

Mooloolah River National Park

Incorporates: Mooloolah River National Park, Palmview Conservation Park, Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park, Caloundra Conservation Park, Meridan Plains Conservation Park, Beerwah State Forest, Mooloolah River Conservation Park

Management Statement

2026



Queensland
Government

This management statement has not been co-designed with First Nations partners. This document has been prepared by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation to provide management guidance and adaptive management until such a time as the department can engage with First Nations partners in the co-design of a management instrument.

Management statements are prepared under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. These documents may also include management direction for other State tenure for which QPWS has management responsibility.

© State of Queensland, 2026

March 2026

This management statement does not intent to affect, diminish or extinguish native title or associated rights.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this document may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs and printed material that some people may find distressing.

The Queensland Government supports and encourages the dissemination and exchange of its information. The copyright in this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY) licence.



Under this licence you are free, without having to seek our permission, to use this publication in accordance with the licence terms.

You must keep intact the copyright notice and attribute the State of Queensland as the source of the publication.

For more information on this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/deed.en>

Disclaimer

This document has been prepared with all due diligence and care, based on the best available information at the time of publication. 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.

If you need to access this document in a language other than English, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to telephone Library Services on +61 7 3170 5470.

This publication can be made available in an alternative format (e.g. large print or audiotape) on request for people with vision impairment; phone +61 7 3170 5470 or email <library@detsi.qld.gov.au>.

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Park overview	4
3. Overarching values	5
Nationally significant wetlands (DIWA) – Lower Mooloolah River (includes a small intersection with the Lake Weyba (QLD133) wetland)	5
4. Key values	6
4.1 Coastal heath	8
4.2 Mangroves and saltmarshes	10
4.3 Melaleuca swamp	12
4.4 Rainforest communities	14
4.5 Coastal blackbutt open forests	16
4.6 Ferny Forest mountain biking experience	18
5. Management direction	20
5.1 Management directions	21
6. Glossary	23
Appendix 1	24

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 related to the parks included in this management statement, including their locality, legislative framework and applicable plans/agreements.

