

Tumoulin National Park Aggregation

**Incorporates: Tumoulin National Park, Tumoulin State Forest, and Millstream
Conservation Park**

Management Statement

2026



Queensland
Government

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May 2026

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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.

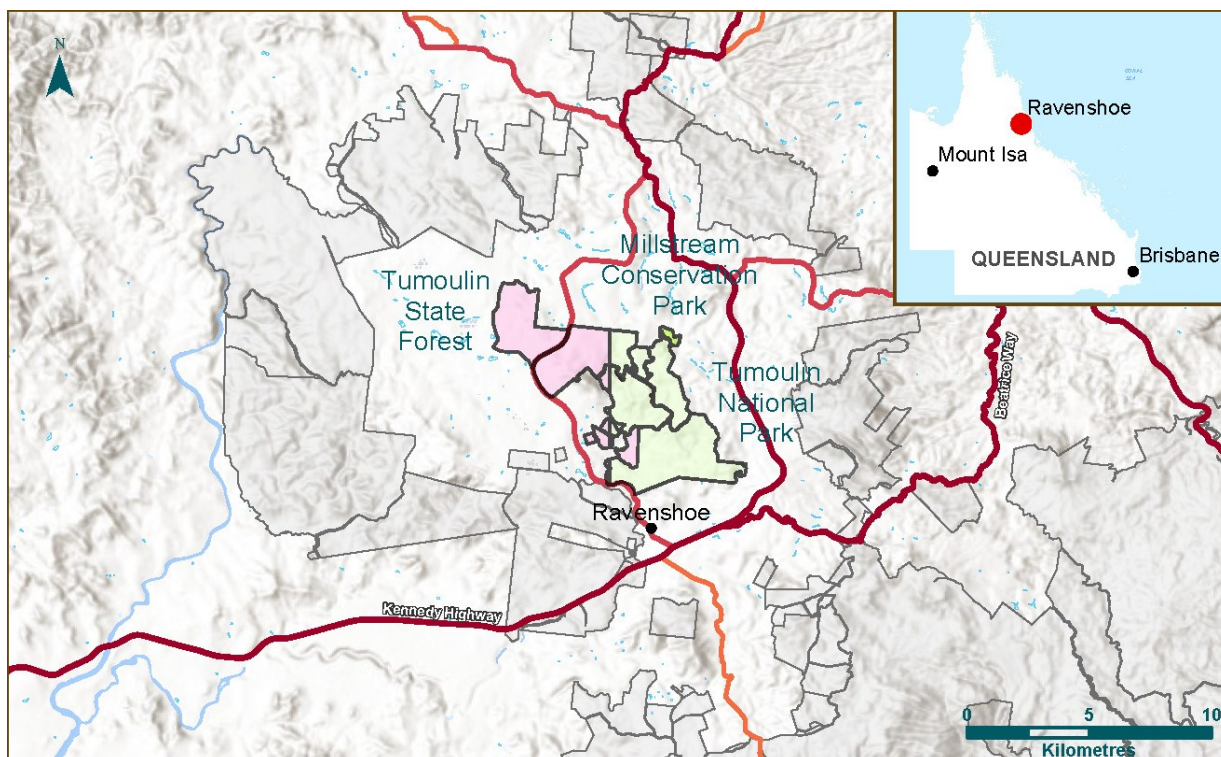


Figure 1. Locality of Tumoulin National Park Aggregation

Table 1. Overview of Tumoulin National Park Aggregation

Park size	Tumoulin National Park	1877 ha
	Tumoulin State Forest	1243 ha
	Millstream Conservation Park	30 ha
Bioregion	Wet Tropics	
QPWS region	Northern	
Local government area	Tablelands Regional	
State electorate	Hill	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>	
	<i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>	
	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth)	
	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cwlth)	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	
Plans and agreements	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>	
	<i>Threatened Species Action Plan - Toward Zero Extinctions, 2022-2032</i>	

3. Jirrbal people

Tumoulin National Park, Tumoulin State Forest and Millstream Conservation Park form part of the traditional Country of the Jirrbal people. The Jirrbal people express a desire to be involved with protected area management as custodians and land managers. The Jirrbal people have a native title determination over parts of this area and a native title claim of the whole area. Their dry forest and rainforest country extends from Herberton in the north, west to Ravenshoe, east to Evelyn Central and south to Davidson Creek at the bottom of Tully Gorge. Jirrbal people have an intimate knowledge of traditional country and close kin affiliations with neighbouring groups.

Desired outcome

Continue to work with Jirrbal people and strengthen collaborative park management practices with Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation, working toward meeting Jirrbal peoples' strategic directions as listed in the Jirrbal Country Plan 2022-2032.

Strategic management direction	Priority
Meet and build relationships with Wabubadda staff and directors, the Jirrbal people's representative body.	1
Discuss and explore opportunities for collaborative approaches to the management of Jirrbal Country.	1
Welcome and organise opportunities to receive cultural awareness training for staff or teams working on and looking after Jirrbal Country.	1
Support Traditional Owners' roles in cultural heritage management, decision-making and guidance.	1
Share resources, provide training opportunities, and engage Jirrbal people in cultural heritage and park management activities [including compliance activities], protection of Country, planning and monitoring, and joint operations.	1
Improve opportunities for the Jirrbal people to undertake culturally appropriate pest management following departmental requirements, across the Tumoulin National Park Aggregation. (Jirrbal Country Plan relevant action: Share resources, provide training opportunities, and engage Jirrbal people in cultural heritage and park management activities [including compliance activities], protection of Country, planning and monitoring, and joint operations).	1
Support in planning for and organising travel to pockets that are logistically difficult to reach.	1
Where appropriate and possible, share resources, provide training opportunities, and engage Jirrbal people in regional planning and management, including but not limited to compliance, pest management, health check training, chainsaw training, fire training, and plant identification.	1
Within this 'Decade of Indigenous languages (2022-2032)', reinstate and celebrate original language names for priority areas under the <i>Place Names Act 1994</i> on Jirrbal Country and in partnership with Jirrbal people.	1
Support culturally appropriate promotion of Jirrbal culture in tourism.	1
Improve Jirrbal people's knowledge, involvement and consent in research conducted on QPWS managed lands.	1
Continue to engage Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation to support Jirrbal people to complete health check training and to monitor the health of key values through regular health checks.	1
Continue to improve Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation, QPWS staff and researcher understanding of the First Nations consultation and consent requirements for research permits.	1
Meet and build relationships with Wabubadda staff and directors, the Jirrbal people's representative body.	1

4. Key values

All parks, forests and reserves contain a range of natural, cultural, social and economic values that contribute to the state's comprehensive and representative protected area and forest estate. The VBMF provides a framework for identifying and protecting the most important of these—referred to as *key values*—which in turn guides the allocation of management resources.

The location of each key value is shown in Figure 2. An assessment of each key value—including its current and desired condition, trend, and the confidence level of the assessment—is presented in the following tables and can be interpreted using Table 2. The assessment also outlines the main threats to each key value and provides broad strategic management direction to address these threats and achieve desired outcomes over time.

Table 2. Description of condition and trend icons used in the key values assessment

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 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 of key value condition	Improving 	Stable 	Deteriorating 	No consistent trend 
Assessment confidence	Inferred 	Limited 	Adequate 	

