

Mount Cooroy 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

Mount Cooroy Conservation Park lies inland from the beaches of the Sunshine Coast, just 12 kilometres from the foreshore at Noosa. The township of Cooroy is four kilometres north-west of the park.

There is no road access to the park, which is surrounded by freehold properties. There are road reserves adjoining the park, but there are no constructed roads within them. There are several roads nearby, including Cooroy Mountain Road to the north and west, Lukes Road to the west, and Mount Cooroy Road to the south.

There are many other protected areas in a 10 kilometre radius of the park, including Tewantin National Park, Mapleton National Park, Eumundi Conservation Park and Mount Eerwah Conservation Park.

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.

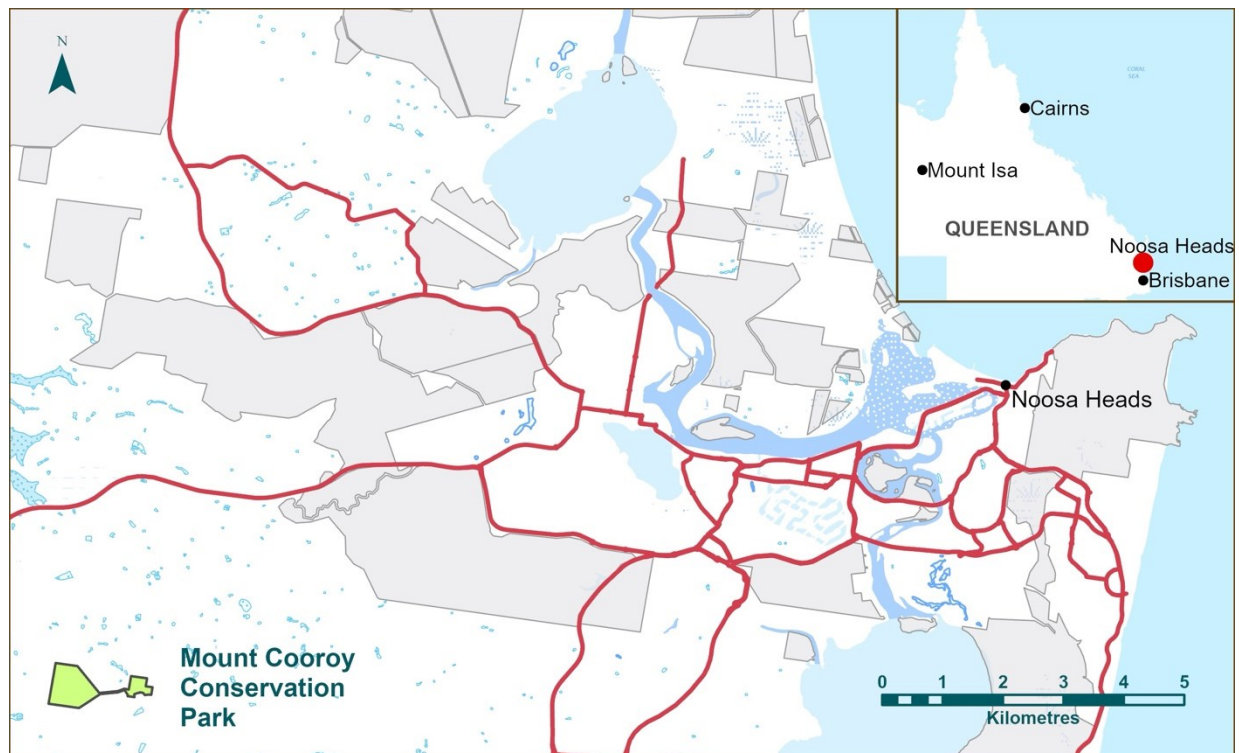


Figure 1. Locality of Mount Cooroy Conservation Park

Table 1. Overview of Mount Cooroy Conservation Park

Park size	Mount Cooroy Conservation Park	47.2 ha
Bioregion	South Eastern Queensland	
QPWS region	South East Queensland	
Local government area	Noosa Shire Council	
State electorate	Noosa	
Relevant legislation	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>	
	<i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>	
	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth) (EPBC)	
	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cwlth)	
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> (NCA)	
Plans and agreements	<i>National recovery plan for macadamia species</i>	
	<i>Recovery plan for the angle-stemmed myrtle <i>Austromyrtus gonoclada</i> 2001–2005</i>	
	<i>International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	
	<i>Threatened Species Strategy Action Plan 2022–2032</i>	

3. Resource information

3.1 Kabi Kabi People

The Kabi Kabi People have traditional connection to the park.