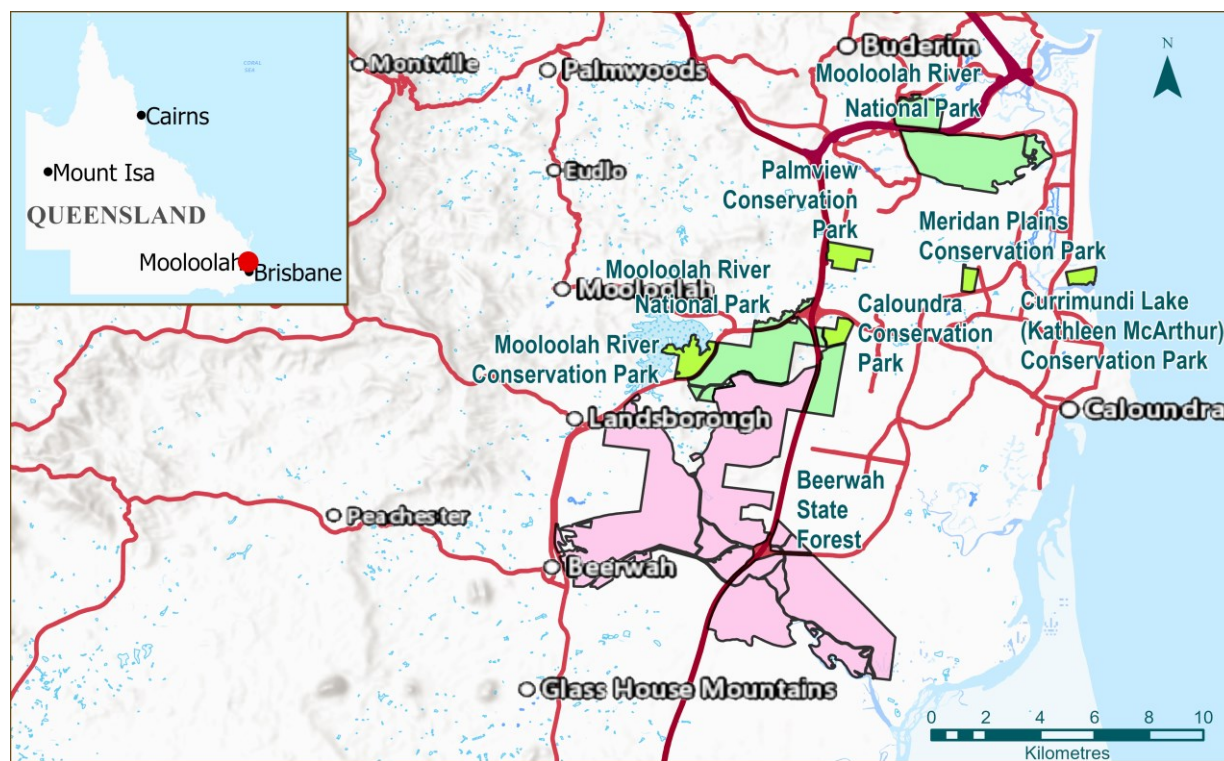


Figure 1. Locality of Mooloolah River National Park

Table 1. Overview of Mooloolah River National Park

Park size	Mooloolah River National Park	1670.6 ha
	Palmview Conservation Park	104.4 ha
	Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park	51.0 ha
	Caloundra Conservation Park	63.6 ha
	Meridan Plains Conservation Park	39.9 ha
	Beerwah State Forest	4446.7 ha
	Mooloolah River Conservation Park	129.0 ha
Bioregion	South Eastern Queensland	
QPWS region	South East Queensland	
Local government area	Sunshine Coast Regional Council	
State electorates	Buderim, Caloundra, Kawana	
Relevant legislation/ management obligations	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth – EPBC Act)	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	
	Queensland Heritage Register	
	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (DIWA)	

3. Overarching values

Nationally significant wetlands (DIWA) – Lower Mooloolah River (includes a small intersection with the Lake Weyba (QLD133) wetland)

The Mooloolah River wetlands are significant because they are a good representation of a number of wetland types and coastal environments, provide a diversity of habitats and wildlife, and provide wildlife refuge. The lower Mooloolah floodplains, tributaries, tall and wet heaths, and littoral shrublands and vine forests provide habitat for over 250 taxa.

The Mooloolah River wetlands consist of three main wetland clusters. The largest wetland is located along the Mooloolah River floodplain and some of its tributaries, south of the Sunshine Motorway. The second wetland aggregate is in the Mountain Creek system to the north of the Sunshine Motorway and west of Kawana. This aggregate drains into the Mooloolah estuary. The third aggregate is found north of the mouth of Currimundi Creek, south of Kawana.

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 	

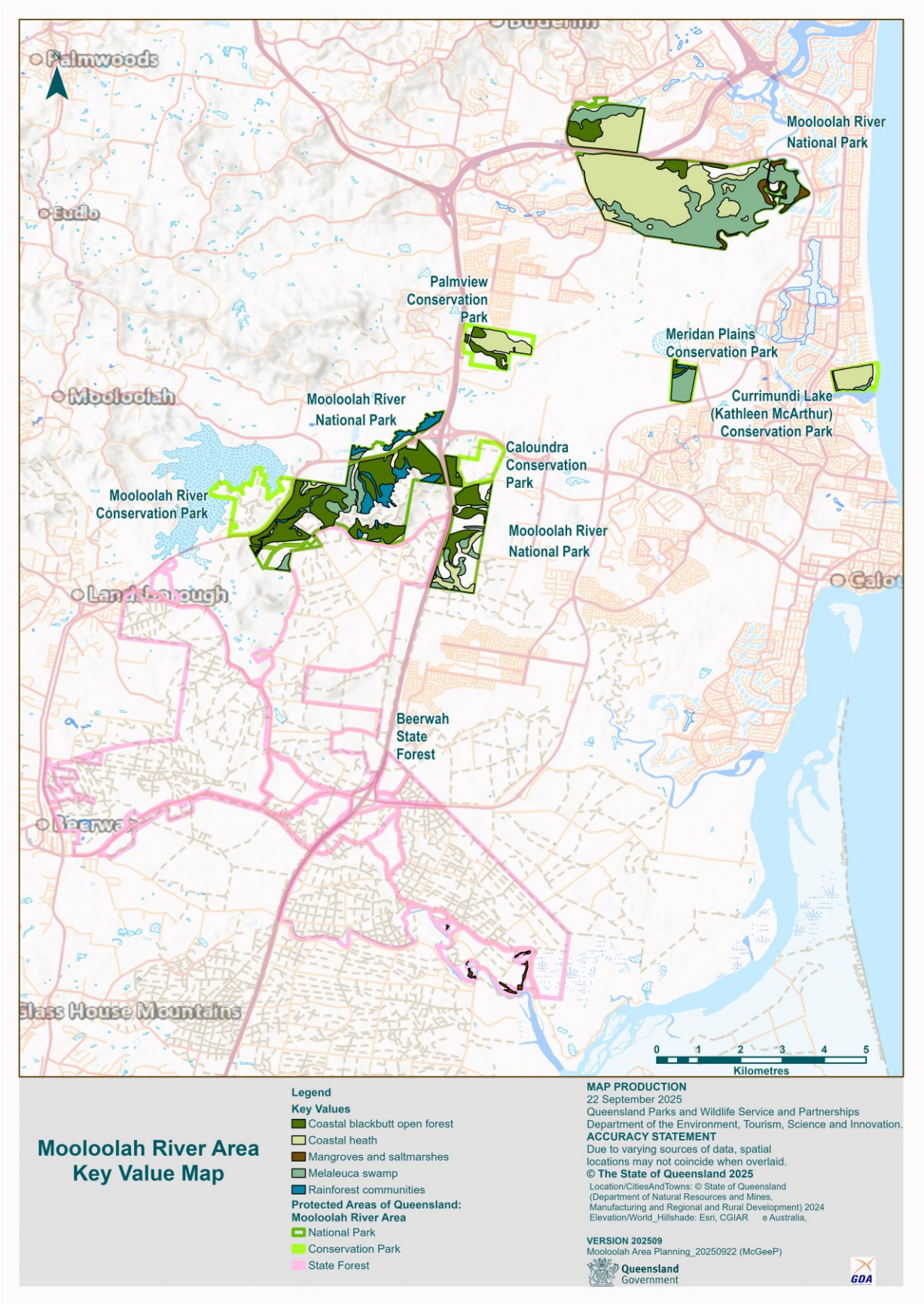


Figure 2. Mooloolah River National Park key values

4.1 Coastal heath

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
Ecosystems and biodiversity 	Coastal heath (or wallum communities – BVG 29) are characterised by low vegetation, including banksias and a great variety of wildflowers, interspersed with areas of paperbark and eucalypt woodlands/forests. Heaths often have highly acidic soils and waters and provide habitat for some animals, such as 'acid' frogs, that have adapted to live in a low pH environment. Wallum communities play an important role in filtering storm water before it enters waterways. Regional ecosystems No Concern at Present – RE 12.3.13 – Closed heathland on seasonally waterlogged alluvial plains, usually near coast. Of Concern – RE 12.3.14 – <i>Banksia aemula</i> low woodland on alluvial plains, usually near coast, and RE 12.3.14a – <i>Eucalyptus racemosa</i> subsp. <i>racemosa</i> woodland to open forest. Other canopy species may include <i>Corymbia intermedia</i>, <i>C. gummifera</i>, <i>Eucalyptus latissinensis</i>, <i>E. tindaliae</i> and <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>. Occurs on Quaternary alluvial plains in near coastal areas. Habitat for Mt Emu she-oak <i>Allocasuarina emuina</i> (NCA–E; EPBC–E); tiny wattle <i>Acacia baueri</i> subsp. <i>baueri</i> (NCA–V); <i>Acacia attenuata</i> (NCA–V; EBPC–V); Wide Bay boronia <i>Boronia rivularis</i> (NCA–NT); Christmas bells <i>Blandfordia grandiflora</i> (NCA–E); wallum froglet <i>Crinia tinnula</i> (NCA–V; IUCN Red List–V); wallum rocket frog <i>Litoria freycineti</i> (NCA–V); wallum sedge frog <i>Litoria olongburensis</i> (NCA–V; EPBC–V).						
Desired outcome Coastal heath communities will be managed to increase resilience and retain biodiversity, ensuring a well-functioning ecosystem that provides essential habitat and refugia to a range of significant fauna.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
1. Bushfire	Natural system modifications	There is difficulty in managing appropriate fire regimes due to the challenges associated with implementing planned burning (including accessibility) due to the urban interfaces and too frequent bushfires. This could be causing changes to the structure and species composition of coastal heath communities, and the ecosystem's age-class structure. Peat fires and severe bushfire could cause significant damage to heath ecosystem.	Primary	Medium
2. Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Weeds, such as signal grass <i>Urochloa decumbens</i> and blue billy goat <i>Ageratum houstonianum</i> , are present along tracks and roads. These are also being spread through runoff and drainage outlets.	Secondary	Low
3. Introduced animals	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Foxes present a threat to native fauna through predation and also disturbance of soils through digging.	Other	Low
4. Recreation	Human disturbance and other intrusions	Inappropriate visitor behaviours such as dog walking, taking of wild flowers and illegal camping have been observed to be damaging vegetation. This is likely to also be impacting native fauna.	Other	Low

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Maintain structural elements and age-class variation of coastal heath communities through the targeted application of fire.	1
