

Mount Bauple National Park (Scientific)

Management Plan

2011

South East Queensland Bioregion

Prepared by:

Planning Services Unit

Department of Environment and Resource Management

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Front cover photograph: Scenic view of Mount Bauple National Park (Scientific). Photo: DERM.

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Vision statement

Mount Bauple National Park (Scientific) will be valued for its exceptional scientific and cultural heritage values. The park will remain unaffected by built environment and recreational or commercial activities so that natural processes can continue unaltered by inappropriate human intervention. Habitat will suffer minimal damage from pest plants and animals or unsuitable fire regimes.

Researchers will continue to use the park for scientific purposes. It will remain a valuable resource for this function because plant and animal diversity and behaviour will exist in a natural and largely untouched state.

Traditional Owners will be able to celebrate their cultural heritage on the park and educate succeeding generations about their values.

Neighbours and community stakeholders will know and understand the natural values of the park, and will work cooperatively with park managers to conserve them.

Contents

1. Management intent	1
2. Basis for management	1
3. Location and regional context	1
4. Protecting and presenting the park's values	2
4.1 Landscape	2
4.2 Native plants and animals	2
4.3 Indigenous culture	3
4.4 Shared-history culture	4
4.5 Education and science	4
4.6 Partnerships	5
5. Other key issues and responses	5
5.1 Climate change	5
5.2 Fire management	5
5.3 Pest management	6
6. References	7
7. Hyperlinks	7
8. Appendixes	8
Appendix A – Maps	9
Appendix B – Definitions	10
Appendix C – Animals and plants of conservation significance	11
Appendix D – Regional ecosystems	11

1. Management intent

The primary purposes of management for Mount Bauple National Park (Scientific) will be to:

- protect the exceptional scientific values of the park, and facilitate its use for research, surveys and monitoring
- protect and sensitively manage cultural heritage values in partnership with Traditional Owners
- achieve minimal disturbance to natural processes from pests, fire and management activities
- maintain the natural processes and biodiversity of the plant and animal communities on the park
- engage and inform neighbours, local community members and other stakeholders in park usage and the protection of its high conservation values.

2. Basis for management

The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) is responsible for the management of Mount Bauple National Park (Scientific) in accordance with the management principles for national parks (scientific) specified in section 16 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

The provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth) and regulations apply to the national park (scientific).

Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems are described under DERM biodiversity status. Endangered, vulnerable and near threatened species are listed under the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006. DERM has a responsibility under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* to control declared pest plants and animals in protected areas.

Working in partnership with Traditional Owners is an important component of park management. This plan is not intended to erode or extinguish any Native Title rights. Cultural heritage places in the park are legislatively managed under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

The park's main purpose is to protect the area's exceptional scientific values. Mount Bauple shares its name with the bauple or bopple nut, the local name for the nut from the commercial Queensland nut tree *Macadamia integrifolia*. While this plant is cultivated extensively in Queensland and overseas, its natural distribution is extremely limited, and its status in the wild is listed as vulnerable. The commercial value of the species adds considerably to the importance of protecting the wild population.

3. Location and regional context

Mount Bauple National Park (Scientific) is located 35 km south of Maryborough in Queensland and covers 547 ha (Appendix A, Map 1). Situated in the South East Queensland bioregion, it is surrounded by farming lots, and there are several state forests within a 10 km radius. These include the Gundiah State Forest, Tiaro State Forest, Bauple State Forest and the Glenbar and St. Mary groups of state forests. Glenbar National Park is the closest national park and is located 16 km to the south-west.

Public access is by permit only and generally for scientific or cultural purposes. Researchers issued permits to enter the park have included representatives of conservation groups, commonwealth and state government scientific bodies, museums and universities.

4. Protecting and presenting the park's values

4.1 Landscape

The soils and geology of the park have a basic underlying value as they determine the type and distribution of plant and animal communities across the park. Mount Bauple National Park (Scientific) is situated on a ridge line which includes Mount Bauple (496 m), and contains part of the Tiaro coal measures, which are intruded by hornblende andesite rock dating back to the Jurassic Age (135–195 million years ago).

Mount Bauple National Park (Scientific) provides a protective habitat for plant species of conservation significance found in the microphyll and notophyll vine forest.

