

D'Aguilar National Park

South East Queensland Biogeographic Region

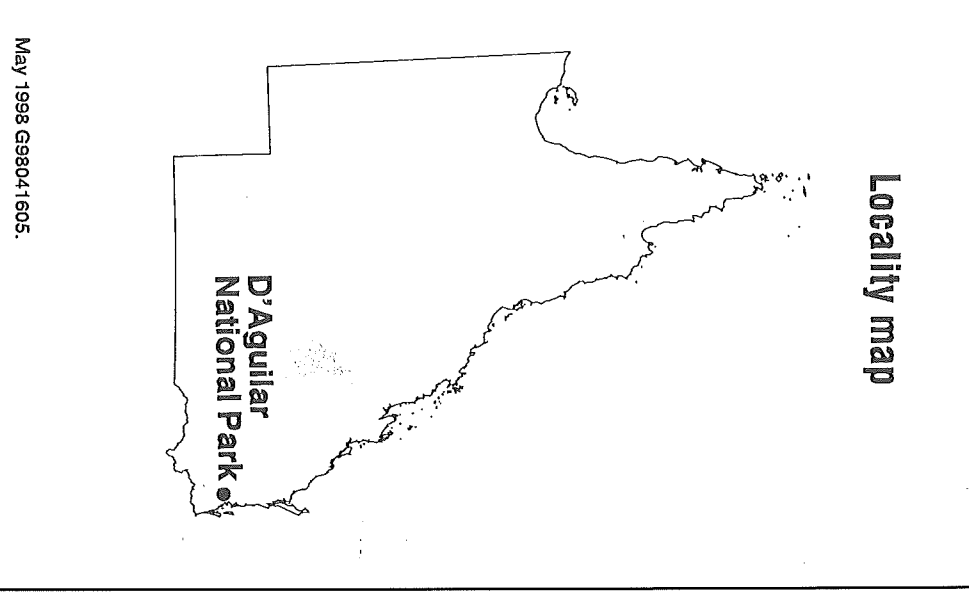


Management plan

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ISSN 1037-4698
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Locality map

1. Management directions and purposes

1.1 Management directions

D'Aguilar National Park is dedicated under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and must be managed under s17 of the Act to:

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

The national park lies within Brisbane Forest Park which is approximately 28 500ha of bushland along the Taylor and D'Aguilar Ranges north-west of Brisbane. Brisbane Forest Park includes land held by the Department of Environment (DoE), Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Brisbane City Council (BCC) and is managed under the *Brisbane Forest Park Act 1977*. D'Aguilar National Park is therefore managed co-operatively under both the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Brisbane Forest Park Act 1977*. The *Brisbane Forest Park Act 1977* establishes the Brisbane Forest Park Administration Authority (BFPAA) to plan, develop and manage nature-based recreational activities within Brisbane Forest Park whilst preserving the rights and responsibilities of the associated landholders to manage their lands for the purposes for which they were dedicated.

In 1994, six geographically separate areas within the Brisbane Forest Park were amalgamated to form D'Aguilar National Park. These areas were previously known separately as Maiala, Manorina, Boombana, and Jolly's Lookout National Parks and Cabbage Tree Range and Kipper Creek Conservation Parks. They are now sections within the D'Aguilar National Park with a total area of over 2000ha. DoE is responsible for overall management of each of these six sections of the park. However, the BFPAA has responsibility for day-to-day management at Manorina, Boombana and Jolly's Lookout. These responsibilities include maintenance of picnic area facilities, walking tracks, toilets, water systems, carparks, signs and camping facilities.

1.2 Purposes

The major purposes of management will be to ensure that:

- natural values of the park are managed so they are not degraded over time;
- natural plant and animal communities are protected;
- rare and threatened species are identified and conserved through specific management strategies;
- a fire management regime is established to ensure the protection and long-term viability of plant and animal communities;
- weed control strategies are developed and implemented;

- scientific research and educational opportunities are provided which seek to gain information on rare and threatened species and important ecological processes;
- nature-based recreational opportunities for a broad range of age groups are provided. These activities must be consistent with conservation objectives for the park;
- sites of cultural and historical significance are protected; and
- neighbours and community groups are involved in relevant park management issues.

2. Basis for management

2.1 Bioregional context

D'Aguilar Range was named in 1827 after Sir George D'Aguilar, a British Army officer. In 1930, the first national park in the Mount Glorious area was declared, incorporating the headwaters of Love Creek and Love Falls. These are now part of the Maiala section of the national park. At 1400ha, this is the largest section of the national park. D'Aguilar contains a significant proportion of the open and closed forest types in the rapidly developing south-east Queensland region.

This offers protection to a diverse range of plants and animals and protects some of the closest accessible rainforest to Brisbane. The Kipper Creek area supports dry rainforest with hoop pine, which is a vegetation type of regional conservation significance. A small extent of this forest type is present in both the Maiala and Cabbage Tree Range sections of the national park.