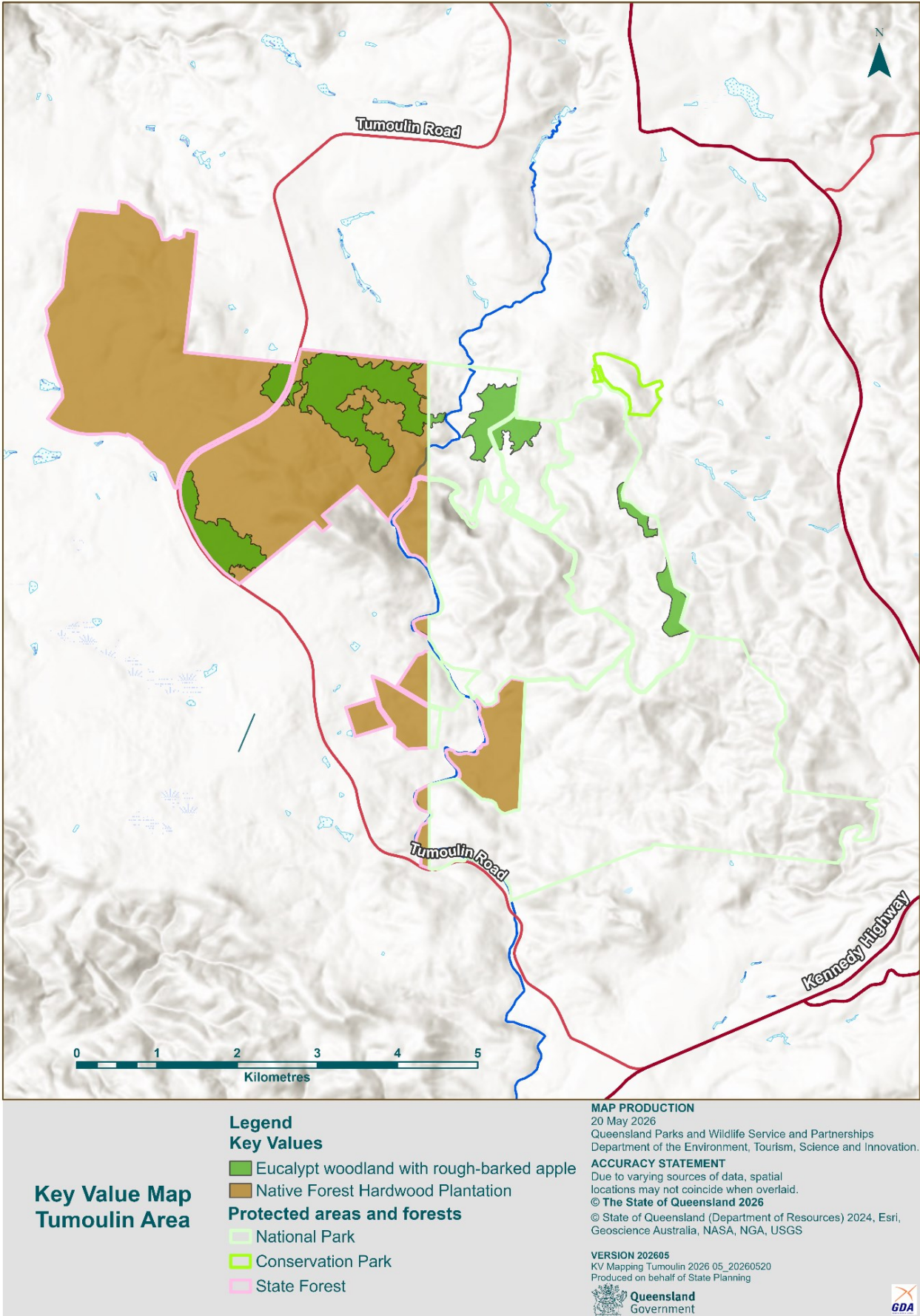


Figure 2. Tumoulin National Park Aggregation key values

4.1 Eucalypt woodland with rough-barked apple

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
Significant ecosystem	This key value is in Tumoulin National Park and Tumoulin State Forest. Regional ecosystems 7.8.8: <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> (forest red gum), <i>E. reducta</i> (Queensland stringybark) +/- <i>Angophora floribunda</i> (rough-barked apple) open forest to woodland. Occurs on basaltic krasnozems and prairie soils. This regional ecosystem has endangered biodiversity status. Remnant statistics for 7.8.8: 4.70% on Tumoulin National Park, 2.13% on other protected areas. The national park has the largest representation of this regional ecosystem in the protected area estate and there is minimal chance that more will be acquired in the future. Tumoulin State Forest has 11.24% of what remains of this regional ecosystem in Queensland and if it were part of the protected area estate, it would have the largest representation.	Good with some concern 	Inferred 	Improving 	Inferred 	Good with some concern 	Good 
Desired outcome Eucalypt woodland rough-barked apple communities will be managed to ensure their structure, composition and function are maintained and support healthy populations of the fauna that depend on them.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes, and diseases	The following ecosystem changing weeds are established in the eucalypt woodland rough-barked apple communities within Tumoulin National Park Aggregation - lantana <i>Lantana camara</i> , giant rat's tail grass <i>Sporobolus</i> spp., Singapore daisy <i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i> , and <i>Schefflera</i> spp. These weed species spread rapidly and smother native seedlings, reducing the habitat for native fauna and altering the fire intensity in areas.	Primary	Low
Introduced animals	Invasive and other problematic species, genes, and diseases	Feral cats <i>Felis catus</i> are present within the Tumoulin National Park Aggregation and are known to predate on all glider species, especially yellow belly gliders, as well as other vertebrate species. Feral pigs <i>Sus scrofa</i> are also present, however to a lesser degree. They have an impact through trampling and rooting of the soil and spreading weeds in the woodland communities and pose a risk of introducing pathogens and diseases not currently found in the protected area. Yellow-crazy ants <i>Anoplolepis gracilipes</i> have been located in the nearby town of Yungaburra at the refuse site and the Tumoulin National Park Aggregation lies within the biosecurity zone for electric ants <i>Wasmannia auropunctata</i>.	Secondary	Low
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes, and diseases	Siam <i>Chromolaena odorata</i> occurs on edge of the protected areas and surrounding parks along the northern and western sides and has the potential to establish within the protected areas. Siam invades and smothers native vegetation and increases the frequency and intensity of bushfires.	Other	Low