Surrounded by farming land, the park also provides critical habitat for birds and some connectivity with nearby conserved areas. Mount Bauple National Park (Scientific) has aesthetic value to passers-by on the nearby Bruce Highway due to the contrast between the thick vegetation on the park and the extensive clearing on adjacent land.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
Natural processes are maintained with minimal interference from human activity.	A1. Apply access restrictions under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> uniformly and diligently.

4.2 Native plants and animals

4.2.1 Native plants

The park protects two regional ecosystems of conservation significance (Table 3). Open forest containing remnant hoop pine *Araucaria cunninghamii* is listed as of concern under the, as is the Araucarian microphyll to notophyll vine forest understorey, which additionally has a DERM biodiversity status of endangered.

Plant species lists confirm the presence of five plant species of conservation significance (Table 1), including the vulnerable plant *Macadamia integrifolia*, which occurs in the microphyll and notophyll vine forest on the park. *M. integrifolia* is one of nine macadamia species, seven of which are found in Australia (Johnson and Briggs 1975), and is of particular interest because it is grown commercially. Its population in Mount Bauple is very important to the physical and genetic survival of the species because it has a limited distribution in the wild and its survival is under threat due to habitat loss.

The endangered *Cossinia australiana* has been identified in a vegetation plot on the park, but its distribution is unclear at present.

Protecting the microphyll and notophyll vine forests on the park is essential, due to the role they play in providing habitat for animals and other plants. More than 240 plant species have been recorded growing in the park, although a new plant survey is needed to obtain an accurate and current assessment of abundance and distribution.

Illegal removal of plants has been an issue in the past and, while the situation has improved, it remains a problem. Fire and pest damage are ongoing threats to the natural integrity of the park.

Several organisations have conducted research on the park, including the Queensland Herbarium and DERM. In recent years the surveys have been species-specific and records of the full range of plants present on the park are not current.

Stakeholders, including those responsible for park management, have expressed a need for data from research conducted on the park to be more accessible.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
Maintain the native vegetation community species profile and abundance.	<p>A2. Continue to monitor unauthorised visits and prosecute those illegally removing native plants.</p> <p>A3. Develop an arrangement with neighbours where they will promptly report sightings of unauthorised visitors.</p>
Records of plant species will be comprehensive, current and readily accessible to stakeholders.	<p>A4. Undertake a full plant survey of the park and consolidate results from previous scientific research projects.</p> <p>A5. Establish a transparent process for the notification of the results of surveys and research on the park and make relevant information available to park management staff and other stakeholders.</p>

4.2.2 Native animals

Records of animal species present are somewhat fragmented due to the number of different organisations conducting scientific research on the park. Results from previous animal surveys, and research projects conducted on the park, require updating and consolidation. The effectiveness of park management is influenced by uncertainty about the accuracy and currency of the park's animal species records.

The vulnerable black-breasted button-quail *Turnix melanogaster* has been sighted, and the microphyll and araucarian notophyll vine forest on the park is a suitable habitat for this species. A large sub-population occurs in the Great Sandy National Park, approximately 45 km to the east. The near-threatened golden-tipped bat *Kerivoula papuensis* has also been sighted and the park may provide suitable habitat for this species as it is believed to inhabit a variety of rainforest types (Table 2, Appendix C).

The park is an important habitat for birds due to the extensive clearing in the surrounding area for agriculture and grazing. Clearing of drier rainforest types and lowland rainforest areas for agriculture and pasture is likely to have caused the decline of many species that inhabited the area in the past. Fragmentation from continued clearing for forestry or agriculture, inappropriate fire regimes, and predation by domestic and feral cats are the major threats for native species that live in this lowland rainforest habitat.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
Knowledge of the species present in the park is current, accurate and comprehensive and used to guide park management.	A6. Undertake a full animal survey on the park and consolidate results of previous scientific research projects.

4.3 Indigenous culture

Mount Bauple has special significance to the Butchulla and Kabi Kabi people. Traditional Owners have a keen interest in the management of the park and have a desire to participate in practical ways.