A native title claim including the park and other areas was registered on 5 February 2019 and determined on 17 June 2024 (Tribunal Number QCD2024/002, Federal Court Number QUD20/2019). Native title is held by the Kabi Kabi People described in the determination, with the registered native title body corporate (RNTBC) being the Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC. There is no current Indigenous Land Use Agreement for the park.

The Kabi Kabi People's cultural landscape covers a vast area along the Sunshine Coast north of Brisbane to the Gregory and Isis Rivers south of Bundaberg. For tens of thousands of years, Kabi Kabi Country has provided an abundance of resources, which has sustained the community and the practice of Kabi Kabi culture across many different ecosystems and landscapes. The cultural landscape contains tangible and intangible values that are interwoven with the ecological landscape. The health of culture is dependent on the health of the landscape, its forests, beaches and waterways.

The Kabi Kabi People continue to actively practise their customs and lore on Country. Continuing this connection to Country and ongoing use of cultural resources is of great importance to the Kabi Kabi People.

Kabi Kabi People, through co-stewardship park management with the QPWS, are building ways to care for Country together and share culture with visitors, to ensure all values are protected for current and future generations. The Kabi Kabi People's rights, knowledge and expertise are considered in planning and day-to-day management activities. This engagement builds co-stewardship and increases the shared knowledge and respect for the cultural landscape.

3.2 Key value information

3.2.1 Vine forest

Vine forest covers over three quarters of the park (78.29 per cent) and includes three regional ecosystems that should not be deliberately burnt. The Araucarian notophyll/microphyll vine forest comprises nearly 70 per cent of the park and has of concern biodiversity status. Endangered notophyll vine forest covers nearly eight per cent of the park, and a very small patch of notophyll vine forest with no concern at present status covers less than one per cent. There are 47 plant species of conservation significance recorded from the park, many of which are found in the vine forest, including a critically endangered native guava *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* and two vulnerable macadamia species.

3.3 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.

There are four hectares of riverine wetland in the eastern part of park (7.8 per cent), which is located within the Upper Mary River subcatchment of the Mary River catchment.

3.3.1 Regional ecosystems

While there is significant remnant vegetation in the nearby protected areas, much of the landscape surrounding the park has been modified for agriculture (predominantly grazing) and residential housing.

The park has five regional ecosystems, one with endangered biodiversity status, two of concern (Appendix B) and two with no concern at present status. Most of the park comprises the three endangered and of concern regional ecosystems, which collectively cover 38.66 hectares (81.88 per cent) of the park.

All five regional ecosystems represent less than one per cent of that regional ecosystem remaining in Queensland or within the protected area estate.

Gallery rainforest (notophyll vine forest) on alluvial plains (12.3.1) has endangered biodiversity status and covers 3.68 hectares (7.79 per cent) of the park. This vine forest is associated with the riverine wetland mentioned earlier. This regional ecosystem is known to provide potential habitat for threatened plants including *Xanthostemon oppositifolius*, *Fontainea rostrata*, *Macadamia integrifolia* and *M. ternifolia*; and habitat for threatened animals including *Cyclopsitta diophthalma coxeni* and *Ornithoptera richmondia*. The vulnerable Queensland nut tree *M. integrifolia* and Gympie nut *M. ternifolia* have been recorded from the park. The Regional Ecosystem Description Database (REDD) fire management guideline for this regional ecosystem is to not burn deliberately.

Araucarian complex microphyll vine forest on Cainozoic igneous rocks (12.8.13) has of concern biodiversity status and covers 32.99 hectares (69.87 per cent) of the park. While this regional ecosystem is known to provide potential habitat for threatened plant species including *Alectryon ramiflorus*, *Cossinia australiana* and *Sarcophilus weinthalii*, none of these species has been recorded from the park. The REDD fire management guideline for this regional ecosystem is to not burn deliberately.

Heath and rock pavement with scattered shrubs or open woodland on Cainozoic igneous hills and mountains (12.8.19) has of concern biodiversity status and covers 1.99 hectares (4.22 per cent) of the park. While this regional ecosystem is known to provide potential habitat for 23 threatened or near threatened plant species, none of them has been recorded from the park. The REDD fire management guideline for this regional ecosystem is summer to winter burns of low to moderate intensity in association with surrounding vegetation at 10–30 year intervals.