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
Introduced pathogens	Invasive and other problematic species, genes, and diseases	Over 200 patches of phytophthora have been located in the Tully Falls, Mount Lewis, Koombooloomba, Kirrama and Rumula areas in the Wet Tropics. High mountain environments seem to be highly susceptible. It can be carried in contaminated soil on boots, equipment or vehicles and quickly spreads through water drainage lines. It can also be transported in mud carried by animals such as feral pigs. Myrtle rust is a fungal disease that threatens many plants in Myrtaceae family, however there are no locally known cases of myrtle rust.	Other	Low
Changed fire frequency and intensity	Natural system modification	The eucalypt woodland with rough-barked apple communities require a low intensity early season burning regime, applied in a mosaic pattern to form a range of frequencies across the landscape. Frequency and intensity of fires all have an impact on maintaining a healthy eucalypt community with age-appropriate structure throughout the vegetation. Planned burning is essential to reducing the risk of thickening and transitioning to rainforest.	Other	Medium

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Prevent the establishment of Siam and other ecosystem changing weed species within the eucalypt woodland with rough-barked apple communities.	1
Reduce the impacts of lantana, giant rat's tails grass and other existing ecosystem changing pest plants on the eucalypt woodland with rough-barked apple communities.	2
Reduce the impacts of cats, pigs, and other pest animals on the eucalypt woodland with rough-barked apple communities.	2
Prevent establishment of tramp ants within the eucalypt woodland with rough-barked apple communities.	1
Monitor and report any outbreaks of myrtle rust or phytophthora within the eucalypt woodland with rough-barked apple communities of Tumoulin National Park Aggregation.	1
Maintain healthy eucalypt woodland with rough-barked apple through the ongoing application of fire in the landscape.	2

Key value priority: 1 – Critical, 2 – Very high, 3 – High, 4 – Moderate, 5 – Desirable (see Appendix 1)

4.2 Native hardwood forest plantation

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
Commercial forest products	This key value is over all Tumoulin State Forest. This key value has been included, according to Department of Primary Industries (DPI) requirements. The key value area is based on the 'defined forest area'. This is the area of State-owned native forest over which the DPI applies its forest management system and is subject to the requirements of the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management AS 4708-2013. The defined forest area includes eligible areas of State Forest and Timber Reserves available for the supply of timber and other forest products. Under the <i>Forestry Act 1959</i>, DPI retains an interest in forest products and quarry material on other state land outside of the defined forest area. DPI have an interest in the native hardwood forest for the commercial hardwood value. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) exists between the Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation for the effective management of State lands administered under the Forestry Act.	Good with some concern 	Inferred 	Stable 	Inferred 	Good with some concern 	Good with some concern 
Desired outcome Maintain a 'healthy forest' ecosystem where commercial forest production can occur in perpetuity.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
Bushfire	Natural system modifications	Bushfire can cause damage to native forest trees, reducing production and economic value.	Primary	Medium
Storms	Severe weather and climate change	Nearby plantations were damaged after Tropical Cyclone Ita in 2014, along with storms in 2015 that brought damaging winds. It is unclear what the extent and severity of damage has been to the native hardwood forest plantation. Climate change is predicted to increase the likelihood of severe storm events and cyclones occurring in the area.	Secondary	Low
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes, and diseases	<i>Lantana camara</i> , giant rat's tail grass <i>Sporobolus natalensis</i> , Singapore daisy <i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i> , and <i>Schefflera</i> spp. impact on the native hardwood forest plantation by increasing the intensity of fires.	Other	Medium

