

Mount Chinghee National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	1,260ha
Bioregion:	South Eastern Queensland
QPWS region:	South East
Local government estate/area:	Scenic Rim Regional
State electorate:	Beaudesert

Legislative framework

✓	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>
✓	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Natural Conservation Act 1992</i>
✓	<i>Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990</i>

Plans and agreements

✓	Bonn Convention
✓	Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 Fire Management Strategy
✓	Level 2 Pest Management Strategy

Vision

Mount Chinghee National Park is considered of state significance as a natural corridor providing core habitat for priority taxa in an area that has been largely cleared of natural vegetation for primary production. The park will be managed to conserve its high biodiversity values including threatened regional ecosystems and plants and animals and provides a scenic location for low impact outdoor recreation and will be maintained in its natural state.

Conservation purpose

An area on Mount Chinghee was originally gazetted as Telemon Environment Park (146.6ha) in 1979. This area was incorporated into a larger area (1,260ha) and gazetted as Mount Chinghee National Park in 1994 to conserve the remnant rainforest and habitat for plants and animals on the mountain. The national park was included in the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area in 1994. The park conserves habitat for priority taxa, including the endangered eastern bristlebird *Dasyornis brachypterus* and the vulnerable black-breasted button-quail *Turnix melanogaster* which currently has a Back on Track status of critical.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Mount Chinghee National Park is located on the New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland (QLD) border, approximately 13km south-east of the small township of Rathdowney. The park consists of three sections.

The park has an elevation of 779m and is part of the Scenic Rim region and also part of the Shield Volcano Group, which extends from Mount Warning in NSW and is linked to and complements the national parks and conservation areas in South East Queensland and northern NSW. Mount Chinghee has an underlying geology of Cainozoic igneous rocks especially basalt and laterised basalt.

The southern section's boundary is part of the QLD and NSW border and is adjacent to the border fences constructed and jointly managed by the Darling Downs/Moreton Rabbit Board (QLD) and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (NSW) to control the spread of rabbits and cattle ticks. The fence is 555km long and stretches from Lamington National Park in the east, to Goombi in the south-west where it connects to the wild dog barrier fence.

The Border Ranges National Park is located on the NSW side of the border adjacent to the southern section of the park and is managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

Mount Chinghee National Park is surrounded by rural properties. The park forms part of the Logan–Albert catchment and is also the watershed for Chinghee Creek.

Regional ecosystems

The present distribution of vegetation at Mount Chinghee has been determined by a variety of factors including topography, aspect, soil type, elevation, fire history and human influences.

There are nine regional ecosystems conserved at Mount Chinghee, three of which are considered as being of conservation significance and contain habitat for rare and threatened plant species (Table 1). The endangered regional ecosystem 12.9–10.16 contains Microphyll and microphyll/notophyll vine forest +/- *Araucaria cunninghamii*. The two of concern regional ecosystems are 12.3.2 *Eucalyptus grandis* +/- *E. microcorys*, *Lophostemon confertus* tall open-forest with vineforest understory (wet sclerophyll); 12.8.13 *Microphyll* and *microphyll/notophyll* vine forest +/- *Araucaria cunninghamii*.

The remnant communities in the park are considered of state biodiversity significance under the biodiversity planning assessment for the South East Queensland bioregion for containing core habitat for priority taxa; being part of a World Heritage area; and part of the statewide Border Ranges natural corridor providing an east–west link.

Native plants and animals

Mount Chinghee National Park is part of the Scenic Rim Important Bird Area (IBA). The IBA supports populations of the endangered eastern bristlebird, the vulnerable black-breasted button-quail, rufous scrub-bird *Atrichornis rufescens* and albert's lyrebird *Menura alberti*, the restricted-range pale yellow robin *Tregellasia capito*, paradise riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*, green catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*, regent bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus* and the biome-restricted Australian logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii* (Table 3). This is preferred habitat for these species and they rely on the protected habitat that is no longer found in the surrounding area. Several bird species are also listed under international agreements (Table 3). There are 378 species of plants and animals recorded for Mount Chinghee National Park.

The park is being impacted by Bell Miner Associated Dieback (BMAD). BMAD is associated with an increase in density of understory woody plants including lantana *Lantana camara* as a result of lack of an appropriate fire regime (South East Queensland Bioregional Planned Burn Guidelines). The bell miner *Manorina melanophrys* uses this cover of dense understory to colonise and dominate the area impacting on other bird species and biodiversity.

Aboriginal culture

Mount Chinghee was known as Bung Bung to Aboriginal people of the area, the Mungunburri people; however little else is known about the Aboriginal cultural history of the park.

There are no current registered native title claims over the park.