2.2 Values of D'Aguilar National Park

Geology and landform

Most of the D'Aguilar Range is composed of uplifted sedimentary and metamorphic rocks with minor occurrence of igneous rocks. Jolly's Lookout is an example where andesite lava reached the surface more than 200 million years ago, whereas below Mount Samson the magma cooled beneath the surface to form granite which has since been exposed by extensive erosion. The Mount Glorious area is composed of volcanic basalt lava which, 23 million years ago, flowed over the ancient uplifted sedimentary rocks. Fertile soils, derived from this basaltic rock, support the rainforests of Maiala.

Plants and animals

D'Aguilar National Park conserves the least disturbed and some of the most diverse examples of complex notophyll closed forest (subtropical rainforest) on the D'Aguilar Range. The forest found here shows significant variation in its species composition from rainforest found elsewhere in

This management plan was prepared by Department of Environment staff. Thanks are due to those groups and individuals who made submissions in response to the draft plan.

This plan was prepared in May 1998 and, in accordance with s125 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 Department of Environment's Southeastern Regional Centre in Brisbane on (07) 3224 5641 during business hours.

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

Summary

People primarily visit the park to relax and escape city pressures in a natural setting.

D'Aguilar National Park offers valuable, nature-based recreational opportunities, with up to 400 000 visitors enjoying the park each year. Boombana protects some of the closest protected and accessible rainforest to Brisbane. Maiala, Manorina, Boombana and Jolly's Lookout are all accessible from the city. A scenic drive passes through one hour's drive from the city. A scenic drive passes through open eucalypt forest and woodland to the Maiala rainforest. Recreation areas within these four park sections provide an opportunity to explore the forests and discover the wildlife. Walking tracks within the Maiala section lead through rainforest to Cypress Grove and Greene's Falls. The camping area on Manorina provides a convenient base for walking.

Recreation and tourism

Researchers including volunteers, special interest groups and students, use the Brisbane Forest Park to conduct ecology, zoology and botany studies. Opportunities to study significant plants and animals must be strictly controlled to prevent overuse.

Due to its wide range of natural vegetation and habitat types, the park and surrounding state forest provide an educational resource for a large number of students each year. The BFPAA conducts programs for school children and the broader community to participate in over 200 outdoor, nature-based recreational and interpretive activities. Both the national park and surrounding state forest are used for these activities.

Nineteen plant species that are rare, threatened or of biogeographic significance occur on the park. Examples of subtropical rainforest are found also at Boombana and Maiala. Kipper Creek Conservation Park contains a regional ecosystem defined as araucarian complex microphyll rainforest (dry rainforest with hoop pine). Little of this is represented in protected areas. It has been extensively cleared for agriculture and the remainder is under threat from weed invasion and fire damage.

The park contains several animal species of biogeographic significance including the Mount Glorious spiny crayfish, *Eurastacus setosus*, which is confined to high rainfall areas above 500m in altitude. The Mount Glorious torrent frog, *Taudactylus diurnis* is endangered and the spotted tailed quoll, *Dasyurus maculatus*, was last recorded in the Brisbane area in 1957. Both of these species have been recorded on D'Aguilar National Park. The park also protects a variety of other fauna which were once widespread.

Cultural heritage

The Garungar Aboriginal people were present on the D'Aguilar Range and the Toorbul group occupied the foothills closer to Brisbane. Several Aboriginal sites including canoe scar trees are present in the area.

A small section of Maiala has a history of European occupation. The present picnic area was originally cleared in 1918 for a small sawmill. Cabinet and hardwood logs were stacked at this site and the remains of an old boiler from this period are located at the entrance to the park. Mixed farming also occurred here.

Timber getting was also undertaken at Manorina and Boombana and there is evidence to suggest that gold mining was undertaken at and around Manorina earlier this century.

Scenic and aesthetic

D'Aguilar National Park and the adjoining state forest provide an impressive backdrop to the city of Brisbane. Jolly's Lookout was dedicated as national park in 1938 due to its panoramic views of the D'Aguilar Range, Moreton Bay and the Samford Valley. The Maiala section of the national park was dedicated in 1930 for its aesthetic qualities. Expanses of open forest stretching out over valleys and rugged peaks provide a unique natural setting close to a major city.

Scientific and educational

The park's long association with educational activities began in 1965 with the opening of the State's first self-guiding walking track. Interpretive signs are now located along the track in Maiala.

3 Management strategies

Current situation

Native plants

A vegetation survey of Brisbane Forest Park was undertaken in 1982. D'Aguliar National Park was surveyed in 1984. Baseline data for many vegetation types has been collected and changes to vegetation are being monitored by DoE staff. This research is ongoing. A herbarium for the national park is being prepared.

Native animals

Several fauna surveys have been conducted in the national park and surrounding forest area. Over 250 species of birds have been recorded in the Brisbane Forest Park area including red goshawk *Erythrotriorchis radiatus*, grey goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae* and the glossy black cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*. Other species recorded on the park include the common death adder and Stephen's banded snake.

Introduced plants and animals

Lantana is the most serious weed affecting the national park. Other problem weeds include prickly pear, groundsel, crofton weed, slash pine and balloon cotton bush. Madeira vine has also been located on the D'Aguliar Range and is recognised as a threat to rainforest communities. Feral pigs present a management problem. Cane toads are present throughout the area.

Fire management

A long-term fire monitoring project aims to assess the response of various vegetation types to fire. Sample sites have been established in most vegetation types on the national park. The data is used to evaluate regeneration patterns after fire and the change in fuel loads over time.

Fire mapping has been completed for D'Aguliar National Park.

Landscape, soil and catchment protection

D'Aguliar National Park provides catchment protection for tributaries of the Brisbane, North Pine and South Pine Rivers. The D'Aguliar Range is the watershed between coastal plains north of the Brisbane and the upper Brisbane Valleys.

Cultural heritage

The area was originally inhabited by the Garumgar people. There are no recorded Aboriginal cultural sites on the national park. Between the 1860s and 1950s gold mining was conducted at various sites.

Timber getters cut out much of the hoop pine and cedar in the late 1800s. Prior to the 1930s, hardwood and cabinet tree species were stacked and milled at the site of the present Maiala picnic ground. Extensive logging of hardwoods on the D'Aguliar Range did not take place until immediately after World War II.

Recreation and tourism

D'Aguliar National Park provides recreational opportunities including camping at Manarina, day use facilities at Jolly's Lookout, Boombana and southern Maiala and self-reliant day use elsewhere.

Approved commercial activities are conducted on the park.

Education and interpretation

The BFPAA conducts an extensive interpretation program.

Plan implementation and monitoring

The management plan will be implemented by park staff with support from District staff and the Conservation Resource Unit at Moggill. BFPAA will retain responsibility for the management of recreation and public contact programs and may provide support for natural resource management. Local community groups will also be encouraged to participate in the implementation of the management plan.

Proposed policies, guidelines and actions

Collate existing natural resource data. Continue studies of the plant communities and monitor change. This information will be used to assist park management decisions. Encourage research by postgraduate students and local environmental groups. Information gained should be made available to assist park management.

Encourage local community groups and tertiary students to gather information on fauna to assist park management. Record incidental fauna sightings. Undertake studies on macropods on the park. Investigate the decline of frog species from the area. Monitor and assess the impacts of feral animals on native wildlife.

Weed management will concentrate on prioritising weed problems with focus on highly invasive and destructive plants. Develop weed control strategies for D'Aguliar National Park. This will be based on the weeds' biology and the most effective and efficient means of control. Weed eradication will be undertaken in manageable areas and will involve volunteers and community groups. Public awareness of environmental weeds will be increased. The effect of fire will be further assessed. Prescribed burning will be used where appropriate for weed control. Stock-proof boundary fencing will be installed in conjunction with park neighbours and BFPAA. Pigs should be actively controlled and monitored.

Develop a fire management plan for D'Aguliar National Park. This will involve the continuation of the long-term fire monitoring project and include:

- Collating all fire history information.
- Developing a program which focuses on establishing a mosaic burning pattern. Sites will be assessed on an individual basis according to topography and the needs of the natural species.
- Using prescribed burning where appropriate for weed control.
- Maintaining the neighbour register so that these people can be contacted in emergency situations or in order to plan co-operative prescribed burns.
- Involving park neighbours, BFPAA and the local fire brigade in fire management.

Runoff and possible erosion problems are considered before any construction is undertaken.

Prescribed burning aims to maintain vegetative cover on very steep, erosion prone slopes.

Information is provided to neighbours on the importance of protecting the catchment and underground water table.

Communities and individuals with an interest in the cultural heritage of the park will be encouraged to participate in its management.

Sites of cultural significance will be protected.

Liaison with BFPAA on cultural heritage issues will continue.

Increase the role of BFPAA in recreational management.

Encourage BFPAA to promote recreation facilities and opportunities outside the national park.

Provide training for management staff, volunteers and commercial operators involved in group activities to ensure that information given to visitors is accurate.

Develop a visitor information sheet for the national park.

Upgrade and increase existing interpretive signs, including the self-guiding trail at Maiala and the boardwalk at Boombana.

DoE staff will liaise with BFPAA, local governments, neighbours and community groups regarding the implementation of the management plan.

Staff will work with BFPAA to achieve joint management objectives. This will involve managing the national park as areas of conservation significance within the continuous landscape of Brisbane Forest Park.

Natural plant and animal communities are protected.

Native fauna, including rare and threatened species are protected.

The adverse effects of weeds, feral and domestic animals on the park are minimised.

Fire management protects the natural biodiversity of the national park.

Water quality within the park is maintained. Erosion on the park is minimised.

The cultural heritage of the park is protected.

Visitors are provided with the opportunity to participate in nature-based recreation without compromising the conservation values of the national park.

Visitors increase their understanding and appreciation of the natural values and management of the park.

The draft management plan is effectively implemented.