In the past, the mountain was a source of materials for making implements and people lived on the slopes in winter. There are many story strings, song lines and dreaming paths connected to the mountain, but it is unclear if any physical evidence of this cultural heritage remains on the park. Mount Bauple and its surrounds were the site of timber-getting and graphite mining before 1935 and these activities may have led to the destruction, depletion or removal of Indigenous cultural heritage artefacts. Traditional Owners have indicated their desire to locate and protect any physical evidence that might remain.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
Physical evidence of Indigenous culture is located, identified, recorded and protected, in consultation with Traditional Owners.	<p>A7. Facilitate Indigenous cultural heritage surveys in partnership with Traditional Owners.</p> <p>A8. Manage cultural heritage values sensitively and in consultation with Traditional Owners.</p> <p>A9. Consult with Indigenous community representatives when developing strategies for the management of the park.</p>
The park provides opportunities for small-scale cultural heritage education of Indigenous youth.	A10. Support Traditional Owners in the use of the park for cultural heritage activities. This will include the education of Indigenous youth and the conduct of traditional cultural and ceremonial activities in keeping with the protection of the parks scientific values.

4.4 Shared-history culture

Before gazettal, the park was a timber reserve and was selectively logged, mainly for kauri and hoop pines. In 1935 it was gazetted to protect its scenic value. The area around Mount Bauple has considerable local historical significance. Non-Indigenous influence dates back to the 19th century when there were several graphite mines in the area. The nearby township of Bauple takes its name from 'bopple', the locally derived word for the nut of the tree *Macadamia Integrifolia*, which was harvested as a healing plant and food source by Indigenous inhabitants. This tree was exported to Hawaii in the early 1900s to be grown as a commercial crop.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
Shared history cultural values will be identified and sensitively managed.	A11. Engage local community historical groups to identify the shared history cultural values and implement protection strategies in keeping with the management principles of the park, where appropriate.

4.5 Education and science

4.5.1 Education

A lack of basic visitor infrastructure, such as suitable road access, reduces the usefulness of the park as an outdoor classroom for large groups. The need to minimise disturbance and damage to native plants and animals is also inconsistent with any medium to large-scale educational visitation program.

4.5.2 Science

Mount Bauple National Park (Scientific) has exceptional scientific values. Research organisations (CSIRO, Queensland Herbarium), educators (universities and colleges), conservation groups, industry groups and museums have carried out ecological and taxonomic research on the park. The vulnerable plant *Macadamia integrifolia* is the subject of extensive research to prevent its further decline and to protect its genetic integrity. Species of amphibian, reptile, insect, native plants and weeds have been studied in the park.

Information about the nature of scientific research on the park is not readily available to the public, leading to a perceived lack of transparency about its use and diminished appreciation of its importance.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
The scientific values of the park are preserved and published research is made more readily available to park management staff and the public.	A12. Continue to support scientific research, and establish a process for making published research more readily accessible to park managers and the public.

4.6 Partnerships

Many individuals and organisations have a strong interest in maintaining the values of the park. Mount Bauple National Park (Scientific) is a very significant part of the Indigenous cultural heritage of the region. The Traditional Owners have signalled their intention to seek a more active role in supporting DERM in park management.

Due to the isolation of the park, owners of neighbouring properties play a significant role in its continued protection.

Fire incursion poses a significant threat to the park's fire-sensitive plant species. Macadamia trees in particular may not tolerate intense or too-frequent burning. Such burning on adjacent land may also exacerbate edge effects, which in turn degrade habitats. Weeds and pest animals threaten the natural integrity of the park and managing these threats is significantly enhanced with the cooperative involvement of park neighbours, local government and other government agencies.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
The national park is respected as an important part of the history and cultural heritage of the local area, and is recognised as playing a vital role in improving environmental management on a broad scale due to its scientific values.	<p>A13. Consult and exchange information with other local, state and commonwealth government bodies as well as relevant conservation, research and community organisations about the use of the park and ecological issues pertaining to preserving its values.</p> <p>A14. Consult with Traditional Owners in developing management strategies.</p>

5. Other key issues and responses

5.1 Climate change

Climate change presents the threats of increasing temperatures and reduced rainfall that will harm the type of rainforest system present on the park, and may also affect flowering and fruiting patterns. Less moisture will increase threats from fire and weeds.

Climate change is expected to favour invasive plants over native vegetation. Pest plant species currently restricted to lowlands can also be expected to move into higher altitude areas (McFadyen 2007). The condition of the vegetation and habitat within and between reserves is an important factor in resilience to climate change (Mansergh and Cheal, 2007).