Minimise visitor impacts caused by the illegal interfering and taking of natural resources during wildflower season in coastal heath communities.	2
Minimise visitors impacts associated with illegal camping at Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park.	2
Minimise visitor impacts caused by boating, unauthorised vehicle access, illegal camping and illegal dumping in the nationally significant wetlands of the lower Mooloolah River through increased ranger presence.	3
Minimise the visitor impacts on coastal heath caused by inappropriate visitor behaviour (caused by unpermitted domestic dog walking) in Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park.	3
Prevent the spread of blue billy goat, signal grass and other priority weeds to road and track edges.	3

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

4.2 Mangroves and saltmarshes

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
Ecosystems and biodiversity 	The park includes 1.5 km of estuarine habitat along the Mooloolah River, which supports five of the seven species of mangroves found in south-east Queensland. These mangroves provide riverbank stability as well as food and habitat for fish. Coastal development in SEQ has left very few estuarine habitats intact, and the remaining habitats have extremely high conservation value and are essential for the survival of local plants and animals. Vegetation communities and some fauna (particularly frogs) need low nutrient and pH water and soils, in addition to specific water table conditions. Estuarine species include river mangrove <i>Aegiceras corniculatum</i>, grey mangrove <i>Avicennia marina</i>, spotted mangrove <i>Rhizophora stylosa</i> and large-fruited orange mangrove <i>Bruguiera gymnorhiza</i>. Regional ecosystems No Concern at Present – RE 12.1.2 – Saltpan vegetation including grassland, herbland and sedgeland on marine clay plains No Concern at Present – RE 12.1.3 – Mangrove shrubland to low closed forest on marine clay plains and estuaries						
Desired outcome Mangrove and saltmarsh communities along the Mooloolah River are protected through broad landscape management practices to ensure a healthy, functioning ecosystem to support marine, estuarine and terrestrial species.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
1. Industrial discharge	Pollution	Water pollution due to large-scale land clearing and residential developments around the mangroves and saltmarshes is impacting on the health of mangrove and saltpan vegetation. These impacts include changes to water flow and bank erosion.	Primary	Medium
2. Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Pest plants such as groundsel bush <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> , broad leaved pepper tree <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> , asparagus fern <i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> , Easter cassia <i>Senna pendula</i> var. <i>glabrata</i> and corky passion vine <i>Passiflora suberosa</i> are infesting the saltmarshes and mangrove patches and outcompeting native species.	Secondary	Low
3. Recreation	Human disturbance and other intrusions	Recreational activities are impacting on the mangroves and banks through erosion from boat wash (speeding), littering, illegal camping and the illegal lighting of campfires.	Other	Low

