

Deception Bay Conservation Park

Resource Information

2026



Queensland
Government

This document is a compendium of park information and a supporting document for the associated management instrument (management plan or management statement. Management instruments are prepared under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and include management direction for tenure which QPWS has management responsibility.

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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.

This document is a compendium of park information and a supporting document for key values and level of service assessment reports or management plans and management statements. It contains background information about a park's purpose, values, resources and legal and administrative framework.

2. Park overview

Deception Bay Conservation Park lies along the coast in Moreton Bay. The northern Brisbane suburbs of Deception Bay, Burpengary and Beachmere surround the park. Burpengary Creek runs along the parks' northern boundary and larger Caboolture Creek is less than one kilometre north.

There are reserves and freehold properties to the south and west of the park. Burpengary Sewerage Treatment Plant is north of the park and GemLife Moreton Bay over-50s Lifestyle Resort is to the northwest. While there are no roads that connect to the park, people can walk in from the neighbouring reserves and freehold properties, or access by vessel.

There are several protected areas within a 10 kilometre radius of the park including Freshwater National Park three kilometres west, Hays Inlet Conservation Park seven kilometres south, and Beerburrum East State Forest eight kilometres north

The following figure and table (Figure 1, Table 1) provide an overview of information related to the park, including locality, legislative framework and applicable plans/agreements.

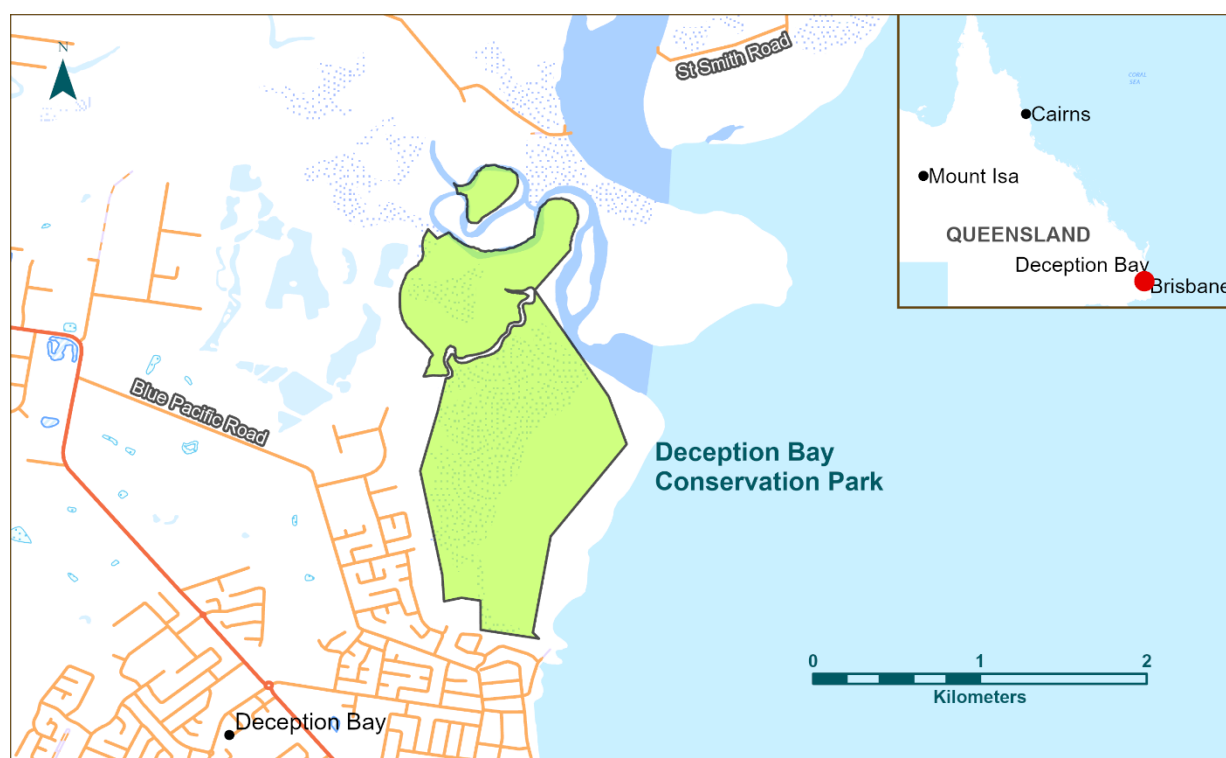


Figure 1. Locality of Deception Bay Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Deception Bay Conservation Park

Park size	Deception Bay Conservation Park	178.2 ha
Bioregion	South Eastern Queensland	
QPWS region	South East Queensland	
Local government area	Moreton Bay City	
State electorate	Bancroft	
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>Ramsar Convention, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance</i>	
	<i>Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia</i>	
	<i>Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals</i>	
	<i>China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement</i>	
	<i>Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement</i>	
	<i>Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement</i>	
	<i>National Recovery Plan for the Koala Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)</i>	

3. Resource Information

3.1 First Nations people

There is an active native title claim that includes the park. It was registered on 8 February 2019 on behalf of the Kabi Kabi First Nations Traditional Owners Native Title Claim Group (Tribunal Number QC2018/007, Federal Court number QUD20/2019).

On 8 August 2023 the Federal Court made orders that the claim application be partitioned into three parts, Part A, Part B and Part C. On 17 June 2024 the Federal Court determined that native title exists in parts of the Part A area; there has been no determination made with respect to Part B or Part C.

3.2 Wetlands of international importance (Ramsar site)

The park is partly within the Moreton Bay Ramsar Area which was declared on 22 October 1993 and is one of just five Ramsar sites in Queensland. The site meets all nine criteria to be designated as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance and is notable for its large size, diversity of wetland habitats, connectivity between wetland types, and diverse plants and animals, including threatened species and ecological communities. The Ramsar site regularly supports more than 50,000 waterbirds, representing at least 43 species of shorebirds and 28 migratory shorebird species, including the critically endangered eastern curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* and curlew sandpiper *Numenius madagascariensis*, which have both been recorded from the park. (Ramsar Information Sheet, 2023)

The park is also partly within the Moreton Bay wetlands which is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands (QLD134) and has 17 wetland types. This listing for Moreton Bay wetlands is 300,177 hectares in size, notably larger than the Ramsar site at 120,639 hectares. (Environment Australia, 2001)

The park is almost entirely (96.4 per cent) intertidal wetland (saltmarsh, saltflats, mangroves) natural.

3.3 Key value information

Based on an evaluation, the park's values do not reach the thresholds required to be considered a key value. The park, however, continues to contribute to the state's comprehensive and representative reserve system providing protection for biodiversity, ecosystem services and connectivity within the landscape.

3.4 Other values

3.4.1 Habitat for significant species - shorebirds

The park's intertidal wetland and the adjacent marine park are a drawcard for resident and migratory birds. Many of the 189 different bird species sighted in the park are waterbirds, including a variety of shorebirds. The intertidal wetland habitat within the park is important for shorebird roosting and feeding. There are 28 birds of conservation significance recorded from the park including the critically endangered eastern curlew and curlew sandpiper. Thirty-nine of the birds recorded from the park are migratory species listed on international conventions. The park is within the Moreton Bay Ramsar Area which regularly supports over 50,000 waterbirds.

3.5 Ecosystems and biodiversity

The park is part of the Sunshine Coast – Gold Coast Lowlands subregion of the South Eastern Queensland Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion. It is within the Caboolture River subcatchment of the Pine catchment.

There is a significant stretch of remnant vegetation that runs along Caboolture and Burpengary creeks and includes the park. In the broader landscape surrounding the park there is little remnant vegetation remaining, residential and commercial development stretches to the north, south and east.

The park is within a Regional Biodiversity Corridor and near to a State Biodiversity Corridor, these corridors were identified to maintain and enhance ecological connectivity across the State.

3.5.1 Regional ecosystems

The park has four regional ecosystems, two with of concern biodiversity status (Attachment B) and two with no concern at present status. All four represent less than 0.5 per cent of that regional ecosystem remaining in Queensland and less than 1.5 percent of that within the protected area estate.

Most of the park (95.77 per cent) is comprised of the two regional ecosystems with no concern at present status.

Mangrove shrubland to low closed forest on marine clay plains and estuaries (12.1.3) has no concern at present biodiversity status and covers 93.97 hectares (50.91 per cent) of the park. This regional ecosystem is known to provide potential habitat for threatened fauna species including the water mouse *Xeromys myoides* in the southern part of the bioregion particularly in areas immediately adjacent to salt pans — while the water mouse not been recorded from the park, many other species of conservation significance have (Appendix C). The Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD) fire management guideline for this regional ecosystem is not to burn.