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes, and diseases	Other ecosystem changing and emerging weed species including Siam weed <i>Chromolaena odorata</i> , occur on the western and eastern margins of the state forest and have the potential to spread to the native hardwood forest plantation. Siam invades and smothers native vegetation and increases the frequency and intensity of bushfires.	Other	Low
Recreation	Human intrusions and disturbance	Unlawful activities including rubbish dumping, illegal camping and 4WD and trail bike activities cause damage to public amenity, infrastructure and increase the risk of fire to the native hardwood forest plantation.	Other	Medium

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Maintain healthy native hardwood forest plantations through the ongoing application of fire.	2
Monitor condition and climatic associated changes to assess impacts and determine future management of native hardwood forest plantation.	4
Reduce the impacts of lantana, giant rat's tail grass and other pest plants on native hardwood forest plantation.	3
Prevent the establishment of Siam and other ecosystem changing weed species within the native hardwood forest plantation.	1
Minimise human related impacts on native hardwood forest plantation.	4

Key value priority: 1 – Critical, 2 – Very high, 3 – High, 4 – Moderate, 5 – Desirable (see Appendix 1)

5. Management direction

QPWS manages protected areas and forests to protect their values and deliver our custodial obligations as a land manager. A levels 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.

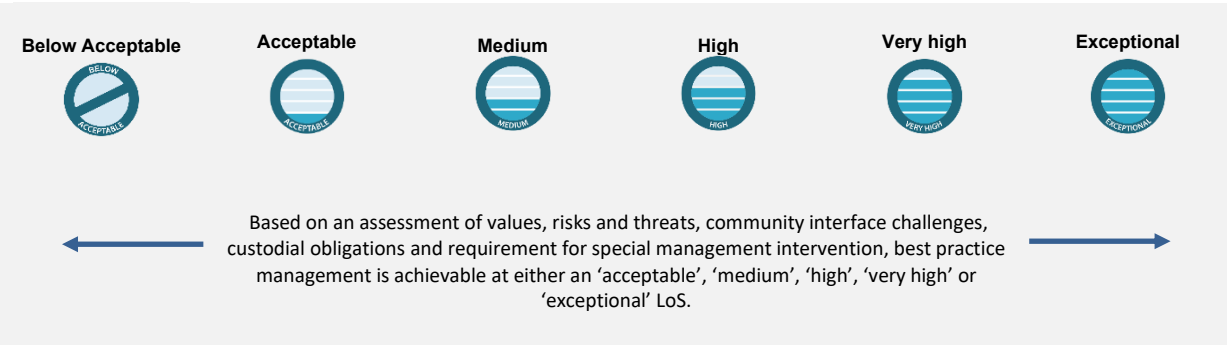


Figure 3. Description of LoS icons

5.1 Management directions

Management theme	Current	Desired	Strategic management direction	Priority (1–5) *
Fire management			Improve understanding of fire requirements and planned fire operations across Tumoulin National Park Aggregation.	3
Tumoulin National Park			Improve engagement with lessees grazing cattle to co-ordinate appropriate fire management practices (i.e., fuel loads, burn patterns).	3
Tumoulin State Forest			Continue to improve consultation on collaborative planned burning operations with partners and stakeholders, including the Queensland Fire Department, Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation, Department of Primary Industries, Wet Tropics Management Authority and neighbours, to support a shared approach to fire management, and to reduce arson risk to the Tumoulin and Ravenshoe townships.	3
Millstream Conservation Park			Prioritise the safety of the public and their communities (people and their homes), and firefighters, in all fire management activities (part of the aggregation is an I-zone area close to town and it is important to keep fuel loads down).	1
Pest management			Maintain compliance with illegal dumping of garden waste to prevent the establishment tramp ant infestations.	3
Tumoulin National Park			Maintain knowledge of existing and emerging pest species that may have the potential to impact key values or threatened species.	3
Tumoulin State Forest			Maintain the current level of engagement with Tablelands Regional Council, Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation and park neighbors.	3
Millstream Conservation Park			Meet relevant custodial obligations under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> and Tablelands Regional Council Biosecurity Plan.	3
			Ensure no new pest species or pathogens become established within the protected area estate.	3
Natural values management			Improve natural values management by reviewing and adapting to targets within the <i>Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032</i> . Priority species within the Tumoulin National Park Aggregation are: northern quoll <i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i> , spectacled Flying-fox <i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i> and red goshawk <i>Erythrorhynchus radiatus</i> .	3
Tumoulin National Park			Improve the outcomes of managing natural values by prioritising and directing research and developing appropriate monitoring programs toward identified knowledge gaps.	3
Tumoulin State Forest			Improve knowledge and understanding of natural values and their appropriate management, especially in response to severe weather events, through regular engagement and knowledge sharing with partners and stakeholders, including Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation, the Wet Tropics Management Authority and researchers.	3
Millstream Conservation Park			Monitor the condition of ecosystem-based natural key values through health checks.	1
