

# Management plan

## Coalstoun Lakes National Park

### 1 Management directions and purposes

#### 1.1 Management directions

Coalstoun Lakes National Park lies 21km south-west of Biggenden and covers an area of approximately 26hectares. The park was gazetted in 1929 to conserve an area of geological significance. The park contains flora which is a valuable remnant of a now rare vegetation type. The park will be managed to conserve the remnant vegetation by reducing current threats such as weeds, cattle grazing and wildfires. Degraded areas will be rehabilitated and revegetated. Visitor access will be upgraded in liaison with the local authority, and the park's unique geological and scenic values will be interpreted to the public.

#### 1.2 Purposes

The major purposes of management will be to ensure that:

- the park is kept free from disturbance caused by the encroachment of cattle;
- areas which have suffered degradation from weed invasion, cattle grazing and past clearing are rehabilitated;
- areas of dry vine thicket are conserved;
- problem weeds are actively managed and their spread significantly reduced;
- appropriate fire management regimes protect plant and animal communities from the adverse effects of wildfires;
- visitor access to the park is provided and the park's natural and cultural values are interpreted; and
- Aboriginal groups, neighbours and the local community are aware of management issues and provided with opportunities to be involved in management.

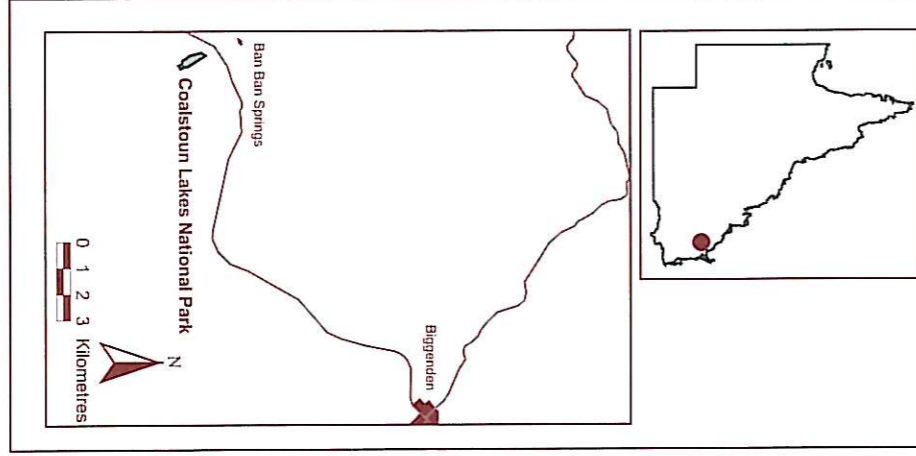
### 2 Basis for management

Coalstoun Lakes National Park is gazetted under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* as a national park and will be managed in accordance with s 17 of the Act which sets out the following principles for management:

- to provide, to the greatest possible extent, for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition and the protection of the area's cultural resources and values;
- to present the area's cultural and natural resources and their values; and
- to ensure that the only use of the area is nature-based and ecologically sustainable.

The requirements of other legislation administered by the Service and other State and Commonwealth agencies will be met where necessary.

### Coalstoun Lakes National Park



Cover photograph: Early photograph of Coalstoun Lakes.

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### Scientific and educational

The unique geology and presence of remnant dry rainforest means the park has considerable scientific and educational

### Scenic and aesthetic

Mt Le Brun is a prominent feature on the local landscape. Excellent views of the surrounding countryside can be gained from the edge of the craters within the park. The crater lakes are unique to the area and when they contain water they attract birds and other wildlife.

### Cultural heritage

Coalstoun Lakes has significance to local Aboriginal people. The park falls within an area subject to native title claim applications made by the Wakkla Wakkla people and the Wakkla Wakkla Jinda people.

Little is known about the park's animals. The vulnerable black breasted button quail may occur and migratory rainforest birds and raptors use the park as a refuge. The park may also be an important location for butterflies at certain times of the year.

Epiphytes are present but not abundant. Tongue orchid *Dendrobium linguiformis* and rock felt fern *Pyrosia rupestris* are examples.