Lophostemon confertus open forest on Cainozoic igneous rocks (12.8.9) has no concern at present biodiversity status and covers 5.92 hectares (12.53 per cent) of the park. This regional ecosystem is known to provide potential habitat for koalas *Phascolarctos cinereus* and NCA listed plants *Eucalyptus dunnii* and the endangered *Mallotus megadontus*, which has been recorded from the park. The REDD fire management guideline for this regional ecosystem is late summer to autumn burns of moderate to high intensity with a minimum 20 year interval.

Notophyll vine forest +/- *Araucaria cunninghamii* on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics (12.11.10) covers just 0.30 hectares (0.63 percent) of the park, has no concern at present status and has the same REDD fire management guideline as the other vine forests.

3.4 Species

While only two native animal species (1 frog, 1 bird) have been recorded in the department's WildNet Database, a significant 355 native plant species have been recorded from this small park. While part of the park has been mapped as koala habitat (core), there are no sighting records for koalas.

3.4.1 Native animals

Vulnerable glossy black-cockatoo (eastern) *Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami* is the only animal species of conservation significance that has been recorded from the park.

3.4.2 Native plants

There are 47 plant species of conservation significance recorded from the park. These include critically endangered angle-stemmed myrtle *Gossia gonoclada*, *G. inophloia* and native guava *Rhodomyrtus psidioides*; endangered *Mallotus megadontus*; vulnerable *Floydia praealta*, Queensland nut tree *M. integrifolia* and Gympie nut *M. ternifolia*; near threatened *Nothoalsomitra suberosa* and *Pararistolochia praevenosa*; a further 37 species with special least concern status; and one species with least concern status (Appendix C).

Angle-stemmed myrtle *G. gonoclada* and native guava *R. psidioides* are two of 30 priority plant species listed in the Threatened Species Strategy Action Plan 2022–2032. One of the plan's objectives is to reduce the risk of extinction for all priority species.

The macadamia genus is endemic to coastal regions in south-east Queensland and north-east New South Wales, predominantly in subtropical rainforests. There are four species of macadamia and two of them, Queensland nut tree *M. integrifolia* and rough-shelled bush nut *M. tetraphylla*, are cultivated in Australia, and internationally, for their edible nut. Macadamias are also sought after by cockatoos. The two species present in the park, Queensland nut tree *M. integrifolia* and Gympie nut *M. ternifolia*, are listed as vulnerable under the NCA, the EPBC Act and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Red List for Threatened Plants. Australia is a signatory to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which requires that the genetic resources of macadamia species is conserved for food and agricultural purposes. The *National Recovery Plan for Macadamia Species* identifies Mount Cooroy as a medium priority population for Gympie nut *M. ternifolia*.

3.5 Geophysical features

The striking landscape of the Sunshine Coast was formed during volcanic activity that occurred 20–30 million years ago. There are many craggy mountains in the area, which are generally intrusive volcanic plugs that have eroded across time.

Mount Cooroy is a notable feature in the landscape at 428 metres above sea level. The highest mountain in the Glass House Mountains National Park, which is around 50 kilometres to the south, is Beerwah at 555 metres, followed by Coonowrin at 374 metres (Queensland Government QTopo).

3.6 Recreational opportunities

There are no walking tracks or other visitor facilities within the park and camping is not permitted.

3.7 Post-contact cultural heritage

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

3.8 Fire

The vine forests cover 78.29 per cent of the park and require protection from fire. The rest of the park's regional ecosystems require fire to be healthy.

There is an area fire strategy for the park and other nearby protected areas, including Tewantin and Tuckekoi national parks and Harry Spring and Tuckekoi conservation parks. It was approved in 2021 and provides direction on fire management and development of burn plans.

3.9 Pests

There have been 32 pest plant species recorded from the park (Appendix D), including one Weed of National Significance (lantana). Weeds of National Significance have been identified due to their invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic, environmental and social impacts.

No pest animal species have been recorded from the park.

4. Bibliography

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5. Appendices

Appendix A. Policy and management commitments

Gazettal details

The park was originally gazetted as Mount Cooroy Environmental Park on 2 May 1992 under the *Land Act 1962* and was managed under a trustee agreement by the Noosa Shire Council.