Reducing stresses on the park's natural systems will make them more resistant to climate change. Climate refugia allow species to persist in the face of climatic stress. Additional protection should be given to these areas where possible (Dunlop and Brown 2008).

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
The impacts of threatening processes, such as invasive species, will be managed to maintain or restore habitat condition and increase resilience to climate change.	A15. Monitor and manage invasive species, especially invasions associated with climate change.
Suitable habitats are linked to help native species move through the landscape and adapt to climate change impacts.	A16. Seek opportunities to establish additional nature refuges either contiguous with the park or which offer connectivity with the park.

5.2 Fire management

The Level Two Fire Strategy for the park contains measures to protect fire-sensitive communities and involves cooperative efforts with park neighbours and other land management agencies. Protecting the scientific values of the park from wildfire or inappropriate fire regimes is a high priority.

Knowledge of the fire ecology of the vegetation communities is sufficient for management purposes. The rainforest vegetation does not support combustion and planned burning is not recommended or generally possible.

Wildfire or fire incursions from neighbouring land are the major threats to park values.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
Biological diversity and neighbouring properties are protected from the impacts of fire.	<p>A17. Manage fire impacts according to the principles and guidelines of the Level Two Fire Strategy. This will involve managing fire in keeping with the ecology of threatened and near threatened plant communities and other fire-sensitive species.</p> <p>A18. Engage neighbours and other land and fire management agents in developing effective fire response strategies.</p>

5.3 Pest management

Groundsel, coral berry, asparagus fern and lantana are present on the park. Efforts to eradicate weeds have been limited by the need to minimise impacts on sensitive vegetation communities. Lantana is growing actively on the park and, if not controlled, has the potential to raise fuel loads. This would increase fire intensity and frequency, as well as diminishing the growth of native plants through smothering and toxicity. Efforts to source a safe, effective biological control agent continue. Groundsel bush rust is helping control that noxious weed.

Grazing on the park by cattle from neighbouring properties has been markedly reduced by fencing most sides except the top end, which remains a management issue. Dogs enter the park, but impacts on wildlife have not been accurately determined, and damage is believed to be minor. Baiting is used as required.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
Effective control of all plant and animal pest species on the park.	<p>A19. Develop a Level Two Pest Management Strategy for all pest species. This will include using safe and effective methods of weed control so that sensitive plant communities are not unnecessarily damaged.</p> <p>A20. Implement effective strategies to exclude cattle from the park. This will include completing perimeter fencing where the terrain allows and consulting park neighbours regarding alternative strategies for those sections of the boundary where fencing is not feasible.</p>

6. References

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- Neal, J.M. 2007. The impact of habitat fragmentation on wild *Macadamia integrifolia* Maiden and Betche (Proteaceae) population viability [dissertation]. University of New England, Armidale (in report).
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- State of Queensland. 1992, *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel, Brisbane.
- Statement of Significance – June 2008 (updated August 2008) compiled by Jacqueline Mercy Woodward, Colleen Wall and Lynette Johannessen. Approved by Grandma Alfa Geiszler (Kabi Elder) on 27 April 2008.

7. Hyperlinks

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* <www.legislation.qld.gov.au>
- Burra Charter <www.derm.qld.gov.au>
- Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage <www.environment.gov.au>
- DERM website <www.derm.qld.gov.au>
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and Regulations 2000 <www.environment.gov.au>
- Environmental Protection Act 1994* <www.legislation.qld.gov.au>
- Key threatening process <www.environment.gov.au>
- Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* <www.legislation.qld.gov.au>
- Landscape Classification System for Visitor Management <www.derm.qld.gov.au>
- Nature Conservation Act 1992* <www.legislation.qld.gov.au>
- Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Regulation 1994 <www.legislation.qld.gov.au>
- Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006 <www.legislation.qld.gov.au>
- Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006 <www.legislation.qld.gov.au>
- QPWS Pest Management Plan: Areas managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service 2003–2008 <www.derm.qld.gov.au>
- Queensland Heritage Act 1992* <www.legislation.qld.gov.au>
- Regional ecosystems <www.derm.qld.gov.au>
- Vegetation Management Act 1999* <www.legislation.qld.gov.au>

8. Appendixes

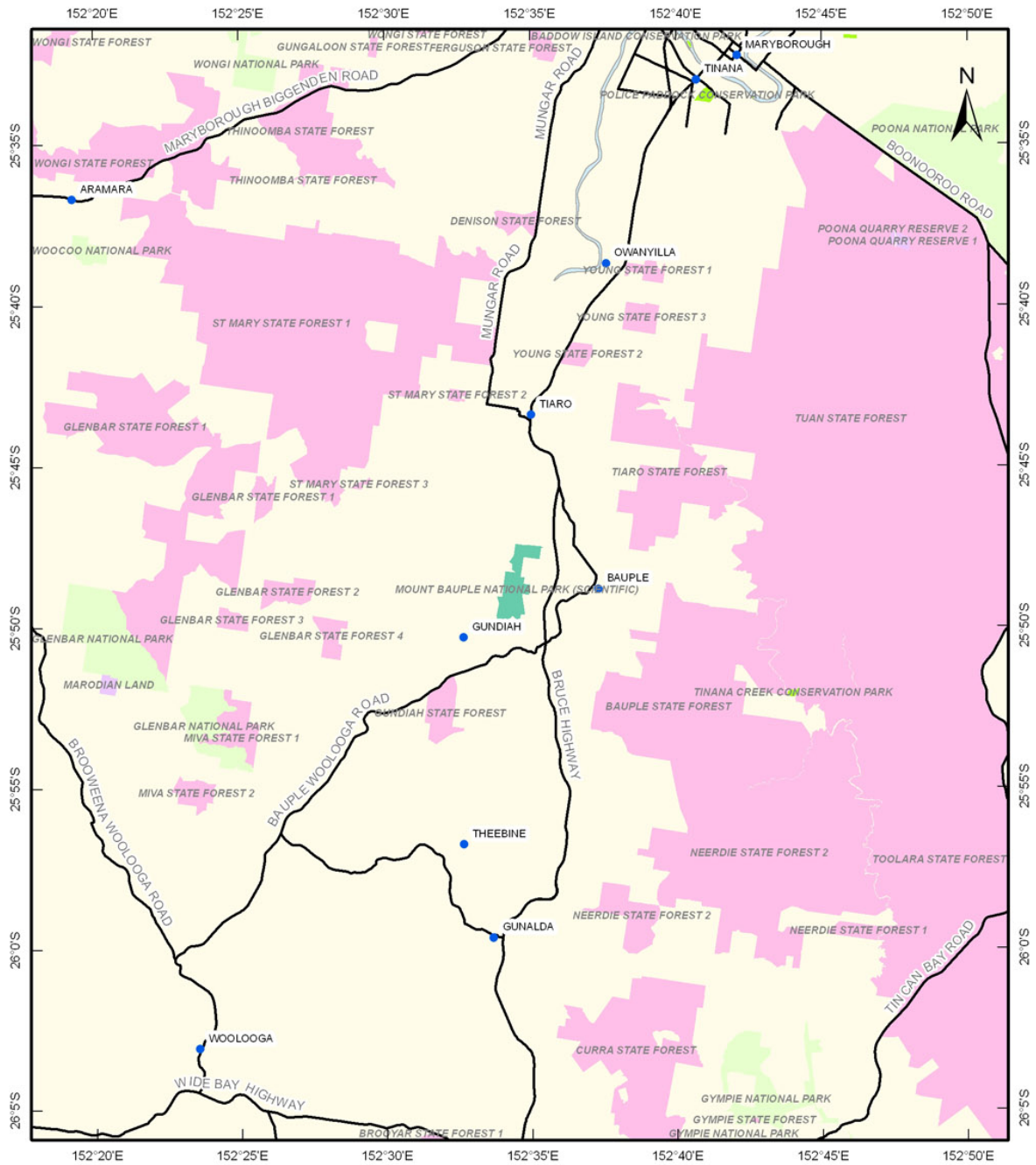
Appendix A – Maps

Appendix B – Definitions

Appendix C – Tables

Appendix A – Maps

Map 1 Location with tenures



Map Projection:
Universal Transverse Mercator (MGA) zone <5x>
Horizontal Datum:
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94)

Map Production:
Spatial Services,
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service,
Department of Environment and Resource Management,
26th November 2010

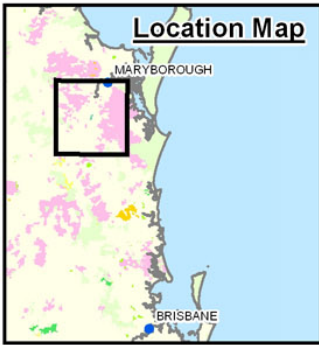
Disclaimer:
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Accuracy statement:
Due to varying source, accuracy or currency of data layers used in this map, the spatial locations of features may not coincide when overlaid.

Legend

- Towns (gazetteer)
- Major Roads
- National Park (scientific)
- National Park
- Conservation Park
- State Forest
- Other Lands

Source Material:
Towns - DERM, November 2008
SDRN Roads - Pitney Bowes MapInfo, September 2010
Protected Areas of Queensland - DERM, 30th June 2010
Coastal Features of Queensland - DERM, Date Unknown



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Appendix B – Definitions

Back on Track

The Back on Track framework prioritises Queensland native species of flora and fauna to guide conservation, management and recovery, focusing on high and critical priority species for future investment.

Biodiversity status (regional ecosystems)

The biodiversity status is based on an assessment of the condition of remnant vegetation in addition to the pre-clearing and remnant extent of a regional ecosystem. The current biodiversity status of regional ecosystems is given on the Regional Ecosystem Description Database on DERM's website along with information on the criteria used to assess each status.

Cultural heritage significance

Cultural heritage significance is defined by the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* as the values that people place on the landscape and their experience of it. It includes their knowledge and traditions, stories, songs, dances and relationships as well as places, structure and objects.

Indigenous cultural heritage

Aboriginal cultural heritage is defined by the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*. Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage is defined by the *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003*.

QPWS Fire Management System

The QPWS Fire Management System (Edition 3) is the standard fire management system adopted by QPWS that provides processes, guidelines and templates to facilitate the planning and implementation of fire management on QPWS managed areas in a professional, accountable, coordinated and ecologically sound manner.

QPWS Pest Management System

The QPWS Pest Management System has been adopted as the QPWS statewide standard. The system is a collection of two types of documents allowing QPWS to meet legislative obligations and achieve conservation outcomes:

- Planning documents to facilitate pest management planning.
- Operational documents to guide on-ground pest management.

Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance refers to those species that are threatened (that is, endangered, vulnerable or near threatened species), and may also refer to other species that are subject to threats at a regional or local level including Back on Track priority.

Appendix C – Animals and plants of conservation significance

Table 1: Vulnerable, endangered or near threatened native plants for Mount Bauple National Park (Scientific).

Scientific name	Common name	Status under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	Status under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	DERM Back on Track species prioritisation framework rank
<i>Choricarpia subargentea</i>	giant ironwood	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Rhodamnia pauciovulata</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Macadamia integrifolia</i>	macadamia nut	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
<i>Cossinia australiana</i>	-	Endangered	Endangered	Medium
<i>Samadera bidwillii</i>	-	Vulnerable	Listed as vulnerable under superseded name <i>quassia bidwillii</i>	-

Table 2: Vulnerable, endangered or near threatened native animals for Mount Bauple National Park (Scientific).

Scientific name	Common name	Status under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	Status under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	DERM Back on Track species prioritisation framework rank
<i>Kerivoula papuensis</i>	golden-tipped bat	Near threatened	-	Medium
<i>Turnix melanogaster</i>	black-breasted button quail	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical

Appendix D – Regional ecosystems

Table 1: Of concern or endangered regional ecosystem for Mount Bauple National Park (Scientific).

Regional ecosystem number	Regional ecosystem name	DERM biodiversity status
12.9–10.16	Araucarian microphyll to notophyll vine forest on sedimentary rocks.	Endangered
12.3.11	Open-forest to woodland of <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> , <i>E. siderophloia</i> , <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> with vine forest understorey. Occurs on sub-coastal Quaternary alluvial plains.	Of concern
12.12.12	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> , <i>E. crebra</i> (sometimes <i>E. siderophloia</i>) open-forest to woodland. Occurs on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks, especially granite lowlands and basins.	Of concern
12.12.3	Open-forest complex in which spotted gum is a relatively common species. Occurs on Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks.	Of concern

