communities.	2

See Appendix 2. Glossary for priority rating definitions.

5. Management direction

QPWS manages protected areas and forests to protect their values and deliver our custodial obligations as a land manager. 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. LoS assessment lets QPWS staff and the public know what type or level of management activity to expect on each park or forest. There are five LoS ratings ranging from 'acceptable' to 'exceptional': an acceptable rating is the minimum standard required to deliver good management and meet our legislative custodial obligations.

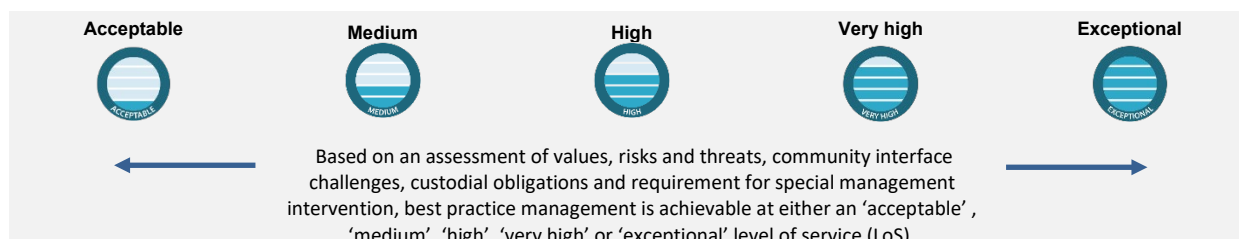
This section provides a **management direction statement** for each management element, identifying its current LoS, desired LoS and the strategic management direction for management.

Summary of Belmah Conservation Park's management direction

A summary of the current and desired LoS for Belmah Conservation Park is shown below; Figure 4 provides a key to the LoS icons.

	Current LoS	Desired LoS
1. Fire management	 High	 High
2. Pest management	 Medium	 Medium
3. Natural values management	 Medium	 Medium
4. Post-contact cultural heritage management	 Acceptable	 Acceptable
5. Visitor management	 Acceptable	 Acceptable
6. Community, partnerships and other interests	 Acceptable	 Medium
7. Field management capability	 Medium	 Medium
8. Operational planning and management support	 High	 Medium

Figure 4. Key to condition, trend and confidence icons



*KEY: Priority ratings: M – maintain current priorities; Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

5.1 Fire management

Management direction statement

Description	Current level of service
Fire management for Belmah Conservation Park	

Fire management is core business for QPWS to protect life and property, mitigate bushfires and maintain natural diversity in accordance with the NCA and the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* for the control and prevention of fires. QPWS also works cooperatively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, state and local government agencies, rural fire brigades, adjoining landholders and local communities to manage fire across the landscape.

The strategic management direction in this management plan, combined with the Western Kangoulu People's knowledge of traditional burning practices and the Queensland Government's *Planned Burn Guidelines: Brigalow Belt Bioregion of Queensland*, will guide the formation of the Belmah Conservation Park Fire Strategy.

The fire strategy will detail QPWS's custodial obligations for protecting life and property, and fire management objectives for maintaining key values through use of fire management zones.

Currently, QPWS engages with the neighbours of Belmah to undertake controlled conservation grazing of buffel grass infestations prior to the fire season each year to protect the endangered, fire-sensitive acacia communities on Belmah Conservation Park.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Fire is managed to a 'high' level of service through maintaining knowledge, partnerships and a strategic approach to management to protect and enhance the natural values and to reduce the risks to life and property.
Strategic management direction	
Custodial obligations	
Mitigate the potential severity and impacts of bushfire on neighbouring properties.	3
Level of service	
Maintain current level of understanding of fire to protect and enhance the key values.	5
Improve the level of consultation with the Western Kangoulu People and other stakeholders for the annual planned burn program.	5
Maintain capacity to complete the annual planned burn program.	5
Maintain stakeholder engagement with respect to fire management and controlled conservation grazing.	5

*KEY: Priority ratings: M – maintain current priorities; Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

5.2 Pest management

Management direction statement

Description	Current level of service
Pest management for Belmah Conservation Park	

Pest management is core business for QPWS to mitigate the threats to biodiversity in accordance with the NCA. QPWS has a responsibility under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Qld) to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with plant and animal pests on lands under our control. Recognising that effective management of pests across the landscape is a shared responsibility, QPWS works cooperatively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, other state and local government agencies, landholders and natural resource management groups.