Saltpan vegetation including grassland, herbland and sedgeland on marine clay plains (12.1.2) has no concern at present biodiversity status and covers 82.8 hectares (44.86 per cent) of the park. While this regional ecosystem is also known to provide potential habitat for threatened fauna species including the water mouse — no water mouse has been recorded from the park, but other species of conservation significance have (Appendix C). The REDD fire management guideline for this regional ecosystem is to not burn deliberately.

Corymbia intermedia +/- *Lophostemon confertus* +/- *Banksia* spp. +/- *Callitris columellaris* open forest on beach ridges usually in southern half of bioregion (12.2.5) has of concern biodiversity status and covers a small 1.89 hectare area (1.03 per cent) of the park. While this regional ecosystem is known to provide potential habitat for *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) listed species *Acacia attenuata*, *Acacia baueri* subsp. *baueri*, *Boronia rivularis*, *Durringtonia paludosa*, *Glycine argyrea*, *Macarthuria complanata*, *Maundia triglochinosoides*, *Persicaria elatior* and *Phaius australis* — none of these species have been recorded from the park. The REDD fire management guideline for this regional ecosystem is to not burn deliberately.

Casuarina glauca woodland on margins of marine clay plains (12.1.1) has of concern biodiversity status and covers a small 1.26 hectare area (0.68 per cent) of the park. This regional ecosystem is known to provide estuarine wetland habitat. The REDD fire management guideline for this regional ecosystem is for early winter or storm burns with low to moderate intensity, a minimum 6-7 year interval and retaining 25-50 per cent unburn in any year.

3.5.2 Marine protected area

Moreton Bay Marine Park runs along the coastline and extends up the creeks in the park; the zoning is habitat protection zone.

The Deception Bay Fish Habitat Area also runs along the coastline and up the creeks in the park. There is part of the park to the north of Little Burpengary Creek which is within the fish habitat area.

3.6 Species

There are 201 native animal species (1 frog, 2 insects, 4 reptiles, 5 mammals and 189 birds) and four native plant species recorded from the park.

3.6.1 Native animals

The park's wetlands and the adjacent marine park attract resident and migratory birds. Many of the 189 different bird species sighted in the park are waterbirds.

Twenty-eight birds of conservation significance have been recorded from the park, two are critically endangered, five are endangered, nine are vulnerable and 12 are special least concern (Appendix C). These 28 birds and a further 11 are migratory species listed on international agreements (Appendix D).

Moreton Bay is a site of national and international significance for shorebirds, both resident shorebirds that live all year round in the bay, and migratory species that travel large distances. It provides important habitat in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, one of only eight international routes taken by migratory birds. The bay is often the first Australian site used by shorebirds travelling south, and the last site used before returning north. (Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation 2021)

Moreton Bay supports internationally significant numbers (greater than one per cent of the total flyway population) of at least nine migratory shorebird species — bar-tailed godwit, curlew sandpiper, eastern curlew, grey-tailed tattler, lesser sand plover, Pacific golden plover, red-necked stint, and whimbrel (Fuller et al 2019). All but one of these nine species (grey-tailed tattler) have been recorded from the park.

There are four shorebird roosting sites within Deception Bay. Monitoring is undertaken by private citizens and interest groups at three of these sites (claypan, claypan south and claypan north) (Queensland Government 2022). The main roost site is the claypan site which is almost entirely within the park.

A small area of vegetation in the southwest corner of the park is mapped as koala habitat (core) and endangered koalas have been recorded from the park.

3.7 Recreational opportunities

As most of the park is intertidal mangroves and saltmarsh, people accessing the park are typically fishing or birdwatching.

There are no visitor facilities within the park and camping is not permitted.

3.8 Post-contact cultural heritage

There are no known post-contact cultural heritage sites within the park.

3.9 Fire

Most of the park is intertidal wetland and should not be burnt. There is a small 1.26 hectare area of *Casuarina glauca* woodland which requires some fire to be healthy.

Fire management is undertaken in collaboration with the City of Moreton Bay.

3.10 Pests

There have been eight pest species recorded from the park, they are all animals (Appendix E).

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5. Appendices

Appendix A. Policy and management commitments

Gazettal details

The park was originally gazetted as Deception Bay Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) on 25 September 2009 and again on 1 July 2016.

There was a short period during 2014 to 2016 when certain classes of protected area under the NCA were removed, including conservation parks. During this time the park was a regional park under the NCA, until legislative amendments in 2016 removed the 'regional park' class of protected area and it was reinstated as a conservation park.

Management obligations

- Australian Ramsar management principles, Schedule 6 of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000*

Recovery plans and guides

- *National Recovery Plan for the Koala Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)*

Appendix B. Regional ecosystems of significance

Regional ecosystem	Description	Regional ecosystem class*	Biodiversity status**
12.1.1	<i>Casuarina glauca</i> woodland on margins of marine clay plains	Of concern	Of concern
12.2.5	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> +/- <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> +/- <i>Banksia</i> spp. +/- <i>Callitris columellaris</i> open forest on beach ridges usually in southern half of bioregion	Least concern	Of concern

* Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Description Database (VM REDD)

** Queensland Herbarium, Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD)

Appendix C. Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	NC Act status	EPBC Act status
Mammal			
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	koala	Endangered	Endangered
Birds			
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	curlew sandpiper	Critically endangered	Critically endangered
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	Critically endangered	Critically endangered
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	lesser sand plover	Endangered	Endangered

Scientific name	Common name	NC Act status	EPBC Act status
<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>	Western Alaskan bar-tailed godwit	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	black-tailed godwit	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian painted-snipe	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	common greenshank	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	ruddy turnstone	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	sharp-tailed sandpiper	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	red knot	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	great knot	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	greater sand plover	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's snipe	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	white-throated needletail	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	grey plover	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	terek sandpiper	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>	broad-billed sandpiper	Special least concern	
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	red-necked stint	Special least concern	
<i>Charadrius bicinctus</i>	double-banded plover	Special least concern	
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	white-winged black tern	Special least concern	
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian tern	Special least concern	
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	whimbrel	Special least concern	
<i>Pandion haliaetus cristatus</i>	eastern osprey	Special least concern	
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific golden plover	Special least concern	
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	little tern	Special least concern	Vulnerable
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	common tern	Special least concern	
<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	crested tern	Special least concern	
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	marsh sandpiper	Special least concern	

Appendix D. Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	CMS	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
<i>Anas gracilis</i>	grey teal	✓			
<i>Ardea alba modesta</i>	eastern great egret		✓		✓
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	ruddy turnstone	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	cattle egret		✓		✓
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	sharp-tailed sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	red knot	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>	broad-billed sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	curlew sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	red-necked stint	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	great knot	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Charadrius bicinctus</i>	double-banded plover	✓			
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	greater sand plover	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	lesser sand plover	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	white-winged black tern		✓	✓	✓
<i>Edolisoma tenuirostre</i>	common cicadabird		✓		
<i>Falco cenchroides</i>	nankeen kestrel	✓			
<i>Falco longipennis</i>	Australian hobby	✓			
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's snipe	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	white-bellied sea-eagle				✓
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	white-throated needletail		✓	✓	✓
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian tern		✓		✓
<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>	Western Alaskan bar-tailed godwit	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	black-tailed godwit	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater		✓		
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	black-faced monarch	✓			

Scientific name	Common name	CMS	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	whimbrel	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Pandion haliaetus cristatus</i>	eastern osprey	✓			
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific golden plover	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	grey plover	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian painted-snipe				✓
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	✓			
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	little tern	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	common tern		✓	✓	✓
<i>Symposiachrus trivirgatus</i>	spectacled monarch	✓			
<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	crested tern		✓		
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	common greenshank	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	marsh sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	terek sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓

Notes:

This list includes local and migratory birds that regularly use the park for feeding, nesting and/or breeding. Species that may visit intermittently have not been included in this table.

CMS – Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

Appendix E. Pests

Scientific name	Common name	Biosecurity Act 2014 status	Notes
Animals			
<i>Sus scrofa</i>	pig	Category 3, 4, 6	
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	red fox	Category 3, 4, 5, 6	
<i>Columba livia</i>	rock dove		
<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	nutmeg mannikin		
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	house sparrow		
<i>Rhinella marina</i>	cane toad		
<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	spotted dove		
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	common starling		