Post-contact cultural heritage management			Maintain current approach and continue to record post-contact cultural sites and artifacts when found and continue to provide pre-visit online information (Old sawmill and homestead).	4
Tumoulin National Park Aggregation				

Management theme	Current	Desired	Strategic management direction	Priority (1–5) *
Visitor management Tumoulin National Park Aggregation			Maintain the current level of service to visitor management in the protected areas.	3
Community, partnerships and other interests Tumoulin National Park			Maintain engagement and support of the yellow-bellied glider group and tree kangaroo mammal group.	3
			Support Jirrbal ranger group to continue developing their skills in park management activities.	3
			Maintain engagement with the Department of Primary Industries on shared park management.	3
Tumoulin State Forest			Maintain engagement with cattle leasers regarding park management.	3
Millstream Conservation Park				
Field management capability Tumoulin National Park			Continue to improve field management capability through ongoing training and skills development including compliance, firearms use, 1080 handling, GIS mapping, plant species identification, heavy plant (especially excavator) use, bushfire response, planned burn development and completion, monitoring techniques, and through continued field work assisting researchers and the tree kangaroo mammal group.	3
Tumoulin State Forest			Continue to upskill Jirrbal rangers in park management activities.	3
Millstream Conservation Park				
Operational planning and management support Tumoulin National Park			Maintain operational planning and management support through targeted consultation with Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation, and the Region to protect the parks' key values, and to prioritise the development of the annual burn program and weed management where they impact on the parks' values.	3
Tumoulin State Forest				
Millstream Conservation Park				

*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)

6. Glossary

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

Term	Description
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 and trend of key values is assessed with regular health checks, or monitoring and scientific assessment.
Custodial obligations	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.
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	Basic form of monitoring that uses indicators and visual assessments to regularly evaluate 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, 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.
Level of service (LoS)	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.
Management direction	An assessment of the current and desired LoS for each management theme, with prioritised strategic management directions.
Management instrument	A management plan or management statement.
Management theme	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.
Strategic management direction	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.
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 and potential 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.

Appendix 1

Term	Description
Priority rating (key value SMDs)	A rating given to a strategic management direction according to the need for action to prevent further decline, stabilise current condition, or restore and enhance values, with consideration given to legislative obligations, cost, and social, economic and political factors.
	Critical (1) – Loss or very significant decline in the condition of the key value is highly likely if action is not taken OR significant improvement in the condition of the key value is highly likely if action is taken.
	Very high (2) – Significant decline in the condition of the key value is likely if action is not taken OR significant improvement in the condition of the key value is likely if action is taken.
	High (3) – Decline in the condition of the key value is likely if action is not taken OR improvement in the condition of the key value is likely if action is taken.
	Moderate (4) – Some decline in the condition of the key value is possible if action is not taken OR some improvement in the condition of the key value is possible if action is taken.
	Desirable (5) – While decline in the condition of the key value is not likely in the short term, the action, if taken, would help build long-term resilience of the key value.
Priority rating (LoS SMDs)	A rating given to an LoS or custodial obligation strategic management direction. 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.