

Walter Hill Range 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 is committed to respecting, protecting, and promoting human rights, and our obligations under the Human Rights Act 2019.

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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 Walter Hill Range 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	Walter Hill Range Conservation Park	111.6ha
Bioregion	Wet Tropics	
QPWS region	Northern	
Local government area	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	
State electorate	Hill	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld)</i>	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	
	<i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>	

Park purpose

Walter Hill Range Conservation Park formally consisted of Scenic Reserves R.786, R.906 and R.436. In 2000 these were all gazetted to Walter Hill Range Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

No park specific purpose was identified as part of the gazettal.

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Walter Hill Range Conservation Park has been assessed as having a medium 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 anecdotal information. The medium level means that it will receive a minimum of quarterly routine inspections with occasional planned visits where issues have been identified. The focus is largely expected to be on natural resource management involving a proactive management effort at a moderate 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). Ongoing consultation, collaboration and relationships with First Nations people and stakeholders will be undertaken as required to support broader continuing park management programs. Walter Hill Range Conservation Park is partly subject to a determination of native title by the Djiru People.

This park currently has relatively low levels of visitor use and provides a few relatively undeveloped visitor sites. Visitors are unlikely to encounter a ranger on site during their visit. Current and future recreational opportunities will require that visitors have a high level of self-sufficiency. A moderate level of infrastructure is provided to support safe and sustainable use by predominantly self-reliant visitors. General Park information is provided offsite primarily through the Departmental website.

Public consultation on park management will be undertaken as required through local consultations with community stakeholders to support broad continuing management programs.

Park assets are functional and robust and require limited maintenance to protect the natural and cultural values and management capacity.

General park values, uses and management

Regional ecosystems

The park protects five regional ecosystems, one of which has endangered biodiversity status and two have of concern status, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

There is one animal species of conservation significance on Queensland Government wildlife databases for this park, Table 1.

Cultural heritage

All protected areas are recognised as cultural landscapes and First Nations 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*. Non-indigenous historic places will be managed in accordance with the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

Priorities for park management

The three regional ecosystems and one animal species are the main values of this park. The priorities for park management will be to mitigate any threats to these values through fire and pest management.

Management actions will be undertaken which aim to ensure:

- 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 these regional ecosystems.

Appendix

Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.3.10a	Simple-complex mesophyll to notophyll vine forest on moderate to poorly-drained alluvial plains of moderate fertility.	Endangered
7.11.24a	Closed vineland of wind-disturbed vine forest of metamorphic slopes, often steep and exposed.	Of concern
7.11.24c	Closed vineland of wind-disturbed vine forest of metamorphic slopes, often steep and exposed.	Of concern

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> status	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i> status
Animals			
<i>Casuarus casuaris</i> (southern population)	Southern cassowary (southern population)	Endangered	Endangered