

Erringibba National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	877ha
Bioregion:	Brigalow Belt South
QPWS region:	South West
Local government estate/area:	Western Downs Regional Council
State electorate:	Warrego



Brigalow scaly-foot *Paradelma orientalis*. Photo: NPRSR.

Vision

Erringibba National Park will be managed to conserve the quality and integrity of the park's natural values, including the brigalow *Acacia harpophylla* and belah *Casuarina cristata* communities associated with Yapunyah *Eucalyptus thozetiana*, that have been largely cleared in the region for agriculture and grazing.

The national park will continue to be managed for low impact nature-based recreation at a sustainable level, relative to the small size of the park.

Conservation purpose

Erringibba National Park was gazetted in 1999 to protect the integrity of the two endangered ecosystems found on the park and to conserve examples of the plant communities and associated wildlife found in the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion.

Legislative framework

✓	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>
✓	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>

Plans and agreements

✓	Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
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Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 fire management strategy
✓	Level 2 pest management strategy

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Erringibba National Park, five kilometres (km) east of Glenmorgan in the Western Downs area of southern Queensland, conserves 877 hectare (ha) of open-forest dominated by brigalow and or belah species typical of the Western Downs.

The park is situated in the Condamine-Culgoa catchment and the relief is essentially flat. Soils are predominantly heavy cracking or self-mulching clays that yield very little water run-off, unless rainfall is heavy. The park is heavily vegetated with mature brigalow communities and provides a refuge for local wildlife. Most of the adjoining landscape has been cleared for agriculture.

Regional ecosystems

There are two regional ecosystems found on Erringibba National Park, both of which are endangered (Table 1).

These are *Acacia harpophylla* and/or *Casuarina cristata* shrubby open forest on Cainozoic clay plains (11.4.3) and open forest to woodland of *Eucalyptus populnea* with *Acacia harpophylla* and/or *Casuarina cristata* on Cainozoic clay plains (11.4.7).

Both of these regional ecosystems have been extensively cleared for agriculture and are poorly represented in the reserve system. Brigalow and belah are regarded as fire sensitive species, as are some softwood species found in these systems, therefore appropriate fire management will play a key role in the conservation of these ecosystems.

Native plants and animals

A survey of the native animals on the park was carried out in November/December 2001 and was the first comprehensive survey undertaken for the area. In total there have been 15 species of amphibians, 99 species of birds, 25 mammals and 47 reptiles recorded.

The park protects several species of conservation significance, including: grey snake *Hemiaspis damelii*, Dunmall's snake *Furina dunmalli*, brigalow scaly-foot *Paradelma orientalis*, rough collared frog *Cyclorana verrucosa*, golden tailed gecko *Strophurus taenicauda*, common death adder *Acanthopis antarcticus*, little pied bat *Chalinolobus picatus* and black-chinned honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis* (Table 2). Two species listed in international agreements are known from the park (Table 3).

Aboriginal culture

The national park's natural landscapes have broad cultural significance for Traditional Owner groups who have lived in the area for many thousands of years. There is an application for native title (QC08/10) over an area that includes the national park by the Mandandanji people. There are no places on the park, known to NPRSR, that have specific Aboriginal heritage value.

Shared-history culture

Erringibba National Park has no known sites of non-Aboriginal heritage value.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

Erringibba National Park provides for passive nature-based day use recreational activities with minimal facilities. Due to its small size, remote location and limited access, the park is well suited to self-sufficient visitors who wish to experience a fairly remote park environment.

Education and science

The park is a valuable scientific reference area and provides opportunities for scientific research into remnant vegetation and associated fauna.

Partnerships

A co-operative working relationship with neighbours will be maintained to control fire, pest animals and other management issues of joint concern.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Pest plant programs target tree pear *Opuntia* spp., which is of primary concern in the park. Other pest plants include Harrisia cactus *Harrisia* sp. and saffron thistle *Carthamus lanatus*, both of which are controlled by hand spraying with herbicide.

Pigs *Sus scrofa* and dogs *Canis lupus familiaris* are the main pest animals occurring in the area and are intensively baited and trapped by park rangers and neighbours. Foxes *Vulpes vulpes*, rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* and cats *Felis catus* also occur in the park.

Pest management for the park is guided by a Level 2 pest management strategy.

Fire management

Brigalow and belah are fire sensitive species. Brigalow is soft-seeded, so germination is not promoted by fire. High intensity fires will cause damage to the overstorey. Intense fires can also damage some softwood species such as wilga *Geijera parviflora*. A boundary access track is slashed from time to time which acts as a fire management line.

Fire management for the park is guided by a Level 2 fire management strategy.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Tourism and visitor opportunities</p> <p>Low impact nature-based recreational opportunities are provided to visitors.</p>	<p>A1. Monitor day use to identify management required for potential impacts on the park's natural environment and to ensure opportunities are provided.</p>
<p>Pest management</p> <p>Pest control programs contain and reduce impacts on native plants and animals to manageable levels.</p>	<p>A2. Continue to review and implement the pest management strategy for the management area in cooperation with adjoining landholders and other interested parties.</p>
<p>Fire management</p> <p>Fire is managed to protect life, property and commercial assets and to protect the natural and biodiversity values of the management area.</p>	<p>A3. Continue to review and implement the fire management strategy for the management area with a particular focus on excluding fire from the park to conserve the fire sensitive communities.</p>

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
11.4.3	<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> and/or <i>Casuarina cristata</i> shrubby open forest on Cainozoic clay plains	Endangered
11.4.7	Open forest to woodland of <i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> with <i>Acacia harpophylla</i> and/or <i>Casuarina cristata</i> on Cainozoic clay plains	Endangered

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 status	Back on Track status
Animals				
<i>Acanthopis antarcticus</i>	common death adder	Near threatened	-	Medium
<i>Chalinolobus picatus</i>	little pied bat	Near threatened	-	Medium
<i>Cyclorana verrucosa</i>	rough collared frog	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Furina dunmalli</i>	Dunmall's snake	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
<i>Hemiaspis damelii</i>	grey snake	Endangered	-	Medium
<i>Melithreptus gularis</i>	black-chinned honeyeater	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Paradelma orientalis</i>	brigalow scaly-foot	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
<i>Strophurus taenicauda</i>	golden tailed gecko	Near threatened	-	Medium

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	Bonn	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	cicadabird	-	-	✓	-
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater	-	-	✓	-

JAMBA: Japan—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

CAMBA: China—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea—Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

BONN: Bonn Convention