The strategic management directions in this management plan guide the formation of the Belmah Conservation Park Pest Strategy. The strategy will detail pest management objectives for preventing and mitigating pest impacts on key values and QPWS's custodial obligations for managing pests and priority pest species.

Currently, QPWS engages with the neighbours of Belmah to undertake controlled conservation grazing of buffel grass infestations prior to the fire season each year to protect the endangered, fire-sensitive acacia communities on Belmah Conservation Park.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Pests are managed to a 'medium' level of service through maintaining knowledge, partnerships and a strategic approach to protect and enhance the key values.
Strategic management direction	Priority
Level of service	
Maintain the level of knowledge of pests and their impacts on key values and investigate emerging threats.	5
Maintain partnerships with stakeholders and neighbours to manage pest threats.	5
Maintain capacity to manage pests for the protection of key values as a priority.	5
Maintain stakeholder engagement with respect to pest management and controlled conservation grazing.	5

*KEY: Priority ratings: M – maintain current priorities; Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

5.3 Natural values management

Management direction statement

Description	Current level of service
Natural values management for Belmah Conservation Park	

QPWS manages natural values in accordance with the NCA, the EPBC Act and relevant international agreement guidelines.

Belmah has significant values including endangered regional ecosystems, threatened species and species listed in international agreements. The condition of natural values will be monitored through the implementation of the Belmah Conservation Park Monitoring and Research Strategy.

Threatening processes will be managed through the implementation of Belmah fire and pest strategies.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Natural values will be managed to a 'medium' level of service through knowledge, partnerships and a strategic approach to management and monitoring to protect native flora and fauna on park.
Strategic management direction	Priority
Level of service	
Maintain a contemporary knowledge of the key values.	5
Maintain a consultative approach to engaging with internal and external stakeholders to protect the key values.	5
Maintain a basic level of monitoring and evaluation of the key values condition to inform management decisions.	5
Health check monitoring	
Monitor the condition of the natural key values through health check monitoring.	3

*KEY: Priority ratings: M – maintain current priorities; Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

5.4 Post-contact cultural heritage management

Management direction statement

Description	Current level of service
Post-contact cultural heritage management for Belmah Conservation Park	

QPWS manages historical sites in accordance with the NCA and the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (Qld).

There are currently no known post-contact cultural heritage sites on Belmah.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Post-contact cultural heritage management meets requirements and will be maintained.
Strategic management direction	
Level of service	Priority
Maintain a contemporary knowledge of the park's post-contact cultural heritage.	5

*KEY: Priority ratings: M – maintain current priorities; Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

5.5 Visitor management

Management direction statement

Description	Current level of service
Visitor management for Belmah Conservation Park	

Queensland's parks, forests and reserves provide local communities and visitors from around the world with opportunities to experience our rich natural and cultural heritage, as well as a diverse range of recreational and ecotourism opportunities. QPWS seeks a sustainable balance between visitor expectations and management of park values in accordance with the NCA, *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* (Qld) and government policies and procedures, including the Implementation Framework for Ecotourism Facilities on National Parks. Permitted commercial tour activities, agreements and events are administered in accordance with the NCA and other relevant legislation.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Visitor management meets requirements and will be maintained
Strategic management direction	Priority

Maintain visitor management through liaison with key neighbours, Traditional Owners and local council to provide visitor experience on to the park.	4
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*KEY: Priority ratings: M – maintain current priorities; Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

5.6 Community, partnerships and other interests

Management direction statement

Description	Current level of service
Community, partnerships and other interests associated with Belmah Conservation Park	

Queensland's parks and forests provide sustainable environmental, economic and social benefits. The agency is committed to working with the community and its partners to ensure activities and infrastructure are ecologically sustainable and continue to benefit Queensland's economic and social wellbeing as outlined in Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's Master Plan (QPWS 2014). Permitted activities are administered in accordance with the requirements of the NCA and other relevant legislation.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Community, partnerships and other interests are managed to a 'medium' level of service through increased collaboration to ensure the continuing relationship with neighbours and other stakeholders.
Strategic management direction	Priority
Level of service	
Enhance stakeholder engagement with respect to park management.	5

*KEY: **Priority ratings:** M – maintain current priorities; Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

5.7 Field management capability

Management direction statement

Description	Current level of service
Field management capability for Belmah Conservation Park	

Managing natural and cultural areas has varying degrees of complexity. Field management capability is a measure of this complexity and considers the significance of the planning area's values, potential threats, intensity of visitor use and community expectations. The park is managed from the Clermont base. It considers the required proximity, frequency and intensity of on-ground management that is needed to manage key values and meet custodial obligations. The rating provides QPWS with a means for gauging resource requirements and staff training needs.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Field management capacity is managed to a 'medium' level of service through maintaining current field capability and capacity.
Strategic management direction	Priority
Level of service	
Maintain the current approach to field management capacity.	5

***KEY: Priority ratings: M** – maintain current priorities; Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

5.8 Operational planning and management support

Management direction statement

Description	Current level of service
Operational planning and management support for Belmah Conservation Park	

Operational planning and management support covers all aspects of management direction, including information, assessments, systems, tools and monitoring. As with field management capability, the area's values, potential threats, intensity of visitor use and community expectations are considered when determining the appropriate levels of service.

Desired level of service and strategic management direction

Desired level of service	
	Operational planning and management support is managed to a 'medium' level of service through support from regional and central office units to assist in strategic planning and to ensure ongoing 'best practice' management.
Strategic management direction	Priority
Level of service	
Maintain capacity to undertake operational planning and provide management support for fire and pest control activities.	5

*KEY: Priority ratings: M – maintain current priorities; Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

6. References

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. (2014). *A Master Plan for Queensland's parks and forests to 2025*.
https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0034/167965/master-plan-qld-parks-forests-to-2015.pdf

Appendix 1. Summary of strategic management directions

A summary of strategic management directions for key values (Table 1) and management elements (Table 2).

Table 1. Summary of strategic management direction for key values

Key value	Current	Desired	Threatening processes	Strategic management directions	Priority (1-5) *
Brigalow communities			Pest plants	Reduce the impacts of buffel grass on the brigalow communities.	2
				Reduce impacts of prickly pear <i>Opuntia</i> spp., parthenium <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> , hymenachne <i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i> and rubber vine <i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i> on the brigalow communities.	4
			Pest animals	Reduce impacts of feral cats and feral pigs on the brigalow communities.	5
			Fire	Maintain healthy brigalow communities through appropriate planned burning and other mitigation strategies in adjacent communities.	2

See Appendix 2. Glossary for key value priority rating definitions.

Table 2. Summary of strategic management directions for management direction

Management element	Current LoS	Desired LoS	Strategic management directions	Priority (1-5) *
Fire management	High 	High 	Mitigate the potential severity and impacts of bushfire on neighbouring properties.	3
			Maintain a contemporary understanding of fire to protect and enhance the key values.	5
			Improve the level of consultation with the Western Kangoolu People and other stakeholders for the annual planned burn program.	5
			Maintain capacity to complete the annual planned burn program.	5
Pest management	Medium 	Medium 	Maintain stakeholder engagement with respect to fire management and controlled conservation grazing.	5
			Maintain the level of knowledge of pests and their impacts on key values and investigate emerging threats.	5
			Maintain partnerships with stakeholders and neighbours to manage pest threats.	5
			Maintain capacity to manage pests for the protection of key values as a priority.	5
Natural values management	Medium 	Medium 	Maintain stakeholder engagement with respect to pest management and controlled conservation grazing.	5
			Maintain a contemporary knowledge of the key values.	5
			Maintain a consultative approach to engaging with internal and external stakeholders to protect the key values.	5
			Maintain a basic level of monitoring and evaluation of the key values condition to inform management decisions.	3
Post-contact cultural heritage management	Acceptable 	Acceptable 	Monitor the condition of the natural key values through health check monitoring.	5
Visitor management	Acceptable 	Acceptable 	Maintain a contemporary knowledge of the park's post-contact cultural heritage.	4
Community, partnerships and other interests	Acceptable 	Medium 	Maintain visitor management through liaison with key neighbours, Traditional Owners and local council to provide visitor experience on the park.	5
Field management capability	Medium 	Medium 	Enhance stakeholder engagement with respect to park management.	5
			Maintain the current approach to field management capacity.	5

Management element	Current LoS	Desired LoS	Strategic management directions	Priority (1-5) *
Operational planning and management support	High 	Medium 	Maintain capacity to undertake operational planning and provide management support for fire and pest control activities.	5

*KEY: Priority ratings: M – maintain current priorities; Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent).

Appendix 2. Glossary

Interpreting key values-based management framework concepts

Adaptive management	The process of adjusting and improving how we manage parks, forests and reserves after assessing the outcomes of previous strategies and on-ground actions.		
Condition and trend	The condition of a key value is assessed as either good, good with some concern, significant concern or critical. Trend describes what is happening to the condition: is it improving, stable, or deteriorating? A key value's current condition is determined during the planning process. A desired condition is a realistic goal for the future condition of the key value. The ongoing condition of key values is assessed with regular health checks, monitoring and scientific assessment.		
Custodial obligations	The requirements under law as a land manager to ensure that QPWS's parks, forests and reserves are lawfully managed and good neighbours. Management provides for the protection of life and property and positive relationships with adjacent communities and landholders, as well as enhancing and protecting our values.		
Desired outcome	A statement in the key value and management direction statements about moving from the current status (condition or LoS) to a desired status—the goal for management.		
Health check	An annual or regular qualitative assessment of the condition of key values. Regular health checks ensure QPWS can respond quickly to adverse change and redirect management priorities.		
Key value	A natural, cultural or social value that is of most significance to that area. It is what makes the area special and if lost, would diminish what makes the area distinct from others.		
Key value statement	A statement in the management plan that is developed for each key value. It describes the key value, current condition, desired condition, current threats and threat ratings, strategic management direction and priorities for further thematic strategy planning and on-ground management action.		
Level of service (LoS)	A planning tool used to identify the acceptable management standard, or level of resourcing that is required to maintain an area based on its values, threats and the complexity of management. There are five LoS ratings ranging from '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.		
Priority rating (key value)	Critical	1	Loss or very significant decline in the condition of key value/s is highly likely if action not taken OR significant improvement in the condition of key value/s is highly likely if action is taken.
	Very high	2	Significant decline in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is not taken OR significant improvement in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is taken.
	High	3	Decline in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is not taken OR improvement in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is taken.
	Moderate	4	Some decline in the condition of key value/s is possible if action is not taken OR some improvement in the condition of key value/s is possible if action is taken.
	Desirable	5	While decline in the condition of key value/s is not likely in the short term, the action, if taken would help build long-term resilience of key value/s.
Priority rating (management direction)	A rating given to a strategic management direction according to the need or urgency for action. A scale from 1 (extremely urgent) to 5 (not urgent or optional) is assigned. M indicates current level of service management priority is to be maintained.		
Management direction	How we manage the nine management elements to protect and enhance our key values and meet our custodial management obligations.		
Management direction statement	A statement in the management plan, developed for each management element, that describes the current LoS, desired LoS, custodial obligations, strategic management direction and priorities for further thematic strategy planning and on-ground management action.		

Management element	QPWS has identified nine management elements that are common to most of the parks, forests and reserves in our estate: Traditional country; 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.
Strategic management direction	A broad strategy aimed at mitigating or removing a threat to a key value or addressing the gap between the current LoS and desired LoS for a management element.
Threat or threatening process and threat rating	Based on IUCN's classifications, QPWS has identified threatening processes that have the potential to affect Queensland's values (e.g. natural systems modifications, invasive species). Current threats to key values are identified and given a threat rating based on a combination of the extent of the impact, the severity of the impact and the urgency of action .
Values-based management framework	An adaptive management and planning cycle incorporating planning, prioritising, doing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting.

Appendix 3. Permits and non QPWS infrastructure

Infrastructure type	Description	Expiry date
Power line	A power line running east–west across the reserve.	N/A
Signs	Several large advertising signs appear to be on the reserve.	N/A