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Minimise visitor impacts to the mangroves and saltmarshes through education and compliance.	2
Reduce impacts of groundsel bush, broad leaved pepper tree, asparagus fern, Easter cassia and corky passion vine on mangroves and saltmarshes.	3
Monitor the impacts to mangroves and saltmarshes from major water in-flows from surrounding urbanised areas through engagement with relevant agencies and tertiary institutes.	4

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

4.3 Melaleuca swamp

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
Ecosystems and biodiversity 	The melaleuca swamps are important ecosystems within the Lower Mooloolah River wetland, and patches are located within Mooloolah River National Park, Meridan Plains Conservation Park and Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park. Coastal tea tree swamps play a critical role in the hydrological regime of the coastal and sub-coastal area—providing a protective buffer against erosion; absorbing and filtering water before it enters other wetland ecosystems (such as mangrove swamps, estuaries and eventually the sea and off-shore reefs); retaining flood waters; and acting as nutrient sinks. Regional ecosystems No concern at present – RE 12.3.5 – <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> open forest on coastal alluvium (Palustrine wetland/vegetated swamp) Of Concern – RE 12.2.7 – <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> or rarely <i>M. dealbata</i> open forest on sand plains (Palustrine wetland/vegetated swamp)						
Desired outcome Melaleuca swamp communities are managed to improve hydrological function through appropriate fire regimes, containing pest plant infestations, minimising visitor impacts and monitoring in-flows from the surrounding area.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
1. Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Patches of pest plants, such as lantana <i>Lantana camara</i> , blue billy goat weed <i>Ageratum houstonianum</i> , groundsel bush <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> , broad leaved pepper tree <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> , asparagus fern <i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> , Easter cassia <i>Senna pendula</i> var. <i>glabrata</i> and corky passion vine <i>Passiflora suberosa</i> are infesting areas of the melaleuca swamps.	Primary	Low
2. Recreation	Human intrusions and disturbance	Illegal building of mountain bike tracks in melaleuca swamp communities is damaging vegetation and altering drainage systems. These impacts are also increasing erosion, decreasing water quality, and causing loss of ecosystem function and essential habitat for threatened species.	Secondary	Medium
3. Recreation	Human disturbance and other intrusions	Recreational activities impacting on the swamp vegetation include littering, illegal camping and illegal lighting of campfires.	Other	Low
4. Bushfire	Natural system modifications	There is a risk for bushfire to damage swamp communities during dry periods, causing long-term damage if peat is burnt. Melaleuca swamp currently has good age-class distribution due to appropriate planned burning.	Other	Low
5. Introduced animals	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Foxes present a threat to native fauna species of melaleuca swamps through predation and also disturbance of soils through digging.	Other	Low
6. Industrial discharge	Pollution	Changed water flow and excess nutrient runoff from surrounding residential and agricultural areas is causing silting and spread of weeds.	Other	Low

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Maintain structural elements and age-class variation of melaleuca swamp communities through the targeted application of fire.	2
Minimise visitor impacts on melaleuca swamps through signage, education, monitoring and compliance.	2
Prevent illegal trail construction through melaleuca swamp communities.	2
Reduce impacts of foxes on melaleuca swamp communities through collaborative pest management programs with local council.	3
Monitor the impacts from major water in-flows from surrounding areas to melaleuca swamp.	4
Prevent the spread of lantana, blue billy goat weed, groundsel bush, broad leaved pepper tree, asparagus fern, Easter cassia and corky passion vine beyond swamp margins.	4

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

4.4 Rainforest communities

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
Ecosystems and biodiversity 	The Jowarra section of Mooloolah River National Park contains some of the few remaining lowland rainforests of subtropical Australia, listed as “critically endangered” under the EPBC Act (Cth). These forests have been extensively cleared for pasture and cropping, which has caused ongoing degrading from weed infestation. There is also long-term damage from bushfires on the margins due to the fire sensitivity of this community. The rainforest is critical habitat for lowland populations of threatened species, such as the vulnerable Richmond birdwing butterfly. Regional ecosystems Endangered – RE 12.3.1 – gallery rainforest (notophyll vine forest) on alluvial plains (Riverine wetland or fringing riverine wetland) Endangered – RE 12.3.1a – complex notophyll vine forest (small parcels occur along Mooloolah River as understorey to melaleuca 12.3.5) Habitat for Richmond birdwing vine <i>Pararistolochia praevenosa</i> (NT), Richmond birdwing butterfly <i>Ornithoptera richmondii</i> (V), giant barred frog <i>Mixophyes iteratus</i> (NCA – E, EPBC – E) and Queensland nut <i>Macadamia tetraphylla</i> (NCA – V, EPBC – V)						
Desired outcome Rainforest communities are protected and maintained as critical refugia for threatened species that rely on them.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
1. Bushfire	Natural system modifications	High-intensity fires during drought periods may impact the edges of the rainforest communities, reducing the extent of this ecosystem, and have the potential to penetrate and burn through significant areas of rainforest during severe fire weather.	Primary	Low
2. Recreation	Human intrusions and disturbance	Illegal building of mountain bike tracks in rainforest communities is damaging vegetation and altering drainage systems. These impacts are also increasing erosion and causing loss of ecosystem function and essential habitat for threatened species.	Secondary	Medium
3. Recreation	Human intrusions and disturbance	Minor visitor impacts associated with bushwalking and bird watching, such as trampling and spread of footprint from walking off track, resulting in damage to vegetation.	Other	Low
4. Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Weeds primarily along edges of rainforest, such as blue billy goat weed <i>Ageratum houstonianum</i> , lantana <i>Lantana camara</i> , fishbone fern <i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i> and grasses (paspalum <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> , signal grass <i>Urochloa decumbens</i>) along walking tracks.	Other	Low

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Protect rainforest communities through targeted application of fire in adjacent fire-adapted vegetation to reduce potential of high-intensity bushfire.	1
Prevent illegal trail construction and decommission unsustainable trails in rainforest communities of Meridan Hill section of Mooloolah River National Park through planning, compliance, monitoring and restoration works.	2
Minimise visitor impacts to rainforest communities by rationalising visitor use within the Jowarra section of Mooloolah River National Park.	2
Reduce impacts of blue billy goat weed, lantana, fishbone fern and grasses (paspalum, signal grass) on rainforest communities.	2

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

4.5 Coastal blackbutt open forests

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
Ecosystems and biodiversity 	Blackbutt <i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i> tall open forest on sandstone is found predominantly in the coastal lowlands of the Sunshine Coast. Much of this forest type has been cleared for forestry, agriculture and rural residential, with most remaining stands on private land. The extensive blackbutt forests were a key reason for dedicating Mooloolah River area as national park. Mooloolah River Conservation Park and Palmview Conservation Park also contain a small area of coastal blackbutt forest. The dominant coastal blackbutt regional ecosystem is 12.9-10.14, but we have included 12.9-10.14a as blackbutt occurs throughout the flooded gum forest. Regional ecosystems No Concern at Present – 12.9-10.14 – <i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i> tall open forest on sedimentary rocks No Concern at Present – 12.9-10.14a – open forest of <i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> (flooded gum), <i>Lophostemon confertus</i>, <i>E. microcorys</i>, <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> subsp. <i>glomulifera</i> +/- <i>E. pilularis</i>. Occurs on Cainozoic and Mesozoic sediments, especially sandstone in wet gullies and southern slopes						
Desired outcome Coastal blackbutt forests will be managed to ensure they are structurally sound, ecologically functioning ecosystems that support healthy populations of the fauna that depend on them.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
1. Bushfire	Natural system modifications	There is difficulty in managing appropriate fire regimes due to the challenges associated with implementing planned burning (including accessibility) due to the urban interfaces and too frequent bushfires. This could be causing changes to the structure and species composition of coastal blackbutt forests, and the ecosystem's age-class variation.	Primary	High
2. Recreation	Human intrusions and disturbance	Illegal building of mountain bike tracks in coastal blackbutt communities is damaging vegetation and altering drainage systems. These impacts are also increasing erosion and causing loss of ecosystem function and essential habitat for threatened species.	Secondary	Medium
3. Introduced animals	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Foxes present a threat to native fauna species of coastal blackbutt communities through predation and also disturbance of soils through digging.	Other	Low
4. Introduced weeds	Invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases	Invasive weeds, such as whiskey grass <i>Andropogon virginicus</i> and paspalum grass <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> , along track and road edges are outcompeting native species.	Other	Low

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Maintain structural elements and age-class variation of coastal blackbutt communities through the targeted application of fire.	1
Prevent illegal trail construction in coastal blackbutt open forest through planning, compliance, monitoring and restoration works.	1
Minimise impacts of illegal motorised access through compliance activities and maintaining vehicle barrier fencing and gates.	2
Reduce impacts of foxes on coastal blackbutt communities through collaborative pest management programs with local council.	3
Prevent the spread of whiskey and paspalum grasses within coastal blackbutt open forests.	4

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

4.6 Ferny Forest mountain biking experience

Key value category	Key value description	Current condition	Assessment confidence	Current trend	Assessment confidence	Desired condition (short term)	Desired condition (long term)
Recreational opportunities 	Ferny Forest in Mooloolah River Conservation Park offers a unique beginner mountain biking experience that works congruently with the Caloundra trail network and Ewen Maddock Dam trail network to provide a diversity of experiences through a cross-tenure approach to mountain biking in the area. Twelve kilometres of trail explores blackbutt forests, fern gullies and melaleuca wetlands. Along the way, riders can stop and enjoy scenic viewing points overlooking Ewen Maddock Dam. Specifically aimed at entry level mountain bikers and suitable for families, the trails offer one of the only “easy” grade trail networks in a natural setting on the Sunshine Coast.						
Desired outcome The Ferny Forest mountain bike trail network provides a sustainable, family-friendly visitor experience suitable for beginner mountain bikers and with a focus on appreciating the natural amenity.							

Threats to key value

Threat process	Threat category	Description	Threat level	Threat rating
1. Inappropriate facilities	Impact on experience or opportunity	There are deteriorated trails requiring maintenance, upgrades and signs that are resulting in environmental impacts and trails that no longer meet IMBA or construction standards. These impacts are reducing rider experience and could pose a risk to visitor safety.	Primary	Medium
2. User mix	Impact on experience or opportunity	There is occasionally reported conflict between organised event holders/participants and free and independent users, which results in a reduced user experience.	Secondary	Low
3. Risk to visitor safety	Impact on experience or opportunity	Illegally constructed tracks with elevated structures that do not meet IMBA or construction standards are a potential risk to the safety of visitors.	Other	Low

Strategic management directions

Strategic management direction	Priority*
Maintain the mountain biking experience in Ferny Forest by exploring a range of opportunities, including improving track design, alignment, flow patterns and orientation of authorised tracks.	2
Maintain the visitor safety of the mountain biking experience by upgrading authorised mountain bike trails.	2
Minimise social impacts associated with user conflicts along the mountain bike trail network in Ferny Forest.	2
Maintain free and independent use of mountain bike experience during competitive events.	2
Maintain the visitor experience through improving access and car parking facilities.	3

*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.

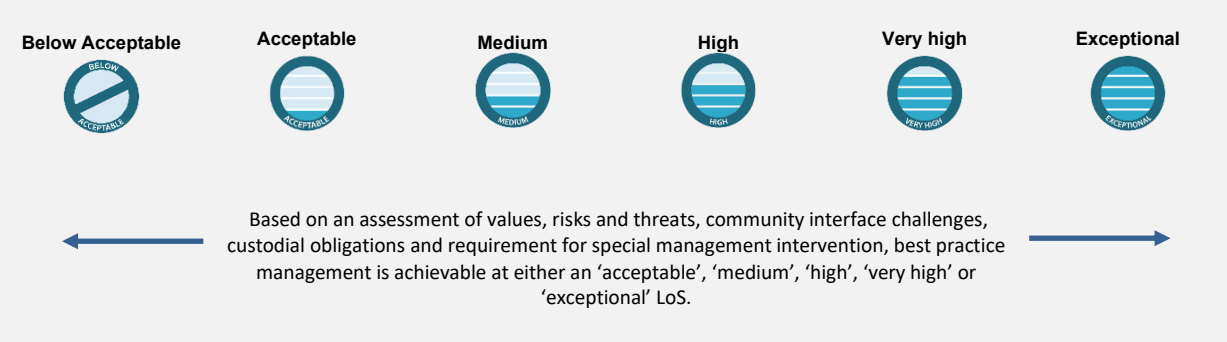


Figure 3. Description of LoS icons

5.1 Management directions

Management theme	Current	Desired	Strategic management direction	Priority (1–5) *
Fire management			Improve fire management capability by undertaking a fire line audit and upgrade project.	1
			Promote cross-landscape fire management by identifying and coordinating fire management responsibilities with other land managers.	2
			Improve knowledge of how wildfire and planned burning affects natural values.	3
Pest management			Continue to coordinate cross-landscape pest management programs, including prioritising programs that target protecting key values.	2
			Maintain management capacity for pest management activities.	2
			Improve approach to pest management by reducing the impact of pest plant infestations on key value areas.	3
Natural values management			Maintain planning and technical support to improve the condition of key park values, particularly knowledge of <i>Eucalyptus conglomerata</i> communities and the impacts of wildfire.	3
			Improve partnerships with universities to facilitate monitoring programs and fill knowledge gaps.	4
Historic cultural heritage management			Maintain understanding and mapping of cultural heritage sites.	5
			Seek advice, where required, to manage historic sites.	5
Visitor management			Maintain visitor safety in Ferny Forest through maintaining a network of sustainable, fit-for-purpose trails.	1
			Maintain the relationship between QPWS and relevant recreation groups such as Bushrangers Mountain Bike Club to ensure sustainable, nature-based recreation.	1
			Maintain relationships with council for future planning of visitor use changes associated with town planning and new developments.	2
			Maintain staging and competitive event infrastructure in appropriate settings, including on adjacent tenures.	2
			Maintain efforts to ensure permit holders comply with relevant conditions and prevent unauthorised commercial operators conducting tours and events.	2
			Maintain knowledge of how increased visitor use and changed visitor dynamics impact natural values and visitor experience.	2
			Maintain visitor safety by reducing unauthorised motor bike access through increased compliance efforts.	2
			Maintain the overall approach to visitor management by expanding existing, and investigating the potential for new, volunteer programs under the "Friends of Parks" volunteer banner.	2

Management theme	Current	Desired	Strategic management direction	Priority (1–5) *
			Maintain signage in Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park for unexploded ordinance (UXO) warnings.	2
			Maintain overall approach to visitor management by identifying new setting-appropriate opportunities, improving quality of visitor sites, improving compliance and increasing ranger presence.	3
Community, partnerships and other interests			Improve the relationship between QPWS and the relevant recreation groups such as Bushrangers Mountain Bike Club to enhance sustainable, nature-based recreation.	1
			Maintain current approach to consulting and engaging with other land managers, including local council and HQ Plantations, on park management issues such as fire, visitor and pest programs.	2
			Maintain efforts to ensure permit holders comply with relevant conditions and prevent unauthorised commercial operators conducting tours and events.	2
			Maintain relationships with council for future planning of visitor use changes associated with town planning and new developments.	2
			Improve current approach to consultation by establishing a more formalised approach to local residents and conservation groups' involvement in park management, and engaging with neighbours.	3
Field management capability			Maintain the current level of skills, frequency of park visits and support from region's specialist staff to manage key values.	2
Operational planning and management support			Maintain operational and management support at a high level while continuing to seek improvements in resourcing capacity and planning support.	4

*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.