

Sarabah National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	1.416ha
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 Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002</i>
✓	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>

Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 Fire Strategy
✓	Level 2 Pest Strategy

Vision

Sarabah National Park is a remnant of lowland subtropical rainforest and fringing riparian open forest that is a foundation for the community-based restoration of forest ecosystems along Canungra Creek.

Conservation purpose

Sarabah National Park was gazetted in 1973 to protect a small area of endangered lowland subtropical rainforest. At 1.416ha it is Queensland's smallest national park. The land was donated to the State of Queensland for national park purposes by Miss A. Curtis of North Tamborine.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Sarabah National Park is on the eastern bank of Canungra Creek approximately 5km south-west of the township of Canungra. It is a remnant of lowland forest that have been extensively cleared throughout South East Queensland and is part of a corridor of recognised biodiversity significance.

Regional ecosystems

The vegetation of the park is a mix of *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *Melaleuca viminalis*, *Casuarina cunninghamiana* fringing forest (regional ecosystem 12.3.7 no concern) and gallery rainforest (notophyll vine forest) on alluvial plains (regional ecosystem 12.3.1 endangered).

Native plants and animals

A vegetation survey conducted in 2000 identified 86 species of native plants on the park. This represents high species diversity for such a small area (1.416ha).

The vulnerable tusked frog *Adelotus brevis* has been recorded on the park. Eighteen bird species and one skink were recorded during a brief survey in 2006. Many other native animals probably occur in the park including seasonal migratory species such as the spectacled monarch *Symposiarchus trivirgatus* and the rainbow bee-eater *Merops ornatus* which are listed under international agreements.

Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus* are known from Canungra Creek and are likely to use the stretch of creek beside the national park. The koala *Phascolarctos cinereus* has been recorded nearby and may use the *Eucalyptus tereticornis* trees that occur in the park for food and shelter.

Aboriginal culture

There are no Aboriginal cultural values or resources on Sarabah National Park known to Queensland Park and Wildlife Service (QPWS). No native title claims have been lodged for this park.

Many of the native plants found in the park would have been used for food and other material needs by local Aboriginal people.

Shared-history culture

There are no shared history values known to QPWS.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

Access to the park is poor and there are no visitor facilities. Its small size limits opportunities for visitation and tourism. People canoeing along Canungra Creek may choose to stop at the park and explore its features.

Partnerships

Local Landcare and Bushcare groups should be approached regarding community involvement in pest plant control and forest restoration programs.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

There is a level 2 pest management strategy for the park which was prepared in 2010. Fourteen pest plant species have been recorded from the park, including annual ragweed *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* which is a Class 2 declared plant requiring control action by the landholder. Also present are cat's claw creeper *Macfadyena unguis-cati*, madeira vine *Anredera cordifolia* and lantana *Lantana camara* which are Class 3 declared plants requiring control where they have the potential to impact on environmentally significant areas such as national parks. Other pest plant species present in the park include crofton weed *Ageratina adenophora*, mistflower *Ageratina riparia*, white passion flower *Passiflora subpeltata* and Brazilian nightshade *Solanum seafortianum* which are all recognised environmental weeds that impact on the natural values of the park.

Biosecurity Queensland has recently released a biological control agent for madeira vine in the park and will monitor its effectiveness.

The cane toad *Rhinella marina* and the red fox *Vulpes vulpes* (Class 2 pest animal) are likely to be present and potentially threatening to native wildlife species. Any required pest animal management should be coordinated with the Scenic Rim Regional Council and neighbouring landholders.

Fire management

The lowland subtropical rainforest and fringing riparian open forest of the park do not require fire and should not be deliberately burnt. Cooperative fire management with neighbouring landholders may be required depending on seasonal conditions and the composition of adjacent vegetation.

The 2001 fire strategy and a statement of fire management intent prepared for the park in 2006 recommends no planned burning.

Boundary definition

Sarabah National Park is not well known and not easily distinguished from surrounding lands. The park boundary

should be surveyed and fenced where necessary and national park signs installed.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
Native plants and animals Biodiversity values are understood and protected.	A1. Conduct an animal survey to assess the significance of the park for biodiversity conservation.
Tourism and visitor opportunities Sarabah National Park is recognised and appreciated by the community.	A2. Survey the park boundary and install national park signage and fencing where necessary. A3. Park values are communicated to the local community.
Partnerships Opportunities exist for community engagement in park management.	A4. Investigate community interest in developing partnerships to help manage the park and restore adjacent forest ecosystems.
Pest management Pest plants and animals have minimal impact on the conservation values of the park.	A5. Implement the Level 2 Pest Strategy with priority given to the control of declared plants and environmental weeds.

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
12.3.1	Gallery rainforest (notophyll vine forest) on alluvial plains	endangered

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> status	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> status	Back on Track status
<i>Adelotus brevis</i>	tusked frog	Vulnerable	-	Medium