

Bell Creek 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

Bell Creek Conservation Park (the park) is a small park located 90 kilometres inland from the coastal town of Gladstone. The small town of Goovigen is 10 kilometres west of the park and Biloela is 30 kilometres south-east. Nearby parks include Callide Timber Reserve 14 kilometres south-east, Overdeen State Forest 12 kilometres south-west and Don River State Forest 20 kilometres north-east. Fiveways Mount Eugene Road runs to the north of the park. An unnamed service road provides access to an inholding within the park.

The broader surrounding landscape has been highly modified for agriculture (mostly hay production) and mining. Multiple freehold properties surround the park. There is a 4.8 hectare inholding with tennis courts that is leased by a local tennis club and accessed along Bell Creek Tennis Court Road.

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.

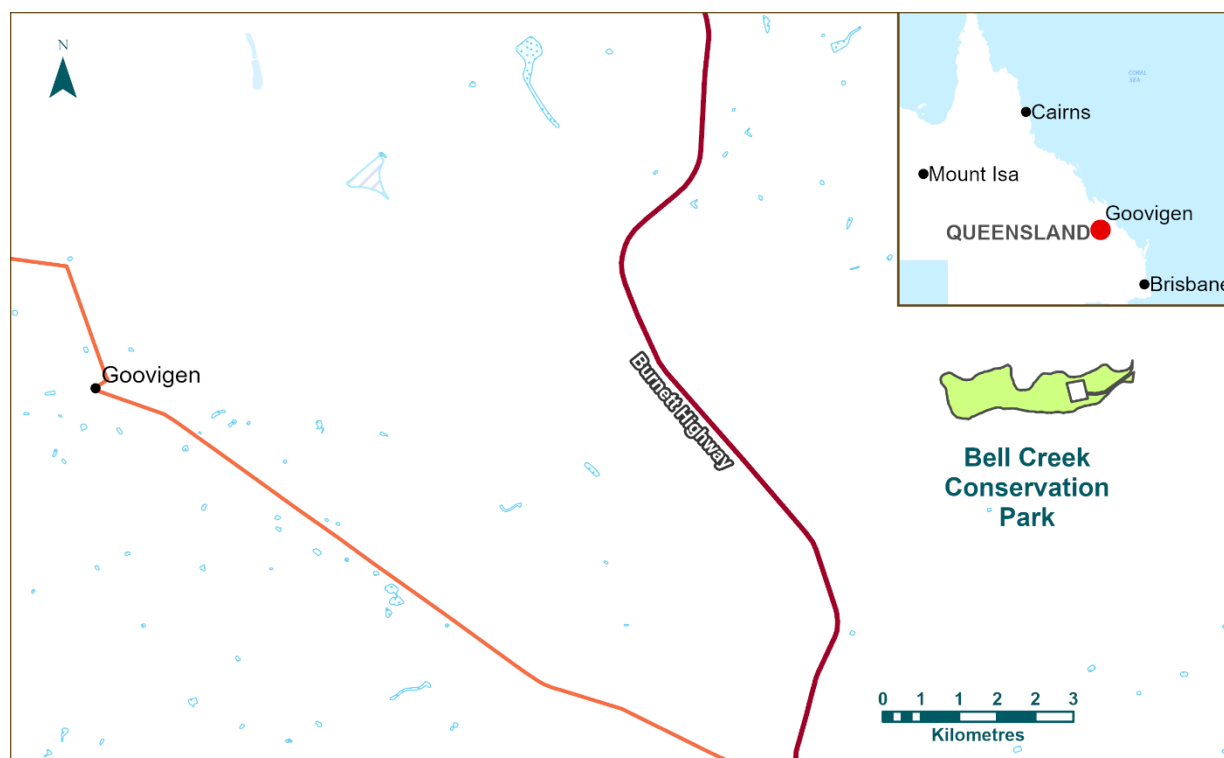


Figure 1. Locality of Bell Creek Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Bell Creek Conservation Park

Park size	Bell Creek Conservation Park	93.3 ha
Bioregion	Brigalow Belt South	
QPWS region	Central	
Local government area	Banana Shire Council	
State electorate	Callide	
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>	

3. Resource information

3.1 First Nations people

There are no native title determinations or current applications for native title relating to the park.

3.2 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.

3.3 Ecosystems and biodiversity

The park is located in the Callide Creek Downs subregion of the Brigalow Belt South bioregion, as defined by the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA).

Creeks surround most of the park, with Smoky Creek along the northern side and Bell Creek on the south. Riverine wetlands cover 60 hectares of the park, accounting for 63 per cent of its total area.

The park lies within the Dawson River sub-basin, which is part of the Fitzroy drainage basin.

The park is partially located within a Regional Biodiversity Corridor and is adjacent to a State Biodiversity Corridor. These corridors have been identified to maintain and enhance ecological connectivity.

The broader landscape surrounding the park has been significantly modified. Remnant regional ecosystems in this area are typically confined to drainage lines that traverse agricultural land.

3.3.1 Regional ecosystems

There are two regional ecosystems (REs) for the park. Both have of concern biodiversity status and represent less than one per cent of that regional ecosystem remaining in Queensland or within the protected area estate.

Eucalyptus tereticornis or *E. camaldulensis* woodland fringing drainage lines (RE 11.3.25) covers 52.22 hectares (58.53 per cent) of the park. While this regional ecosystem is known to provide potential habitat for the threatened freshwater turtle *Rheodytes leukops* in the Fitzroy catchment, important habitat for other riparian freshwater turtle species, and suitable habitat for koalas *Phascolarctos cinereus* — none of these species has been recorded from the park. The Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD) fire management guideline for this regional ecosystem recommends low-intensity burns during the early dry season, conducted at intervals of 3–5 years.

Eucalyptus tereticornis and/or *Eucalyptus* spp. woodland on alluvial plains (11.3.4) cover 34.59 hectares (38.77 per cent) of the park. While this regional ecosystem is known to provide potential habitat for *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) listed plant species *Acacia pedleyi*, *Callicarpa thozetii*, *Cycas megacarpa*, *Cycas ophiolitica*, *Digitaria porrecta*, *Eriocaulon carsonii* subsp. *orientale*, *Livistona nitida*, *Rhaponticum australe*, *Samadera bidwillii*, *Sannantha brachypoda*, and suitable habitat for koalas *P. cinereus* — none of these species has been recorded from the park. The REDD fire management guideline for this regional ecosystem recommends conducting burns during the late wet to early dry season when soil moisture is adequate, during the early storm season, or following good spring rains. Burns should be of low to moderate intensity, conducted at intervals of 6–10 years, and should not exceed 30 per cent of the area in any given year.

There is 2.40 hectares (2.69 per cent) of non-remnant vegetation in the park.

3.4 Species

There are no species records for the park in the department's WildNet Database.

3.5 Recreational opportunities

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

3.6 Post-contact cultural heritage

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

3.7 Partnerships

The department has established relationships with many of the neighbouring property owners and managers. Sharing information and collaborative planning is important for fire and pest management in the park and on neighbouring properties. Neighbours assist in maintaining the park's firebreaks and reporting bushfires.

3.8 Fire

The regional ecosystems within the park need fire to be healthy.

There is limited fire history (planned or bushfire) for the park. However, there is a record of the rural fire brigade responding to a bushfire that entered the park, which was reported by neighbours.

3.9 Pests

While there are no pest records for the park in the department's WildNet Database, there are invasive weeds present including high biomass grasses, rubber vine and lantana.

3.10 Powerline

There is an Ergon 22kV high voltage powerline that runs through the park in a north–south direction. It lies to the east of the tennis courts.

4. Bibliography

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5. Appendices

Appendix A. Legal, policy and management commitments

Gazettal details

The park was originally gazetted as Bell Creek Environmental Park on 1 November 1986 under the *Land Act 1962* and was managed under a trustee agreement by Banana Shire Council.

It was gazetted as Bell Creek Conservation Park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) on 16 December 1994 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.

Appendix B. Regional ecosystems of significance

Regional ecosystem	Description	Regional ecosystem class*	Biodiversity status**
11.3.25	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> or <i>E. camaldulensis</i> woodland fringing drainage lines	Least concern	Of concern
11.3.4	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> and/or <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. woodland on alluvial plains	Of concern	Of concern

* Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Description Database (VM REDD)

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