It was gazetted as Mount Cooroy Conservation Park under the 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**
12.3.1	Gallery rainforest (notophyll vine forest) on alluvial plains	Endangered	Endangered
12.8.13	Araucarian complex microphyll vine forest on Cainozoic igneous rocks	Of concern	Of concern
12.8.19	Heath and rock pavement with scattered shrubs or open woodland on Cainozoic igneous hills and mountains	Of 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
Animals			
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	glossy black-cockatoo	Vulnerable	
Plants			
<i>Gossia gonoclada</i>	angle-stemmed myrtle	Critically endangered	Endangered
<i>Gossia inophloia</i>		Critically endangered	
<i>Rhodomyrtus psidioides</i>	native guava	Critically endangered	Critically endangered
<i>Mallotus megadontus</i>		Endangered	
<i>Floydia praealta</i>	ball nut	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Macadamia integrifolia</i>	Queensland nut tree	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Macadamia ternifolia</i>	Gympie nut	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Nothoalsomitra suberosa</i>		Near threatened	
<i>Pararistolochia praevenosa</i>		Near threatened	
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Arachniodes aristata</i>	prickly shield fern	Special least concern	
<i>Bulbophyllum minutissimum</i>	grain-of-wheat orchid	Special least concern	
<i>Calanthe triplicata</i>	Christmas orchid	Special least concern	
<i>Cestichis swenssonii</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Christella dentata</i>	creek fern	Special least concern	
<i>Crepidomanes saxifragoides</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Crepidomanes walleri</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Cymbidium madidum</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Dendrobium aemulum</i>	ironbark orchid	Special least concern	
<i>Dendrobium gracilicaule</i>	slender orchid	Special least concern	

Scientific name	Common name	NC Act status	EPBC Act status
<i>Dendrobium kingianum</i> <i>subsp. kingianum</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Dendrobium monophyllum</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Dendrobium speciosum</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Dendroconche scandens</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Dictymia brownii</i>	strap fern	Special least concern	
<i>Dipodium punctatum</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Dockrillia linguiformis</i>	tongue orchid	Special least concern	
<i>Dockrillia schoenina</i>	pencil orchid	Special least concern	
<i>Drynaria rigidula</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Erythrorchis cassythoides</i>	climbing orchid	Special least concern	
<i>Lastreopsis decomposita</i>	trim shield fern	Special least concern	
<i>Lastreopsis marginans</i>	glossy shield fern	Special least concern	
<i>Lepisorus mucronatus</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Livistona australis</i>	cabbage tree palm	Special least concern	
<i>Lobelia trigonocaulis</i>	forest lobelia	Special least concern	
<i>Notogrammitis billardiarei</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Platyserium bifurcatum</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Platyserium superbum</i>	staghorn fern	Special least concern	
<i>Psilotum flaccidum</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Psilotum nudum</i>	skeleton fork fern	Special least concern	
<i>Pyrrosia confluens</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Pyrrosia rupestris</i>	rock felt fern	Special least concern	
<i>Pellaea falcata</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Pteris tremula</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Pteris umbrosa</i>	jungle bracken	Special least concern	

Scientific name	Common name	NC Act status	EPBC Act status
<i>Xanthorrhoea macronema</i>		Special least concern	
<i>Bosistoa transversa</i>	three-leaved bosistoa	Least concern	Vulnerable

Appendix D. Pests

Scientific name	Common name	Biosecurity Act 2014 status	Notes
Plants			
<i>Asparagus plumosus</i>	feathered asparagus fern	Category 3	
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	groundsel bush	Category 3	
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	camphor laurel	Category 3	
<i>Lantana camara</i>	lantana	Category 3	Weed of National Significance
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	broad-leaved pepper tree	Category 3	
<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	red-head cottonbush		
<i>Chiloglottis reflexa</i>	autumn bird orchid		
<i>Chloris gayana</i>	Rhodes grass		
<i>Crassocephalum crepidioides</i>	thickhead		
<i>Crotalaria incana</i>			
<i>Desmodium uncinatum</i>			
<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	summer grass		
<i>Eleusine indica</i>	crowsfoot grass		
<i>Eragrostis tenuifolia</i>	elastic grass		
<i>Ficus platypoda</i>			
<i>Gomphocarpus physocarpus</i>	balloon cottonbush		
<i>Megathyrsus maximus</i>			
<i>Melinis minutiflora</i>	molasses grass		
<i>Melinis repens</i>	red natal grass		

Scientific name	Common name	Biosecurity Act 2014 status	Notes
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>			
<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	sourgrass		
<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	paspalum		
<i>Passiflora edulis</i>			
<i>Passiflora subpeltata</i>	white passion flower		
<i>Physalis peruviana</i>			
<i>Phytolacca octandra</i>	inkweed		
<i>Pityrogramma calomelanos</i> var. <i>austroamericana</i>			
<i>Setaria sphacelata</i>			
<i>Solanum americanum</i>			
<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	wild tobacco		
<i>Tagetes minuta</i>	stinking roger		