### Plants and animals

Within the craters vegetation type varies with slope and position. The lakes contain sedge and grasslands. A distinct band of river teatree *Melaleuca bracteata* with scattered bluegum *Eucalyptus tereticornis* occurs on the lakes shores. The slopes above support softwood scrubs, a type of dry rainforest. This scrub has a layer of emergent trees 10-20m tall above a dense closed canopy 4-12m tall. The most common tall tree is southern siris *Archidendropsis thozetiana*, readily distinguished by its small compound leaves and creamy-brown scaly bark. Other emergents include the broadleaved bottle tree *Brachychiton australis*, Queensland bottle tree *Brachychiton rupestris*, leopard ash *Flindersia collina*, crows ash *Flindersia australis* and small-leaved fig *Ficus obliqua*. The closed canopy is very diverse. Some of the more abundant trees include the white tamarind *Elaeagnatoclyps xylocarpa*, celery wood *Polyscias elegans*, native pomegranate *Capparis arborea* and cocaine tree *Erythroxylum australe*. Shrubs present include *Micramelum minutum* and square-stemmed broom *Spartothamnella juncea*. Vines are conspicuous throughout the scrub. Zigzag vine *Rauwenhaffia leichardtii*, native hoyo *Hoya australis*, distinctive for its very thick, fleshy rounded leaves and native bryony *Diplocyclos palmatus*, which has attractive round red fruit with white stripes, are three characteristic species. Epiphytes are present but not abundant. Tongue orchid *Dendrobium linguiformis* and rock felt fern *Pyrosia rupestris* are examples.

### Recreation and tourism

The park is 1km off the Isis Highway which runs between Biggenden and Ban Ban Springs, making it a readily accessible site for tourists. Visitors can access the craters by a rough track on the northern side of the mountain or through private property on the southern end, however there are no facilities or walking tracks on the park. Visitors will be intrigued by the thick vegetation within the craters which contrasts strongly to the surrounding cleared agricultural landscape. Superb views are available from the crater rim and the site presents opportunities for birdwatching and photography.

### Economic

Protected areas can make a substantial contribution to regional development by providing natural resources that attract tourists to the region. Coalstoun Lakes, with proper planning and management, could offer significant economic benefits to the Biggenden Shire and to the local communities of Coalstoun Lakes and Biggenden.

### Summary

This management plan provides the framework and guidelines on how Coalstoun Lakes National Park will be managed. It sets out the considerations, outcomes and strategies that are proposed to form the basis on which dry-to-dry management decisions are made.

This plan was prepared in October 1999 and, in accordance with s 125 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, will be reviewed not later than 10 years after its approval. For further information on this plan or the planning process, please contact the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Office in Maryborough on (07) 4121 1800 during business hours.

This management plan was developed with the assistance of David Marshall, Mark Burnham, Doug Schultz, Peter Tenney, Doug Crossman, Bill Fisher, Cathy Skippington and Rose Trapnell. Thanks are due to those groups and individuals who made submissions in response to the draft plan.

### 3 Management strategies

Current situation	Desired outcomes	Policies, guidelines and actions
<p><b>Native plants and animals</b></p> <p>There is a limited amount of resource information available for the park. A plant list compiled in 1992 lists 152 plant species. No rare or threatened plant species are known to exist on the park although the rare <i>Muelleria myrsifolia</i> may be present.</p> <p>Some areas within the park boundary have been cleared and grazing has reduced the ability of the native vegetation to regenerate.</p> <p>There is a bird list for the park and fauna surveys have been conducted.</p>	<p>The composition and extent of native vegetation types are maintained, subject to natural change.</p> <p>Areas within the park boundary which have been degraded or cleared are restored to their appropriate vegetation type.</p> <p>A current list of plants and animals and their conservation values is available.</p>	<p>Continue to collect and upgrade natural resource information for the park.</p> <p>Develop a vegetation map for the park.</p> <p>Identify disturbed or degraded areas and undertake revegetation in association with weed control and erosion control programs.</p> <p>Establish monitoring sites within the park to follow changes in vegetation communities that occur as a consequence of grazing removal and weed control.</p>
<p><b>Introduced plants and animals</b></p> <p>Major weeds on the park include lantana, creeping lantana, rubbervine, groundsel, prickly pear, green panic and variegated thistle.</p> <p>Past weed control programs have focussed on controlling groundsel, lantana and prickly pear.</p> <p>Feral animals include foxes, hares, rabbits, cane toads and the house mouse.</p> <p>A lack of fencing has enabled cattle to graze the park for many years.</p>	<p>Introduced plants are controlled and, where practical, eradicated.</p> <p>The impact of introduced animals on the park is reduced.</p>	<p>Cattle grazing on the park will not be permitted.</p> <p>Rationalise the boundary of the park to make fencing more practical and cost effective. Complete park fencing as soon as practical to exclude cattle. Laise with neighbours to ensure all cattle are removed from the park.</p> <p>Investigate and implement the most effective measures for the control of weeds. Declared noxious species will be eradicated if possible.</p> <p>Monitor feral animal numbers as part of general duties and through liaison with neighbours. Action will be taken if feral animal numbers are determined to be significant.</p>
<p><b>Fire management</b></p> <p>Rainforest plants are not tolerant of fire which can readily destroy them.</p> <p>There is no recorded history of wildfires on the park.</p> <p>Park staff liaise with neighbours over fire management issues in the area.</p> <p>There has been no fire management planning conducted for the park.</p>	<p>Fire management is based on regionally adopted fire management practices.</p> <p>There are no fires on the park.</p>	<p>Maintain and implement a fire management plan composed of a fire management strategy, a fire management program and a wildfire response procedure.</p> <p>The primary fire management strategy will be to exclude fire from the park.</p> <p>Help neighbours maintain fire lines around the park. Assist and participate in cooperative protection burns.</p> <p>The Ranger-in-Charge will liaise with park neighbours and the local rural fire brigade concerning QPWS fire management practices.</p>
<p><b>Landscape, soil and catchment protection</b></p> <p>Vegetation clearing around the perimeter of the crater rims has caused soil erosion.</p> <p>Cattle entering the craters have created a myriad of trails which, in a number of places, have eroded into channels. Accelerated siltation of the lakes is likely to have occurred as a result of erosion caused by clearing and cattle grazing.</p> <p>There is a quarry adjacent to the southern crater which had a mining operation for the extraction of scoriaceous basaltic material.</p>	<p>Park soils and landforms are conserved and protected.</p>	<p>Develop and implement an erosion control program for the park.</p> <p>Stabilisation of eroded areas will be carried out as required.</p>
<p><b>Cultural heritage</b></p> <p>No cultural survey of the park has been undertaken and no cultural sites have been identified.</p> <p>Coastoun Lakes has significance to local Aboriginal people who have legends associated with the area.</p> <p>The park falls within an area subject to native title claim applications made by the Waiika Waiika and Waiika Waiika Jinda people.</p>	<p>Cultural sites are identified and protected in accordance with the wishes of the appropriate Aboriginal people.</p> <p>Aboriginal people with traditional links to the area are involved in park management.</p>	<p>Survey and map any cultural sites on the park.</p> <p>Laise with Aboriginal groups with links to the area regarding cultural site management.</p> <p>Aboriginal interest in the park will be identified, and those groups or individuals will be provided with the opportunity to participate in park management.</p>
<p><b>Recreation and tourism</b></p> <p>The park has no walking tracks or visitor facilities.</p> <p>Visitors do access the northern end of the park from the Isis Highway.</p> <p>Generally visitors park their cars approximately 500m from the boundary, at the outer base of the crater, and walk up a steep incline to the crater rim. There is no parking area and vehicle access from the highway is unsuitable in wet conditions.</p> <p>Although there is a gazetted road to the park boundary from the north, the track does not always follow the gazetted road alignment and visitors currently access the park through private property.</p> <p>There is access to the park from the south through private property, however visitors may find it difficult to locate the route and it is likely this access is only used by people with local knowledge.</p> <p>Presently no commercial tourist operators visit the park.</p> <p>The local authority and community are interested in promoting the park as a tourist destination.</p>	<p>Visitor park access is of a suitable standard.</p> <p>Visitors to the park have opportunities to experience the scenery of the surrounding countryside and the craters.</p> <p>Recreation has a minimal impact on the park's natural values.</p>	<p>The focus of recreation will occur on the northern crater.</p> <p>Visitor access to the park will be from the northern end and follow the current gazetted access. Laise with the local authority to provide safe vehicle access and carparking facilities adjacent to the northern end of the park.</p> <p>Develop a walking trail from the carpark to the northern crater rim along the gazetted road alignment. Investigate establishing a walking trail around the northern crater rim.</p> <p>No camping will be permitted on the park.</p> <p>Maintain access to the southern end of the park for management purposes only.</p>
<p><b>Education and interpretation</b></p> <p>Coastoun Lakes was identified as a site to visit in the QPWS publication 'Introducing Dry Rainforests'. There is currently no other QPWS visitor information available on the park. There are no interpretive facilities on the park.</p> <p>The park is of interest as a site for environmental education and is used by local schools.</p>	<p>Visitors are aware of and appreciate the park's biological, geological and cultural values, and the importance of protecting them.</p>	<p>Visitor interpretive needs will be considered by the development of a public contact plan. This plan will identify the major interpretive themes for the park, the manner of their presentation and infrastructure requirements.</p> <p>Laise with the local community, the local authority and relevant Aboriginal representatives over the public presentation of the park's values.</p>
<p><b>Plan implementation and monitoring</b></p> <p>The park is managed by a QPWS management unit in Maryborough that is responsible for managing protected areas in the shires of Taro, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Woocoo, Biggenden and Gayndah.</p>	<p>The management plan is an effective set of operational guidelines.</p>	<p>Ranger-in-Charge to submit a brief annual report on the success of the plan's implementation.</p> <p>Review the management plan within 10 years from approval according to s 125 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>.</p>
<p><b>References</b></p> <p>Geological Society of Australia 1974. <i>Preservation of areas of geological significance: Coastoun Lakes/Goyndah District, Southeast Queensland</i>. Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage 1995. <i>Introducing Dry Rainforests</i>.</p>		