Shared-history culture

In 1979 Telemon Environmental Park (146.6ha) was gazetted to protect the natural values and was later expanded and gazetted as Mount Chinghee National Park in 1994.

The region has a history of timber getting and red cedar located throughout the rainforest sections was highly sought after.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

Recreation use at Mount Chinghee National Park includes nature appreciation, bush walking and bird watching.

As a result of the location and steep inaccessible terrain of the park, management focus is to provide a natural and undeveloped setting. There is no visitor infrastructure or walking tracks provided.

Andrew Drynan Park managed by Scenic Rim Regional Council (SRRRC), which is a popular camp ground and day-use area, is located between the national park and Running Creek off the Lyons Road. The national park provides a scenic backdrop to this camp ground and gives visitors an opportunity to explore the preserved landscape.

Education and science

There are no current education programs at the national park.

Partnerships

Cooperative partnerships with SRRRC, Rural Fire Service (RFS), the Darling Downs/Moreton Rabbit Board (QLD) and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (NSW), NPWS (NSW) and park neighbours are to ensure the protection of the park and its values. These partnerships are essential in regards to pest and fire management.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

A Level 2 Pest Management Strategy identifies priority pests and control measures. Targeted weeds include lantana *Lantana camara*, blue morning glory *Ipomoea indica*, silver-leaf desmodium *Desmodium uncinatum* and groundsel bush *Baccharis halimifolia*.

Early intervention and coordinated management with SRRRC and adjoining neighbours will help to stop weeds from spreading into the park.

Red fox *Vulpes vulpes*, wild dogs *Canis lupus familiaris* and feral cats *Felis catus* are believed to be present within the three sections of Mount Chinghee National Park and surrounding areas. Impacts associated with these feral species in the national park are currently unknown. Pest management projects in the area targeting pest species should aim for a coordinated approach involving adjoining landholders and other land management authorities.

Fire management

The fire management strategy for Mount Chinghee National Park aims to reduce the risk of high intensity wildfire through maintaining good relationships with RFS, SRRRC and park neighbours. It supports appropriate fire management to help protect fire sensitive vegetation communities including rainforest and riparian areas from wildfire and manage habitat for priority taxa.

In conjunction with neighbouring landholders, the aim is to foster cooperative planned burning and early detection with subsequent suppression of wildfires on park and neighbouring properties.

The benefits of appropriate fire management can be to control pest plants, such as lantana at the landscape level and mitigate against the onset of bell miner associated dieback. Future fire management should aim to assess the effect of planned burning on emerging pest plant species including lantana.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
Native plants and animals Biodiversity values are understood and protected.	A1. Record observations of species of conservation significance to help inform fire and pest management programs.
Tourism and visitor opportunities Visitors enjoy low key natural recreation settings and opportunities for safe and sustainable outdoor recreation.	A2. The park retains its natural state for the use of self-reliant visitors. A3. Continue to provide a range of visitor opportunities in a remote natural environment that are sustainable. A4. Monitoring the impact of visitors and implement measures to mitigate impacts.
Partnerships Partnerships produce good outcomes for park management.	A5. Facilitate cooperative relationships with the local land owners, SRRRC, RFS, NPWS (NSW) and Darling Downs/Moreton Rabbit Board (QLD) to address management issues.
Pest plants The impact of pest plants and animals on conservation values are minimised.	A6. Continue to review and implement the Level 2 Pest Strategy with an emphasis on reducing the spread of lantana and coordinating pest plant and fire management.
Fire management Fire management will balance protecting life and property with biodiversity conservation.	A7. Develop a comprehensive fire management strategy.

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.3.2	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> +/- <i>E. microcorys</i> , <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> tall open-forest with vineforest understory (wet sclerophyll).	Of Concern
12.8.13	<i>Microphyll</i> and <i>microphyll/notophyll</i> vine forest +/- <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> .	Of Concern
12.9–10.16	<i>Microphyll</i> and <i>microphyll/notophyll</i> vine forest +/- <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> .	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
Plants				
<i>Cupaniopsis tomentella</i>	boonah tuckeroo	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Senna acclinis</i>	-	Near threatened	-	
<i>Solanum inaequilaterum</i>	brush nightshade	Near threatened	-	
<i>Thesium australe</i>	toadfax	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
Animals				
<i>Atrichornis rufescens</i>	rufous scrub-bird	Vulnerable	-	Critical
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathamii</i>	glossy black cockatoo	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Turnix melanogaster</i>	black-breasted button-quail	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	BONN	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	cicada bird	-	✓	-	-
<i>Danaus plexippus plexippus</i>	monarch	✓	-	-	-
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater	-	✓	-	-
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	black-faced monarch	✓	-	-	-
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-

BONN – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement