

Cape Hillsborough National Park



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Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Visitor management	2
2.1 Yuwibara People’s Connection to Country	2
2.2 Key values	3
2.4 Management direction	4
3. Zones and site management	6
3.1 Visitor management zones and sites	6
Map 1. Cape Hillsborough National Park visitor management zones	14
4. Appendices	15
Appendix 1. Key to visitor management zone definitions	15
Appendix 2. Key to shared-trail definitions	16
Appendix 3. Glossary	17

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RTI Act 2009

2. Visitor management

Cape Hillsborough National Park is a well-known regional tourism destination and a popular area for people seeking a nature-based recreation experience. The national park conserves a rugged section of coastline north-west of the Mackay. Each year, more than 200,000 visitors are attracted to the broad sandy beaches, rugged landscape and the diversity of plants and animals the national park has to offer.

Incorporating part of the traditional homelands of the Yuwibara People, the national park protects and presents the Yuwibara People's strong association with Country. Tourism and Events Queensland market the national park under the banner of the Mackay Region; and the Mackay Regional Council cooperatively maintains the Cape Hillsborough day-use area in partnership with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS).

Visitor management aims to:

- Work in partnership with Yuwibara People to promote the Yuwibara People's natural, social and cultural perspective of the park.
- Promote and encourage a nature-based visitor experience, while discouraging inappropriate activities and behaviours.
- Foster positive and enduring partnerships to manage the cultural, natural and recreation values of the national park.
- Provide safe and appropriated nature-based recreation opportunities that are managed in accordance with the parks' key values and visitor zones.
- Encourage visitors to take responsibility for their safety and understand risks through pre-visit information and targeted on-park signage.
- Minimise visitor impacts on key values within the park, including and cultural sites.

s.73 Irrelevant information

The *Cape Hillsborough National Park Management Statement* sets the strategic management direction for visitor management. The Visitor Strategy details management objectives and provides the link between the high-level strategies of the plan and the on-ground operations in action plans and work programs.

2.1 Yuwibara People's Connection to Country

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
Partner with Yuwibara People to protect Country within Cape Hillsborough National Park.	Co-stewardship arrangements with Yuwibara People enhance the protection of key values at Cape Hillsborough National Park and limit impacts related to visitation. Ongoing.	2
Improve staff knowledge of protocols associated with cultural values and sites.	Agreed protocols for managing or restricting access and use of identified cultural sites minimise disturbance and damage from park users, by December 2024.	3
	Interpretive opportunities at key visitor nodes are identified co-operatively with Yuwibara People and culturally appropriate, by December 2026.	3
Improve knowledge sharing with the Yuwibara People.	QPWS and Yuwibara People share knowledge to ensure the management of visitation at Cape Hillsborough is both culturally and environmentally appropriate and sustainable. Ongoing.	1
Improve Yuwibara access to Country.	A dedicated camping area is identified in the national park and appropriately zoned to enable use by Yuwibara People, by May 2024.	1
Work collaboratively with the Yuwibara Land Sea and Rangers to manage visitors, pests and fire at Cape Hillsborough National Park.	The Land and Sea Ranger Program maximises opportunities for Yuwibara People to participate in on-ground park management, including visitor education, maintenance and compliance activities, by June 2023.	1

2.2 Key values

Cape Hillsborough Visitor Experience

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
Enhance the visitor experience at Cape Hillsborough by improving the condition and design of the walking tracks.	The condition of built infrastructure at Cape Hillsborough health check sites is assessed as 'good', as defined by Criterion 1 of the QPWS Visitor Values Health Check Guide, by June 2024.	2
Enhance the visitor experience at Smalley's Beach camping area through visitor education, regular site maintenance, setting-appropriate infrastructure, and compliance.	Impacts caused by fire pits at the Smalley's Beach camping area health check site are assessed as 'none', as defined by Criterion 10 of the QPWS Visitor Values Health Check Guide, by December 2023.	3
	Pre-visit and onsite messaging at Smalley's Beach camping area informs and encourages appropriate use of campfires and supports compliance activities, by December 2023.	3
	Pre-visit and onsite messaging at the Smalley's Beach camping area informs and encourages safe and appropriate behaviour, by December 2023.	3
	Engaging registered QPWS volunteers during high visitation periods improves the camping experience at Smalley's Beach camping area, by Easter 2024.	3
	Scheduled compliance activities during the Queensland school holidays and on long weekends educate park users and regulate their behaviour at the Smalley's Beach camping area, ongoing until June 2027.	3
	The participation of Yuwi Land and Sea Rangers in compliance and education activities at the Smalley's Beach camping area helps modify visitor behaviour, by Easter 2024.	3

Mangroves and Salt pans

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
Minimise visitor impacts caused by dumping and illegal vehicle activity on mangrove and salt pan communities.	Pre-visit and onsite messaging for Cape Hillsborough educates visitors about appropriate vehicle use and helps protect key values including mangrove communities, by December 2025.	4
	Scheduled compliance activities educate and regulate visitor behaviour in mangrove communities. Ongoing until June 2027.	4
	Vehicle impacts at mangrove health check sites are defined as 'minor', as defined by Criterion 8 of the QPWS Visitor Values Health Check Guide, by June 2027.	4
	Dumped rubbish at mangrove health check sites is assessed as 'good with some concerns', as defined by Criterion 9 of the QPWS Visitor Values Health Check Guide, by June 2027.	4




Significant Habitat

	Management objective	Priority*
Minimise visitor impacts on sites adjacent to recreation nodes.	Restricting access to sites by June 2027, as identified by the Recovery Action Plan, limits impact to habitat and helps protect the species. Ongoing until June 2027.	1
	Restricted Access Areas are imposed under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> to limit visitor impacts to sites, by December 2023.	1

2.4 Management direction

Cape Hillsborough Bay National Park’s management direction for visitor management is to increase its level of service to *Very High* to meet the park’s visitor management needs and to conserve the park’s natural and cultural values.

QPWS seeks a responsible balance between the conservation for natural and cultural values and providing sustainable nature-based experiences in accordance with *the Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) (NCA), legislation and government policies and procedures. Permitted commercial tour activities, agreements and events are administered in accordance with the NCA and other relevant legislation. QPWS will identify, assess and manage hazards to visitor safety in accordance with relevant safety obligations.

<p>Cape Hillsborough National Park will be managed at a very high LoS for visitor management due to the significant number of visitors, its status as a regional tourism destination and the need to conserve the high natural and cultural values.</p>	Current LoS	Change in management direction	Desired LoS
			

Level of knowledge

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
<p>Improve the current level of knowledge for visitor trends, and an understanding of their expectations and experiences to better inform asset management programs.</p>	<p>Current visitor data sets and user trends for the park (e.g. camping data, web page hits, track and traffic counters, visitor surveys) inform visitor management decisions, by May 2025.</p>	2
	<p>Engagement in regional tourism forums provides a shared understanding of visitation drivers and informs visitor management decisions and site planning. Ongoing until June 2027.</p>	2

Level of engagement required for commercial operators, competitive and organised events

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
<p>Maintain the current level of engagement with commercial tour operators, tourism bodies and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>Engagement with local communities, commercial tour operators, tourism bodies and other stakeholders ensures group activities, organised events, ecotourism promotion and commercial initiatives are consistent with visitor zoning. Ongoing until June 2027.</p>	5

Overall approach to visitor management

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
<p>Improve partnerships with the Yuwibara people and other stakeholders, including Mackay Regional Council and Marine Parks, to effectively manage visitation at Cape Hillsborough.</p>	<p>Engagement with the Mackay Regional Council and Marine Parks ensures group activities, organised events, ecotourism and commercial initiatives are consistently applied, and accordant with the visitor zoning detailed in section 3.1 of this Visitor Strategy. Ongoing until June 2027.</p>	2
	<p>Engagement with Yuwibara People and the Mackay Regional Council seeks to achieve consistent promotion, presentation, management, and maintenance arrangements of the shared Cape Hillsborough day-use area. Ongoing until June 2027.</p>	2
<p>Improve the experience of park users through better site planning and design and visitor education.</p>	<p>The design and maintenance of infrastructure within the park meets visitor expectations and minimises their impacts. Ongoing until June 2027.</p>	2
<p>Improve the visitor experience by investigating opportunities to better manage camping issues.</p>	<p>Campground hosts located at Smalley’s Beach camping area over the Queensland Easter, June/July and September school holidays help manage the visitor experience and camping area facilities, by Easter 2024.</p>	2

Visitor safety

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
<p>Improve visitor safety, expectations, and experience by developing pre-visit information and setting-appropriate onsite signage.</p>	<p>Information provided to visitors in QPWS and tourism industry print and electronic media incorporates safety messaging. Ongoing until 2027.</p>	2

*Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent)

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3. Zones and site management

3.1 Visitor management zones and sites



This section identifies visitor management zones and sites for Cape Hillsborough National Park. Zoning and visitor site management objectives consider the physical, social and managerial impacts of the visitor experiences and sustainability of the sites; visitor strategies clearly state the desired site capacity to provide a diversity of experiences for visitors and achieve site sustainability. The strategy also explores visitor opportunities that complement other experiences in the landscape and region.

The visitor management zones provide guidance for managing the acceptable level of development, the acceptable range of persons at one time (PAOT), group sizes, visitor site standards, and visitor experience and expectations. Visitor management zone definitions are provided in Appendix 1 and the zones are shown on Map 1. Definitions for shared-trail level of service for maintenance, and walking track classification, are provided in Appendix 2.



The condition of visitor sites and visitor satisfaction with park experiences will be monitored through the implementation of the Cape Hillsborough National Park *Monitoring and Research Strategy*.

Cape Hillsborough National Park Visitor Sites by Zone



Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
Zone 2	Semi-remote sections (Cape Hillsborough National Park)	Class 6 LCS 3	Class 6 LCS 3	Off-track remote bushwalking. PAOT <6. No visitor facilities provided. Minimal impact bushwalking practices.	Off-track remote bushwalking. PAOT <6. No visitor facilities provided. Minimal impact bushwalking practices. Semi-remote sections of the park are managed primarily for nature conservation, not visitor use.	<p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-remote and self-sufficient bushwalking in a predominantly natural landscape. Minimal evidence of previous use and no visitor facilities. <p>Commercial and organised events will not be permitted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial and organised events are not permitted in semi-remote and remote sections of the park. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small groups up to 6 PAOT. May be closed at any time for management activities or due to wildfire and other natural disasters. No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. Bushwalkers need to be well-prepared, fit and experienced. Rock climbing is not permitted on the cliffs at Beachcomber Cove. <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate appropriate and current safety messaging in pre-visit information to reduce risks to park users. Do not promote remote hiking opportunities at Cape Hillsborough National Park in QPWS media.

Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
Zone 3						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine current use trends and impacts along the informal trail from Beachcombers to Smalley's Beach. Do not promote the Beachcombers to Smalley's Beach trail or rock climbing at Beachcomber Cove on QPWS media. Consider the appropriateness of using drones in remote locations.
	Andrews Point track SIT-0001198 Cape Hillsborough National Park	Class 4  LCS 4	Class 4  LSC 4	Walking track. 5.2km return. Maximum PAOT <25. Infrastructure includes: – directional and safety signage – 4 lookouts – steps and safety fencing along a steep section of the track.	Walking track. 5.2km return. PAOT <25. Minimal change to the opportunity and infrastructure currently provided.	Recreation opportunity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A steep and rocky bushwalk offering stunning views of the coast and nearby islands from a series of lookouts and vantage points. <i>An alternative shorter (2.8km) route exists along the beach at low tide.</i> Commercial and organised events conditions of use: Permitted activities: walking, nature observation, photography. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum group size of 25 must be broken into smaller groups of 13 (including guide/s) when accessing Andrews Point track, with a minimum of 15-minute intervals between each group. No more than 2 commercial or organised groups accessing the track/lookouts at any one time. Up to 2 visits per month, with a maximum of 1 visit per day permitted. Commercial and organised event groups will not be permitted to use the walking track and lookouts during school and public holidays or on weekends. Commercial operators undertaking a guided day tour only are not permitted to use the Smalley's beach camping area facilities. May be closed at any time for management activities or due to wildfire and other natural disasters. Due to the gradient and class of track, organised running or rogaining events (or similar) will not be permitted. No camping or campfires. No wheeled access permitted. FIT conditions of use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires. No wheeled access (e.g. bicycles).



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Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
						<p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare a Restricted Access Area at identified sites adjacent to the walking track to protect habitat significant species. • Consider restricting the use of drones along this highly used walking track.
	<p>Beachcomber Cove track</p> <p>SIT-0001198 Cape Hillsborough National Park</p>	<p>Class 3</p>  <p>LCS 4</p>	<p>Class 3</p>  <p>LCS 4</p>	<p>Walking track. 2.2km return. PAOT <25 PAOT.</p> <p>Infrastructure includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – gravel and sections of sealed surface – steps – directional signs 	<p>Walking track. 2.2km return. PAOT <25 PAOT.</p> <p>Minimal change to the opportunity and infrastructure currently provided.</p>	<p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A steep walk to the secluded Beachcomber Cove from the Cape Hillsborough day-use area offering glimpses of the ocean through forests of hoop pines, ferns and vines. • <i>An alternative route exists along the beach at low tide.</i> <p>Commercial and organised events conditions of use:</p> <p>Permitted activities: walking; nature observation; photography.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum group size of 25 must be broken into smaller groups of 13 (including guide/s) when accessing Beachcomber Cove track, with a minimum of 15-minute intervals between each group. • No more than 2 commercial or organised groups accessing the track/lookouts at any one time. • Two visits per month, with a maximum of one visit per day permitted. • Commercial and organised event groups will not be permitted to use the walking track/lookouts during school and public holidays or on weekends. • Commercial operators undertaking a guided day tour only are not permitted to use the Smalley's beach camping area facilities. • May be closed at any time for management activities or due to wildfire and other natural disasters. • Due to the gradient and class of track, organised running or rogaining events (or similar) will not be permitted. • No wheeled access permitted. <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No camping or campfires. • No wheeled access. • Consider restricting the use of drones along this highly used walking track.



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Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
Zone 4	<p>Smalley's Beach camping area</p> <p>SIT-0002822 Smalley's Beach camping area</p>	<p>Large</p>  <p>LCS 5</p>	<p>Large</p>  <p>LSC 5</p>	<p>Camping area.</p> <p>Capacity: <88 PAOT</p> <p>Numbered sites: 11</p> <p>Infrastructure includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - flushing toilets - picnic tables - potable town drinking water. <p>Poor mobile phone coverage.</p> <p>Regular complaints concerning ghost bookings, illegal campers and day trippers using camping area facilities.</p>	<p>Camping area.</p> <p>Capacity: <88 PAOT</p> <p>Managed group size: 16 PAOT</p> <p>Numbered sites: 11</p> <p>Provision of a camping opportunity with visitor facilities suited to a high level of use.</p>	<p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very popular, small, north-facing camping area adjacent to Smalley's Beach with shady camp sites and easy access to the beach. • Accessible to conventional vehicles via a short gravel road and suited for caravans, camper trailers and campervans. • Basic visitor facilities and camping infrastructure provided. <p>Commercial and organised events conditions of use:</p> <p>Permitted activities: camping; nature observation; photography.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A maximum capacity of 16 people imposed on each group, including the guide/s. • Only two campsites are available for use by commercial operators and organised groups (must be adjacent to each other) at any one time. • No more than 1 commercial group camping in the camping area, at any one time. • Commercial groups will not be permitted to use the camping area during school and public holidays or on weekends, but organised will be considered during these periods. • Maximum campsite capacity: 8 PAOT. • Maximum of 2 vehicles per campsite. • Maximum stay: 2 nights. • A maximum of two commercial groups per week. • Campfires are permitted in off-ground fire containers or designated fireplaces only (bring your own clean milled timber). • Generators not permitted. • Permittees undertaking day activities only are not permitted to use the Smalley's beach camping area facilities, with the exception of school groups. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum campsite capacity: 8 PAOT. • Maximum of 2 vehicles per campsite. • Maximum stay: 14 nights. • Campfires are permitted in off-ground fire containers or designated fireplaces only (bring your own clean milled timber). • Generators not permitted.

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Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
						<p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage campground hosts for a 3-week period over the Queensland Easter, June/July and September school holidays to assist with camping area management. Promote the use of gas and fuel stoves on QPWS media and on-site signage. Consider providing appropriately constructed fireplaces in campsites to minimise impacts of illegal campfires. Pre-visit and on-site messaging outlines the importance of the area for nesting turtles and encourages visitors to reduce the amount of light on Smalley's Beach during nesting season (October and February). Review the current e-permit sign and web map to include camping area only messaging. Reduce the forward booking horizon to help limit the number of ghost bookings. Given the popularity of this camping area, reduce the maximum period of stay to 14 nights.
	<p>The Diversity boardwalk</p> <p>SIT-0001198 Cape Hillsborough National Park</p>	<p>Class 3 (Class 1 section)</p>  <p>LSC 5</p>	<p>Class 3 (Class 1 section)</p>  <p>LSC 5</p>	<p>Walking track. 1.2km circuit. Infrastructure includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> car park: 21 vehicle parks and 4 bus parks several bridges interpretative and directional signage 	<p>Walking track. 1.2km circuit. Managed group size: <25 PAOT. Minimal change to the opportunity and infrastructure currently provided.</p>	<p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A gravel track through diverse plants communities, with a 236m elevated wooden walkway through a tidal section of mangroves. The first 300m of the walk is wheelchair accessible and pram friendly. Signs outline the importance of the plant communities and a shell midden site to Yuwibara People. <p>Commercial and organised events conditions of use: Permitted activities: walking; nature observation; photography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum group size of 25 must be broken into smaller groups of 13 (including guide/s) when accessing the track, with a minimum of 15-minute intervals between each group. No more than 2 commercial or organised groups accessing the track at any one time. Two visits per month, with a maximum of one visit per day permitted.

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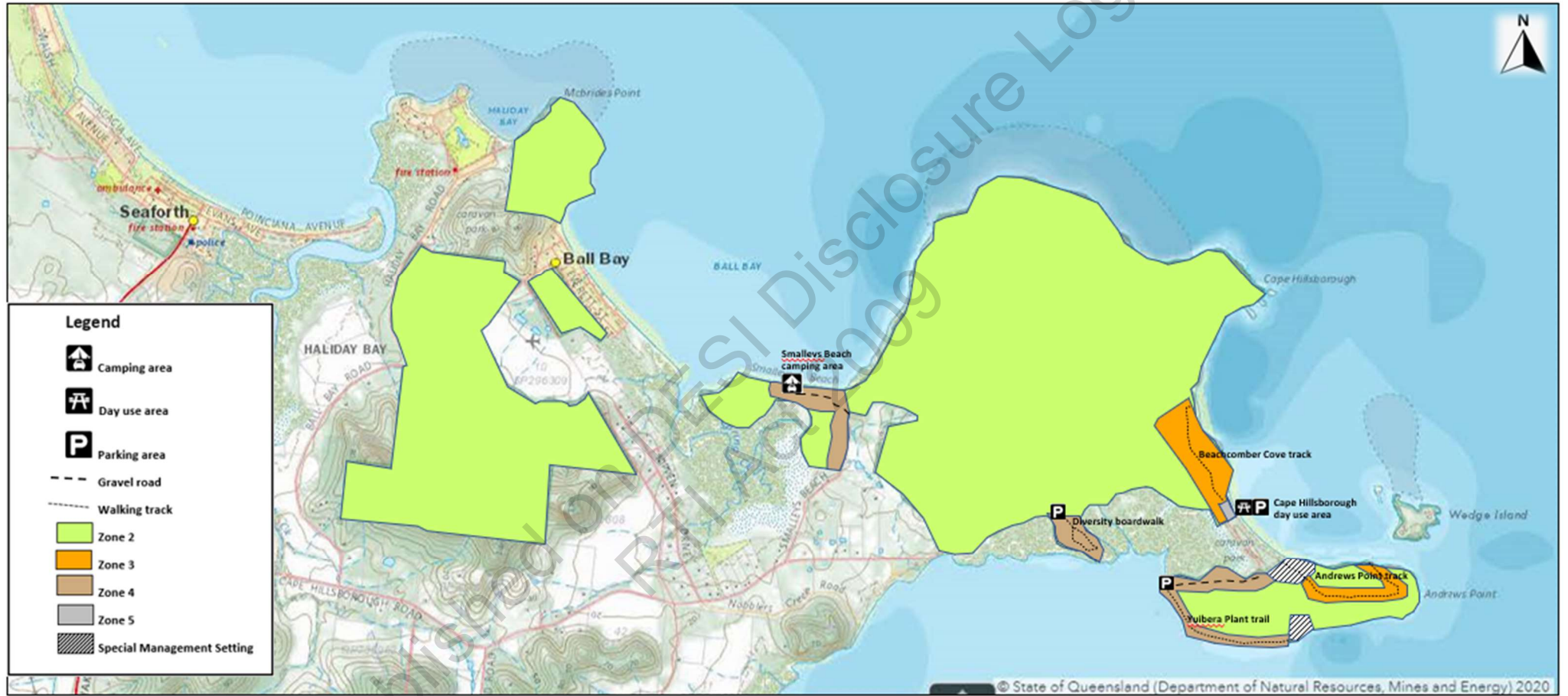
Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial and organised event groups will not be permitted to use the walking track during school and public holidays or on weekends. Commercial operators undertaking a guided day tour only are not permitted to use the Smalley's beach camping area facilities. <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with Yuwibara People to review the accuracy and content of signage along the Diversity boardwalk. Work collaboratively with Yuwi Land and Sea Rangers to determine appropriate maintenance and management of the midden site. Consider restricting the use of drones along this highly used walking track. No bicycles, scooters, segways, skateboards (or similar).
	<p>Yuibera Plant trail</p> <p>SIT-0001198 Cape Hillsborough National Park</p>	<p>Class 3</p>  <p>LSC 5</p>	<p>Class 3</p>  <p>LSC 5</p>	<p>Walking track. 1.5km return. Infrastructure includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – gravel road suitable for 2WD in most conditions – semi-formal car parking area – gravel walking track – interpretative and directional signage 	<p>Walking track. 1.5km return. Managed group size: <25 PAOT. Minimal change to the opportunity and infrastructure currently provided.</p>	<p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An easy and informative circuit walk through open woodland and a cool pocket of rainforest. Interpretive signs highlight the Yuwibara People's use of the area's natural resources. Views of the remains of a traditional stone fish trap. <p>Commercial and organised events conditions of use: Permitted activities: walking; nature study; photography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum group size of 25 must be broken into smaller groups of 13 (including guide/s) when accessing the track, with a minimum of 15-minute intervals between each group. No more than 2 commercial or organised groups accessing the track at any one time. Two visits per month, with a maximum of one visit per day permitted. Commercial and organised event groups will not be permitted to use the walking track during Queensland school and public holidays or on weekends. Commercial operators undertaking a guided day tour only are not permitted to use the Smalley's beach camping area facilities. <p>Management actions:</p>

Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare a Restricted Access Area at identified locations to protect significant species habitat. • Consult with Yuwibara People to review the accuracy and content of signage along the Yuibera Plant trail. • Consider restricting the use of drones along this popular walking track. • No bicycles, scooters, segways, skateboards (or similar).
Zone 5	<p>Cape Hillsborough day-use area</p> <p>SIT-0002387 Cape Hillsborough Day-use area</p>	<p>Very large</p>  <p>LSC 7</p>	<p>Very large</p>  <p>LSC 7</p>	<p>Day-use area and trail head.</p> <p>Infrastructure includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – electric barbecues – picnic tables – flushing toilets – vehicle parking – orientation and interpretative signage. <p>QPWS and Mackay Regional Council both have management responsibility for the shared day-use area.</p>	<p>Day-use area and trail head.</p> <p>Maximum <75 PAOT.</p> <p>Managed group size: <25 PAOT</p> <p>Maintain day-use area facilities to a very high level of service.</p> <p>LoS PAOT very small to very large.</p>	<p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very popular, large, open space adjoining Cape Hillsborough Beach and the Mackay Regional Council recreation reserve and boat launching area. • A nearby resort provides cabins and camping (to the south of the recreation reserve). • Access point to the Sunrise Wallaby Experience (commercial activity) which occurs in the adjoining intertidal area of the Marine Park. • Trail head for the Andrews Point track and Beachcomber Cove track. <p>Commercial conditions of use:</p> <p>Permitted activities: walking; nature observation; photography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum group size of <50. • No more than 1 commercial groups accessing the day-use area at any one time. • Two visits per week, with a maximum of one visit per day permitted. • Commercial groups will not be permitted to use the day-use area during school and public holidays or on weekends. • Commercial operators undertaking a guided day tour only are not permitted to use the Smalley's beach camping area facilities. • Camping and campfires not permitted in the day-use area. <p>Organised events conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum group size of <50. • No more than 1 organised event accessing the day-use area at any one time. • Up to one organised event per fortnight.

Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camping and campfires not permitted in the day-use area. <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camping and campfires not permitted in the Cape Hillsborough day-use area. Formalise arrangements with Mackay Regional Council regarding the ongoing management and maintenance of the shared day-use area. Discourage visitors from feeding native animals through pre-visit and onsite signage messaging. Seek support from Mackay Regional Council and Marine Parks to prohibit dogs in the Cape Hillsborough area. Consider restricting drone use in this highly used visitor area. Notification of organised event communicated to other site users via QPWS Park Alerts. No scooters, segways, skateboards (or similar).
Special Management Setting (SMS)	<p>Significant species habitat,</p> <p>Irrelevant information</p>	N/A	N/A	s.73 Irrelevant information	s.73 Irrelevant information	<p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declare Restricted Access Areas under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> s.73 Irrelevant information to protect the habitat of significant ant species. RAA conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors must not enter any Restricted Access Area. Visitors must remain on the formed track and viewing platform. Declare Restricted Access Areas under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> s.73 Irrelevant information to protect the habitat of significant ant species. RAA conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors must not enter any Restricted Access Area. Visitors must remain on the formed track. Implement engineering controls to prevent access evant inf by park visitors if required.

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Map 1. Cape Hillsborough National Park visitor management zones











4. Appendices

Appendix 1. Key to visitor management zone definitions

Zone	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Special Management Setting
Zone description	A totally, or almost totally natural landscape, with minimal evidence of modern human activity. Usually large remote areas.	Predominantly natural landscape with only minor disturbance. Inconspicuous evidence of modern human activity in small, limited areas.	Predominantly natural landscape with some disturbed areas; human activity apparent at small sites.	Mostly natural areas, but with disturbance and high levels of human activity apparent at some sites at some times.	Modified immediate environment but with rural, natural or semi-urban background. Human activity is primary intent of site.	Special management settings are applied to areas that have special values, opportunities or management issues, to enhance visitor experience, ensure visitor safety or protect key values.
General visitor experience	Totally self-reliant visitor experience in wilderness setting. High degree of isolation and sense of solitude. Very high level of outdoor skills required.	Highly self-reliant visitor experience in very natural area. Frequent opportunities for sense of solitude. High level of outdoor skills required.	Degree of self-reliance required in predominantly natural setting. Sense of isolation and solitude moderate to low. Moderate level of outdoor skill required.	Infrequent opportunities for solitude. Encounters with others frequent. Sites managed for visitor safety and comfort. Low level of outdoor skills required.	Semi-urban recreation experience with no opportunity for solitude. Encounters with individuals and groups constant. Site may be crowded at peak times. No outdoor skills required.	
LCS* (upper limit)	LCS 3	LCS 4	LCS 5	LCS 6	LCS 7	
Suggested group sizes	LoS PAOT Range Very small Managed group size: <6	LoS PAOT Range Very small to small Managed group size: <15	LoS PAOT Range Very small to medium Managed group size: <25	LoS PAOT Range Very small to large Managed group size: <50	LoS PAOT Range Very small to very large Managed group size: <75	
Site capacity class	Very small 1-10 PAOT	Small 11-20 PAOT	Medium 21-50 PAOT	Large 51-150 PAOT	Very large >151 PAOT	

* Notes the equivalent Landscape Classification System's (LCS) represented in the Visitor Management Zone.
LoS – Level of Service. PAOT – Persons at one time.

Appendix 2. Key to shared-trail definitions

<p>Site level of service</p>	 <p>Bronze</p> <p>Relatively common opportunities in modest demand with limited associated experiences and few (if any) basic facilities (high self-sufficiency).</p>	 <p>Silver</p> <p>Regionally significant opportunities in popular demand with some attractive associated experiences and modest facilities (may include vault, composting and hybrid toilets, water, picnic tables, basic interpretation).</p>	 <p>Gold</p> <p>High-quality opportunities in high demand with many attractive associated experiences and developed facilities (may include vault, composting, hybrid and flush toilets, showers, BBQs, covered picnic areas, extensive interpretation).</p>	 <p>Platinum</p> <p>Exclusive (nationally unique) opportunities with outstanding site quality associated opportunities and well developed facilities (private composting, hybrid and flush toilets, hot showers, kitchen, personal interpretation). Often operated by private partners, market-based pricing.</p>		
<p>Shared-trail level of service for maintenance</p>	 <p>Bronze</p> <p>Maintenance intervention is minimal, of acceptable quality and enough to ensure tracks are safe and free of major foreseeable hazards; and keep most tracks available for use in normal circumstances.</p> <p>Maintenance standards will be acceptable to client expectations.</p>	 <p>Silver</p> <p>Maintenance provides good quality presentation of park features through good visitor access, visitor facilities, vegetation and environmental management of the tracks. Maintenance intervention is routine, good quality and enough to ensure the site is safe and free of major foreseeable hazards; and keep most tracks available for use in most circumstances.</p> <p>Maintenance standards will adequately meet client expectations.</p>	 <p>Gold</p> <p>Maintenance provides high quality presentation of the park features through high level visitor access, visitor facilities and vegetation and environmental management of the tracks. Maintenance intervention is frequent, good quality and enough to ensure tracks are safe and free of most foreseeable hazards; and keep all tracks available for use in most circumstances.</p> <p>Maintenance standards will easily meet client expectations.</p>	 <p>Platinum</p> <p>Maintenance provides outstanding and ageless presentation of the park features through unsurpassed visitor access, visitor facilities and vegetation and environmental management of the tracks. Maintenance is well planned and responsive, of high quality and aimed at ensuring the tracks are safe and free of all foreseeable hazards; and keep all tracks available in all but exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Maintenance standards will exceed client expectations.</p>		
<p>Walking track classification[^]</p> <p>[^] AUS Standards</p> <p>^{**} Grades are in accordance with the AS1428 series for wheelchair access</p>	<p>Class 1**</p> <p>Opportunity for large numbers of visitors, including those with reduced mobility, to undertake walks that are provided with a high level of interpretation and facilities. Users can expect abundant opportunities to learn about the natural environment through interpretive signs or brochures. Users can expect frequent encounters with others.</p>	<p>Class 2</p> <p>Opportunity for large numbers of visitors to walk easily in natural environments that are provided with a moderate to high level of interpretation and facilities. Users can expect to learn about the natural environment with moderate to abundant opportunities to learn through interpretive signs or brochures. Users can expect frequent encounters with others.</p>	<p>Class 3</p> <p>Opportunity for visitors to walk in slightly modified natural environments requiring a moderate level of fitness and where the provision of interpretation and facilities is not common. Users can expect opportunities to observe and appreciate the natural environment with limited provision of interpretive signage. Users can expect occasional encounters with others.</p>	<p>Class 4</p> <p>Opportunity for visitors to explore and discover relatively undisturbed natural environments along defined and distinct tracks with minimal (if any) facilities. Users can expect opportunities to observe and appreciate the natural environment without provision of interpretive signage. Users can expect opportunities for solitude with few encounters with others.</p>	<p>Class 5</p> <p>Opportunity for visitors with advanced outdoor knowledge and skills to find their own way along often-indistinct tracks in remote locations. Users can expect frequent opportunities for solitude with few encounters with others.</p>	<p>Class 6</p> <p>Opportunity for highly experienced walkers to explore remote and challenging natural areas without reliance on managed tracks. Users can expect extended periods of solitude with few encounters with others.</p>

Appendix 3. Glossary

Interpreting key VBMF concepts

Adaptive management	The process of adjusting and improving how we manage parks, forests and reserves after assessing the outcomes of previous strategies and on-ground actions.
Condition and trend	The condition of a key value is assessed as either good, good with some concern, significant concern or critical. Trend describes what is happening to the condition: is it improving, stable, or deteriorating. A key value's current condition is determined during the planning process. A desired condition is a realistic goal for the future condition of the key value. The ongoing condition of key values is assessed with regular health checks, monitoring and scientific assessment.
Custodial/management obligations	The requirements in legislation and government policies that we, as the land management agency, have to ensure QPWS's parks, forests and reserves are lawfully managed and good neighbours. Management provides for the protection of life and property, biosecurity and positive relationships with adjacent communities and landholders, as well as enhancing and protecting our values.
Desired outcome	A statement in the key value and management direction statements about moving from the current status (condition or LoS) to a desired status. The goal for management.
Health check	Basic form of monitoring that uses indicators and visual assessments to regularly evaluate the condition of key values. Regular health checks ensure QPWS can respond quickly to adverse change and redirect management priorities.
Key value	A natural, cultural, and/or social value that is of most significance to that area. It is what makes the area special and if lost, would diminish what makes the area distinct from others.
Key value statement	A statement in the management plan/statement that is developed for each key value. It describes the key value, current condition, desired condition, current threats and threat ratings, strategic management direction and priorities for further thematic strategy planning and on-ground management action.
Level of service (LoS)	A planning tool used to identify the acceptable management standard, or level of resourcing that is required to maintain an area based on its values, threats and the complexity of management. There are five LoS ratings ranging from 'acceptable' to 'exceptional' noting that an acceptable rating is the minimum standard required to deliver good management and meet our custodial obligations under law as a land manager. A 'current' LoS rating is the level at the time of planning, the 'desired' LoS is where we want to be.
Management direction	How we manage each management theme to protect and enhance our key values and meet our custodial management obligations.
Management direction statement	A statement in the management plan/statement, developed for each management theme that describes the current LoS, desired LoS, custodial obligations, strategic management direction and priorities for further thematic strategy planning and on-ground management action.
Management theme	QPWS has identified a number of management themes that are common to most of the parks, forests and reserves in our estate: fire management; pest management; natural values management; historic cultural heritage management; visitor management; community, partnerships and other interests; field management capability; operational planning and management support.
Management instrument	A management plan or management statement.
Priority rating (key value SMDs)	<p>A rating given to a strategic management direction according to the need for action to prevent further decline, stabilise current condition, or restore and enhance values, with consideration given to legislative obligations, cost, social, economic and political factors.</p> <p>Critical (1) Loss or very significant decline in the condition of key value/s is highly likely if action not taken OR significant improvement in the condition of key value/s is highly likely if action is taken.</p> <p>Very high (2) - Significant decline in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is not taken OR significant improvement in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is taken.</p> <p>High (3) -Decline in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is not taken OR improvement in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is taken.</p> <p>Moderate (4) -Some decline in the condition of key value/s is possible if action is not taken OR some improvement in the condition of key value/s is possible if action is taken.</p> <p>Desirable (5) - While decline in the condition of key value/s is not likely in the short term, the action, if taken would help build long-term resilience of key value/s.</p>
Priority rating (LoS SMDs)	A rating given to a LoS or custodial obligation strategic management direction. A scale from 1 (extremely urgent) – 5 (not urgent or optional) is assigned, with consideration given to legislative obligations, cost, social, economic and political factors.
Strategic management direction	A broad strategy aimed at mitigating or removing a threat to a key value and maintaining or improving the condition of a park's value; or addressing the gap between the current LoS and desired LoS for a management theme.
Threat or threatening process and threat rating	Based on IUCN's classifications, QPWS has identified threatening processes that have the potential to affect Queensland's values (e.g. natural systems modifications, invasive species etc.). Current threats to key values are identified and given a threat rating based on a combination of the extent of the impact, the severity of the impact, and the urgency of action.

Visitor concepts

Commercial tour operator (CTO)	Means the company, individual/s approved by QPWS to conduct commercial tourism activities in a specified QPWS managed area.
Group size	Means the number of people arriving together in an organised manner, for example, a bus arriving with 50 people is a group size of 50.
Persons at one time (PAOT)	The measure of visitor load on a site at any one time, for example, the total number of visitors there at lunchtime. PAOT is usually a measure as the number of visitors in one hectare or at a site.
Sustainable Visitor Capacity (SVC)	The type and level of use a site can support over a given time period without causing excessive damage to the sites' physical environment and cultural values or diminishing the quality of the users' recreation experience.
Visitor	Anyone who visits a park, forest, reserve for recreational experience and educational purposes rather than enjoyment.
Visitor impacts	A measure of how a visitor changes the physical, biological, cultural, social and managerial characteristics of a site. Impacts include soil compaction, polluting water bodies, trampling vegetation and raising the noise level at a site. Managers determine what types of changes and how much change is acceptable, and what is unacceptable, and define indicators that will warn when the limits are being approached.
Walking track class	The class of a walking track as defined in AS 2156.1.

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Department of Environment and Science

Eungella National Park

Incorporates: Eungella National Park and Crediton State Forest



Visitor Strategy 2022–2027



Prepared by: **Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service and Partnerships (QPWS&P), Department of Environment and Science**

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Front cover photo: Pioneer Valley view, from Peases Lookout. © Adam Creed, Queensland Government.

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Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Visitor management	3
2.1 Widi and Yuwibara Peoples.....	3
2.2 Key values.....	3
2.4 Management direction.....	6
3. Zones and site management	8
3.1 Visitor management zones and sites.....	8
Map 1. Eungella National Park and Crediton State Forest visitor management zones.....	26
4. Appendices	27
Appendix 1. Key to visitor management zone definitions.....	27
Appendix 2. Key to shared-trail definitions.....	28
Appendix 3. Glossary.....	29

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1. Introduction

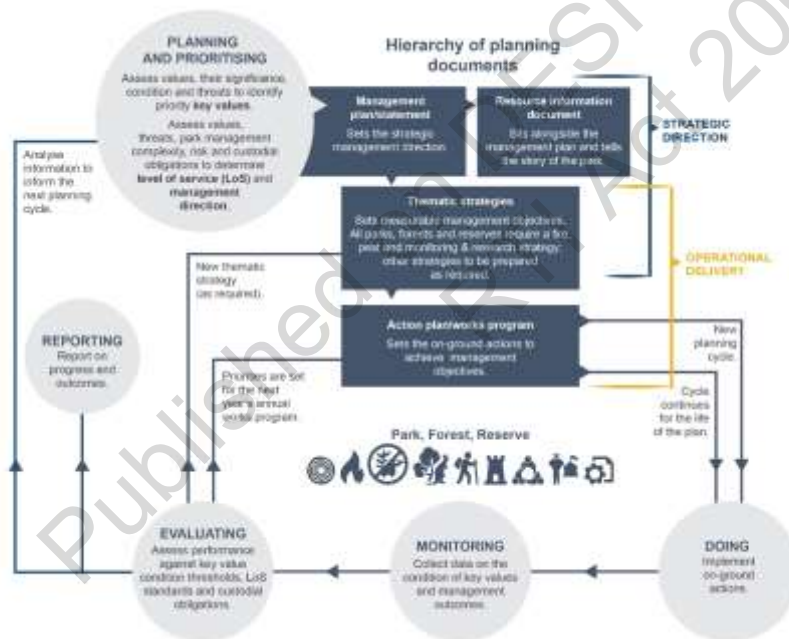
Queensland's parks, forests and reserves provide local communities and visitors from around the world the opportunity to experience our rich natural and cultural heritage. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) strives to achieve a responsible balance between visitor needs and sensitive park resources in accordance with the *Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NCA)* and other legislative obligations (e.g. *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*).

Management planning process aligns with the Values-Based Management Framework (VBMF), an adaptive management cycle that incorporates planning, prioritising, doing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting into all areas of our business (Figure 1). Management plans and statements set the strategic management direction, guiding the next tier of planning and the development of thematic strategies which in turn inform and prioritise our on-ground operations. A glossary of the VBMF's key concepts is available in Appendix 3.

This Visitor Strategy details management objectives for visitor management (Section 2) and the desired management outcomes for visitor sites through zoning (Section 3). Zoning and visitor site management objectives consider the physical, social and managerial impacts to the visitor experiences as well as sustainability of the sites, therefore visitor strategies clearly state the desired site capacity to achieve a diversity of experiences for visitors and site sustainability.

Information about the VBMF is available on the DES website at www.des.qld.gov.au.

Figure 1. Phases of the VBMF cycle for planning and the hierarchy of planning documents



2. Visitor management

Eungella National Park and Crediton State Forest are situated on the doorstep of Mackay, providing scenic amenity and local nature-based recreation opportunities to a population base of more than 120,000 people. Most attention is focused on Eungella National Park, where platypus viewing and rainforest walks at Broken River attract local and international visitation, and swimming at Finch Hatton Gorge attracts high numbers of visitors during summer weekends and holidays. Crediton State Forest provides recreation opportunities in more remote settings, with bush camping at The Diggings and Denham Range.

Visitor management aims to:

- Recognise the Widi and Yuwibara Peoples' culture and the natural, social and landscape values of the park.
- Protect (and present when appropriate) cultural heritage values in visitor areas, in partnership with the Widi and Yuwibara Peoples.
- Maintain visitor facilities to a standard appropriate to the landscape setting and visitation needs, to enrich recreational experiences and promote safe and sustainable use.
- Maintain the current walking track system within Eungella National Park as walking only (no shared trails).
- Provide a rich spectrum of recreation opportunities, from all-abilities access to platypus viewing and rainforest settings through to long hikes and remote 4WD camping.
- Undertake education and compliance programs to minimise risks to visitors, particularly during summer months at Finch Hatton Gorge.
- Foster positive relationships with local communities, the regional tourism industry and commercial tour operators to maintain sustainable practices in the park.

The *Eungella National Park Aggregation Management Statement* sets the strategic management direction for visitor management. The Visitor Strategy details management objectives and provides the link between the high-level strategies of the plan and the on-ground operations in action plans and work programs.

2.1 Widi and Yuwibara Peoples

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
Improve knowledge of Indigenous cultural values on park in consultation with the Widi and Yuwibara Peoples.	Significant cultural heritage sites are known and agreed protocols are in place to minimise disturbance from visitors, by June 2027.	4
Improve engagement through building partnerships and relationships with the Widi and Yuwibara Peoples.	Interpretive opportunities at key visitor nodes are identified co-operatively with the Widi and Yuwibara Peoples and are culturally appropriate, by June 2027.	3
	Opportunities for the Widi and Yuwibara Peoples to participate in visitor management are maximised through their involvement in planning, permitting and compliance activities, by June 2027.	3

2.2 Key values

Cloud rainforest

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
Minimise visitor impacts on the cloud rainforest communities by managing walking tracks.	Pre-visit minimal impact bushwalking messaging educates walkers about weed hygiene practices to reduce weed spread to cloud rainforest by June 2023.	3
	Visitor impacts at cloud rainforest health check sites are 'good with some concern', as defined by Criterion 4 of the QPWS Visitor Values Health Check Guide, by June 2027.	3

Finch Hatton Gorge visitor experience

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
Enhance the visitor experience at Finch Hatton Gorge by working with local council to improve vehicle parking and circulation.	By 2026, vehicle parking and circulation at Finch Hatton Gorge are enhanced through site planning which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draws from visitor demand and health check data 	3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> assesses landscape and environmental suitability for parking, including site capacities, infrastructure and accessibility recommends improved and consolidated parking, in cooperation with local council. 	
	Routine engagement with local communities, commercial tour operators and tourism bodies ensures group activities, organised events, ecotourism and commercial initiatives are consistent with visitor zoning. Ongoing.	3
	Widening or spread of the footprint at Finch Hatton Gorge health check sites is 'good', as defined by Criterion 4 of the QPWS Visitor Values Health Check Guide, by June 2027.	3
Improve visitor safety at Finch Hatton Gorge by improving the Callistemon Crossing.	<p>By December 2026, setting-appropriate infrastructure at Callistemon Crossing improves visitor safety through rigorous planning and design, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> risk assessment visitor data analysis landscape and environmental suitability assessment site and infrastructure planning design and construction. 	2
Enhance the visitor experience at Finch Hatton Gorge through improvement of the walking track.	<p>By June 2027, walking opportunities at Finch Hatton Gorge are enhanced through site planning which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyses current visitation, trends and risks assesses landscape and environmental suitability of current track alignments, and analyses health check data recommends new track alignments to minimise environment impacts and maximise visitor safety and experiences. 	2
	Widening or spread of the footprint at Finch Hatton Gorge health check sites is 'good', as defined by Criterion 4 of the QPWS Visitor Values Health Check Guide, by June 2027.	2
Improve visitor safety at Finch Hatton Gorge through implementation of restricted access areas and other risk management measures.	<p>Restricted Access Areas implemented at high-risk slip and fall zones at Araluen Cascades and Wheel of Fire allow continued access to swimming, while improving visitor safety at Finch Hatton Gorge, by December 2022.</p>	3
	Strong online and onsite messaging informs visitors and the local community of the transition to Restricted Access Areas at Finch Hatton Gorge, by December 2022.	3
	Regular compliance activities, especially during summer weekends and holidays, educate and regulate visitor behaviour at Araluen Cascades and Wheel of Fire. Ongoing.	3
	Pre-visit and onsite messaging at Finch Hatton Gorge informs and encourages safe and appropriate behaviour. Ongoing.	3

Broken River visitor experience

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
Enhance the visitor experience through site review to improve traffic flow and reduce vehicle congestion.	Setting-appropriate infrastructure at Broken River visitor area, arising from visitor demand analyses and a detailed site review, enhances the user experience through the provision of improved visitor and vehicle circulation, by June 2027.	4
	Widening or spread of the footprint at Broken River health check sites is assessed as 'good', as defined by Criterion 4 of the QPWS Visitor Values Health Check Guide, by June 2027.	4
Maintain the visitor experience through protection of the platypus population and habitat.	Trampling/compaction by visitors at Broken River health check sites is 'good', as defined by Criterion 5 of the QPWS Visitor Values Health Check Guide, by June 2027.	5

The Diggings camping and day-use experience

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
Minimise visitor impacts caused by vegetation removal and illegal trail bikes.	Pre-visit and onsite messaging at The Diggings visitor area informs and encourages safe and appropriate behaviour, by June 2024.	3
	Regular compliance activities, especially during weekends and holidays, educate and regulate visitor behaviour at The Diggings visitor area. Ongoing.	3

	Vehicle (trail bike) impacts at The Diggings health check sites are assessed as 'good with some concern', as defined by Criterion 8 of the QPWS Visitor Values Health Check Guide, by June 2026.	3
	Vandalism impacts (removal of trees) at The Diggings health check sites are assessed as 'good with some concern', as defined by Criterion 7 of the QPWS Visitor Values Health Check Guide, by June 2026.	3
Improve visitor safety at the mine shafts through signage and communication.	Risk assessments at The Diggings inform pre-visit and onsite safety messaging to improve visitor safety, by June 2024.	4
Enhance the visitor experience by managing inappropriate behaviour and poor presentation.	Pre-visit and onsite messaging at The Diggings visitor area informs and encourages safe and appropriate behaviour, by June 2024.	4
	Regular compliance activities, especially during weekends and holidays, educate and regulate visitor behaviour at The Diggings visitor area. Ongoing.	4
	Campfire impacts (scarring) at The Diggings health check sites are assessed as 'good with some concern', as defined by Criterion 10 of the QPWS Visitor Values Health Check Guide, by June 2026.	4
	Vandalism impacts at The Diggings health check sites are assessed as 'good with some concern', as defined by Criterion 7 of the QPWS Visitor Values Health Check Guide, by June 2026.	4

Lowland rainforest communities

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
Minimise visitor impacts on the rainforest communities by managing the widening of walking tracks.	Widening or spread of the visitor footprint at lowland rainforest communities' health check sites is defined as 'good with some concern', as defined by Criterion 4 of the QPWS Visitor Values Health Check Guide, by June 2027.	4
	Maintaining access to tracks in lowland rainforest communities to walkers only (no wheeled access) minimises the widening and spread of the visitor footprint. Ongoing,	4





*KEY: Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent)

2.4 Management direction

To meet visitor management needs and to conserve natural and cultural values:

- Eungella National Park’s management direction for visitor management is to maintain its level of service as very high.
- Crediton State Forest’s management direction for visitor management is to increase its level of service to high.

QPWS seeks a responsible balance between the conservation for natural and cultural values and providing sustainable nature-based experiences in accordance with the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) (NCA) and government policies and procedures. Permitted commercial tour activities, agreements and events are administered in accordance with the NCA and other relevant legislation. QPWS will identify, assess and manage hazards to visitor safety in accordance with relevant safety obligations.

Eungella National Park will be managed at a very high level of service for visitor management through increased compliance and improved understanding of visitation at key sites.	Current LoS	Change in management direction	Desired LoS
		↔	
Crediton State Forest will be managed at a high level of service for visitor management through improved understanding of visitation, investigating new opportunities and consulting with key recreational groups.	Current LoS	Change in management direction	Desired LoS
		↑	

Level of knowledge

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
Eungella National Park: Improve knowledge of visitation by monitoring visitor numbers at key sites.	Current visitor data sets and user trends for the park (e.g. camping data, web page hits, track and traffic counters, visitor surveys) better inform visitor management decisions, by June 2025.	3
	Regular attendance at regional tourism forums provides a shared understanding of visitation drivers, and informs visitor management decisions and site planning. Ongoing.	3
Eungella National Park: Improve knowledge and preservation of historical track work through assessment and mapping.	Assessment and mapping guides improves maintenance of historical track work at Eungella National Park, by June 2027.	4
	Crediton State Forest: Improve current knowledge of visitor management through increased understanding of visitor numbers, expectations and opportunities.	Current visitor data sets and user trends for the park (e.g. camping data, web page hits, track and traffic counters, visitor surveys) better inform visitor management decisions, by June 2027.
	Visitor management adapts, based on health check data, compliance activities and user trends, by June 2027.	4

Level of engagement required for commercial operators and competitive events

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
Eungella National Park: Maintain current approach to partnerships, community and other interests.	Routine engagement with local communities, commercial tour operators and tourism bodies ensures group activities, organised events, ecotourism and commercial initiatives are consistent with visitor zoning. Ongoing.	4
Crediton State Forest: Improve consultation with recreation groups.	Routine engagement with local communities, commercial tour operators and tourism bodies ensures group activities, organised events, ecotourism and commercial initiatives are consistent with visitor zoning, annually.	4

Overall approach to visitor management

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
Crediton State Forest: Improve current approach to visitor management by	A park-wide sign audit and sign plan identifies advisory, legislative and interpretive signage priorities across Crediton State Forest to better inform and guide visitor behaviour, by May 2024.	4

DRAFT Eungella National Park Visitor Strategy

investigating new recreational opportunities for visitors.	Health checks, completed in accordance with the risk matrix schedule in the Planning User Guide, inform adaptation of visitor management practices for the protected areas. Ongoing.	4
	Departmental asset maintenance systems capture onground assets to ensure appropriate standards for presentation and management purposes. Ongoing.	4
	Consistent previsit and onsite visitor information across all communication channels manages expectations and encourages safe and appropriate visitor behaviour, by June 2026.	4
	New sustainable recreational opportunities in Crediton State Forest provide increased diversity of activities and ease visitor pressure in more sensitive environments, by May 2027.	4

Visitor safety

Strategic management direction	Management objective	Priority*
Eungella National Park: Improve approach to management through increased compliance at Finch Hatton Gorge.	Previsit and onsite information (e.g. web pages, park alerts, brochures, orientation signs) incorporates appropriate and current safety messaging to reduce risks to park users. Ongoing.	4
	Hazards associated with water-based recreational activities (e.g. swimming, jumping, diving) at Finch Hatton Gorge are clearly communicated to reduce risks to park users. Ongoing.	4
	Regular compliance activities, during summer weekends and school holidays, educate and regulate visitor behaviour at Finch Hatton Gorge. Ongoing.	4

*Priority ratings: Scale 1 (extremely urgent and extremely necessary) to 5 (optional and not urgent)

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3. Zones and site management



3.1 Visitor management zones and sites



This section identifies visitor management zones and sites for Eungella National Park and Crediton State Forest. Zoning and visitor site management objectives consider the physical, social and managerial impacts of the visitor experiences and sustainability of the sites; visitor strategies clearly state the desired site capacity to provide a diversity of experiences for visitors and achieve site sustainability. The strategy also explores visitor opportunities that complement other experiences in the landscape and region.



The visitor management zones provide guidance for managing the acceptable level of development, the acceptable range of persons at one time (PAOT), group sizes, visitor site standards, and visitor experience and expectations. Visitor management zone definitions are provided in Appendix 1 and the zones are shown on Map 1. Definitions for shared-trail level of service for maintenance, and walking track classification, are provided in Appendix 2.



The condition of visitor sites and visitor satisfaction with park experiences will be monitored through the implementation of the *Eungella National Park Aggregation Monitoring and Research Strategy*.



Eungella National Park and Crediton State Forest Visitor Sites by Zone





Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
Zone 4	Broken River day-use area	Large  LCS 6	Large  LCS 6	Day-use area. 150 PAOT. Picnicking in a bushland setting with parking, toilets, barbecues, picnic tables and water (treat before drinking). No mobile phone coverage.	Day-use area. 150 PAOT. Picnicking in a bushland setting with parking, toilets, barbecues, picnic tables and water (treat before drinking). No mobile phone coverage.	<p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnicking among tall swamp mahogany and red gum trees alongside Broken River, with nearby platypus viewing opportunities. <p>Commercial conditions of use:</p> <p>Considered activities: guided tour (walking, nature observation, photography), kiosk/café operation and visitor information facility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One authorised vendor of kiosk/café and visitor information facility in a QPWS-managed building. No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. Managed group size of <50, including guide/s. No more than two operators on any one day. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>Organised event conditions of use:</p> <p>Considered activities: bushwalking, nature observation, photography, sightseeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted.



Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
	Broken River camping area (Eungella National Park)	Large  LCS 6	Large  LCS 6	Camping area. <80 PAOT across 8 defined but unnumbered sites. Maximum of 3 vehicles per site. No mobile phone coverage.	Camping area <80 PAOT across 8 defined but unnumbered sites. Maximum of 3 vehicles per site. 6-month booking horizon. Toilets are provided. Water is provided (treat before drinking). No mobile phone coverage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum size of school groups is 30, with no group being larger than 15 (including teacher/s). No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor levels of use. <p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camping in natural bushland adjacent to Broken River, with nearby platypus viewing opportunities. Vehicle-based camping with facilities and separately defined sites. <p>Commercial and organised event conditions of use: Considered activities: camping, nature observation, photography, sightseeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A maximum capacity of 10 people will be imposed on each tour group, including the guide/s. Maximum of 2-night stay. Only one commercial activity at one time. Campfires permitted in fire rings only. Generators permitted, operating at or below 65dB(A) and only between 9am and 8pm. Accessible to conventional vehicles and suitable for camper trailers, caravans and motorhomes. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum of 7-night stay. Campfires permitted in fire rings only. Generators permitted, operating at or below 65dB(A) and only between 9am and 8pm. Accessible to conventional vehicles and suitable for camper trailers, caravans and motorhomes.



Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
	Fern Flat camping area (Eungella National Park, MHGW)	Medium  LCS 5	Medium  LCS 5	Camping area. <36 PAOT across 8 defined and numbered sites. Maximum of 1 vehicle per site. 24 PAOT (sites 3 to 8) show under Eungella National Park in OBS 2 PAOT (sites 1 to 2) show under MHGW in OBS. 6-month booking horizon. No mobile phone coverage.	Camping area. <36 PAOT across 8 defined and numbered sites. Maximum of 1 vehicle per site. 24 PAOT (sites 1 to 6) show under Eungella National Park in OBS 2 PAOT (sites 7 to 8) show under MHGW in OBS. Toilets are provided. Water is provided (treat before drinking). Fires are permitted in fire rings provided. 6-month booking horizon. No mobile coverage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install fire rings at all 8 sites. <p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camping in rainforest adjacent to Broken River, with nearby platypus viewing opportunities. Predominantly tent camping with facilities and separately defined and numbered sites. <p>Commercial conditions of use: Considered activities: camping, nature observation, photography, sightseeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A maximum capacity of 8 people will be imposed on each tour group, including the guide/s. Maximum of 2-night stay. Only one commercial activity at one time. Campfires permitted in fire rings only. Generators not permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>Organised event conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised events will not be permitted. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum of 7-night stay. Accessible to conventional vehicles for tent camping and small caravans and camp trailers (two sites only – numbered sites 1 and 2). Campfires permitted in fire rings only. Generators not permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure sites 1 and 2 (suitable for small camper trailers and caravans) appear as bookable for vehicle-based campers (and not MHGW walkers) by updating the OBS to show: sites 1 to 6 under Eungella National Park, and sites 7 to 8 under Mackay Highlands Great Walk. Update onsite e-permit sign to show 7-night maximum length of stay (currently shows 22 nights).



Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
	Pine Grove circuit (Eungella National Park, MHGW)	Class 3  LCS 5	Class 3  LCS 5	Walking track. 1.6km return PAOT <20. No visitor amenities provided. Short walk from the Eungella township.	Walking track. 1.6km return. PAOT <20. No visitor amenities provided. Use to remain as short walk from the Eungella township. Future use not expected to rise dramatically.	<p>Recreation Opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A short circuit walk through misty, rainforest-clad mountain ranges with glimpses of the Pioneer Valley. Suitable for most visitors, with minimal walking experience required. <p>Commercial conditions of use:</p> <p>Considered activities: guided tour (walking, nature observation, photography)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A maximum group size of 20 people will be imposed on each tour group, including the guide/s. Larger groups need to be split into groups of 15 or less. A maximum of 20 commercial tours per year per authority holder. No more than 2 commercial or organised group operators accessing the track at any one time. Commercial operators will not be permitted to use the walking track and lookouts during school and public holidays or on weekends. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. <p>Organised events conditions of use:</p> <p>Considered activities: guided walking, nature observation for small groups including schools, mountain biking and running marathons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. The maximum group size of 30 (including school groups), must be broken into smaller groups no larger than 15 (including teacher/s). No more than 2 commercial or organised group operators accessing the track at any one time. Only one mountain bike and running event per year. No other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. No wheeled access (e.g. bicycles) permitted.

Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
	Cedar Grove circuit (Eungella National Park, MHGW)	Class 3  LCS 4-5	Class 3  LCS 4-5	Walking track. 2.8km one way. PAOT <20. No visitor amenities provided. Short walk from Pine Grove to Sky Window.	Walking track. 2.8km one way. PAOT <20. No visitor amenities provided. Use to remain as short walk from Pine Grove to Sky Window. Future use not expected to rise dramatically.	<p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A short walk through shaded rainforest from Pine Grove to Sky Window, with short uphill sections and stairs in places. This walk, offering glimpses of the Pioneer Valley and closely passing red cedars, requires a moderate level of fitness and some walking experience. <p>Commercial conditions of use: Considered activities: guided tour (walking, nature observation, photography)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A maximum group size of 20 people will be imposed on each tour group, including the guide/s. Larger groups need to be split into groups of 15 or less. Maximum of 20 commercial tours per year per authority holder. No more than 2 commercial or organised groups accessing the track at any one time. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. No camping or campfires. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. <p>Organised events conditions of use: Considered activities: guided walking, nature observation for small groups including schools, mountain biking and running marathons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. The maximum group size of 30 (including school groups), must be broken into smaller groups no larger than 15 (including teacher/s). No more than 2 commercial or organised groups accessing the track at any one time. Only one mountain bike and running event per year. No other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires. No wheeled access (e.g. bicycles). <p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A short, wheelchair-accessible circuit walk past two formed lookouts, overlooking the Pioneer Valley.
	Sky Window circuit and day use area	Class 1	Class 1	Walking track and day-use area. 250m return.	Walking track and day-use area. 250m return.	<p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A short, wheelchair-accessible circuit walk past two formed lookouts, overlooking the Pioneer Valley.



Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
	(Eungella National Park)	 LCS 6	 LCS 6	PAOT <50. Wheelchair accessible circuit with two lookouts. Facilities include toilets, picnic tables and barbecues.	PAOT <50. Wheelchair accessible circuit with two lookouts. Facilities include toilets, picnic tables and barbecues. Future use is not to change in the near future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretive signs provide opportunities to stop along the track and learn about changing land use in the area. <p>Commercial conditions of use: Considered activities: guided tour (walking, nature observation, photography)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A maximum of 24 tours per year per authority holder. A maximum commercial group size of 50 people will be imposed on each tour group, including the guide/s. Large groups must be broken into smaller groups of 15 or less when accessing the track. No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. No more than 2 commercial activities on any one day. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>Organised event conditions of use: Considered activities: bushwalking, nature observation, photography, sightseeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. The maximum organised group size of 30 (including school groups), must be broken into smaller groups no larger than 15 (including teacher/s) when accessing the track. No more than 1 organised event at any one time. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. <p>Recreation Opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A long walk through rainforest with areas of palm forest, some uphill sections and stairs in places. A moderate level of fitness and some walking experience required. <p>Commercial conditions of use: Considered activities: guided tour (walking, nature observation, photography)</p>
	Clarke Range track (Eungella National Park, MHGW)	Class 4  LCS 4	Class 4  LCS 4	Walking track. 8.2km one way. PAOT <20. No visitor amenities provided. Long walk from Sky Window to Broken River.	Walking track. 8.2km one way. PAOT <20. No visitor amenities provided. Use to remain as a long walk from Sky Window to Broken River.	<p>Recreation Opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A long walk through rainforest with areas of palm forest, some uphill sections and stairs in places. A moderate level of fitness and some walking experience required. <p>Commercial conditions of use: Considered activities: guided tour (walking, nature observation, photography)</p>



Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
	River walk (Eungella National Park)	Class 1  LCS 6	Class 1  LCS 6	Walking track. 520m one way. PAOT <100. Wheelchair accessible walk with wildlife viewing platforms.	Walking track. 520m one way. PAOT <100. Wheelchair accessible walk with wildlife viewing platforms. Future use is not to change in the near future.	<p>Future use not expected to rise dramatically.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A maximum commercial group size of 20 people will be imposed on each tour group, including the guide/s. Larger groups need to be split into groups of 20 or less. Maximum of 20 tours per year per authority holder. No more than 2 commercial or organised group operators accessing the track at any one time. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. <p>Organised events conditions of use: Considered activities: guided walking, nature observation for small groups including schools, mountain biking and running marathons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. The maximum organised group size of 30 (including school groups), must be broken into smaller groups no larger than 15 (including teacher/s). No more than 2 commercial or organised group operators accessing the track at any one time. Only one mountain bike and running event per year. No other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. No wheeled access (e.g. bicycles) permitted. <p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A short walk along the banks of Broken River with viewing platforms for wildlife, especially platypus. Suitable for most visitors including young families and wheelchairs with assistance – no walking experience required. <p>Commercial conditions of use: Considered activities: guided tour (walking, nature observation, photography)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum of 24 tours per year per authority holder. A maximum commercial group size of 50 people will be imposed on each tour group, including the guide/s. Large groups must be broken into smaller groups of 15 or less.



Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
	Rainforest Discovery circuit (Eungella National Park, MHGW)	Class 3  LCS 5	Class 3  LCS 5	Walking track. 780m return PAOT <50. Short circuit walk, with bridges and interpretive signs.	Walking track. 780m return PAOT <50. Short circuit walk, with bridges and interpretive signs. Future use is not to change in the near future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. No more than 2 commercial operators on any one day. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>Organised event conditions of use: Considered activities: bushwalking, nature observation, photography, sightseeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. The maximum organised group size of 30 (including school groups), must be broken into smaller groups no larger than 15 (including teacher/s). No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. <p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A short and level circuit walk through shaded rainforest with several crossings over gently flowing rainforest creeks. Trackside interpretive signs showcase art and quotes from local primary school students. No walking experience required. <p>Commercial conditions of use: Considered activities: guided tour (walking, nature observation, photography)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A maximum commercial group size of 20 people will be imposed on each tour group, including the guide/s. Large groups must be broken into smaller groups of 15 or less. Maximum of 20 tours per year per authority holder. No more than 2 commercial or organised group operators accessing the track at any one time. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. <p>Organised events conditions of use:</p>



Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
	Granite Bend circuit (Eungella National Park, MHGW)	Class 3  LCS 5	Class 3  LCS 5	Walking track. 1.6km return. PAOT <50. Walking circuit, with views of Broken River.	Walking track. 1.6km return. PAOT <50. Walking circuit, with views of Broken River. Future use is not to change in the near future.	<p>Considered activities: guided walking, nature observation for small groups including schools, mountain biking and running marathons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. The maximum organised group size of 30 (including school groups), must be broken into smaller groups no larger than 15 (including teacher/s). Only one mountain bike and running event per year. No other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. No wheeled access (e.g. bicycles) permitted. <p>Recreation Opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A short walk passing through stands of <i>Livistonia</i> palms, with stops overlooking Broken River. Minimal walking experience required. <p>Commercial conditions of use:</p> <p>Considered activities: guided tour (walking, nature observation, photography)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A maximum group size of 20 people will be imposed on each tour group, including the guide/s. Large groups must be broken into smaller groups of 15 or less. A maximum of 20 commercial tours per year per authority holder. No more than 2 commercial or organised group operators accessing the track at any one time. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. <p>Organised events conditions of use:</p> <p>Considered activities: guided walking, nature observation for small groups including schools, mountain biking and running marathons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. The maximum organised group size of 30 (including school groups), must be broken into smaller groups no larger than 15 (including teacher/s).





Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
Zone 4 (inc. Special Management Zone at the falls)	Araluen Cascades track and SMS (Finch Hatton Gorge, Eungella National Park)	Class 3	Class 3	Walking track and point of interest. 2.8km return. PAOT <50. Toilet provided at trailhead. Regulatory safety signs prohibit jumping, diving and climbing at Araluen Cascades.	Walking track and point of interest. 2.8km return. PAOT <50. Use to remain as a short walk from trailhead to cascades. Toilet provided at trailhead. Declared restricted access area for visitor safety: high-risk cliffs and slippery falls. Future use not expected to rise dramatically.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more than 2 commercial or organised group operators accessing the track at any one time. Only one mountain bike and running event per year – no other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. No wheeled access (e.g. bicycles) permitted. <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve intersection of Granite Bend and Crediton Creek trail to make sure walkers are well prepared for the longer walk to Wishing Pool. There is opportunity to make this an informal viewpoint overlooking Broken River. <p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A short walk weaving between large granite boulders and through rainforest to a lookout above the cascades. Short uphill sections and stairs in places. Moderate levels of fitness and some walking experience required. <p>Commercial and organised events conditions of use: Considered activities: guided tour (walking, nature observation, photography)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A maximum group size of 15 people will be imposed on each commercial tour group, including the guide/s. A maximum of 12 commercial tours per year per authority holder. Commercial operators will not be permitted to use the walking track and lookouts during school and public holidays or on weekends. No more than 1 commercial and/or organised group accessing the track at any one time. The maximum organised group size of 30 (including school groups) for organised events, must be broken into smaller groups no larger than 15 (including teacher/s). May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p>
		LCS 3-4	LCS 3-4			

Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
Zone 4 (inc. Special Management Zone at the falls)						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Restricted Access area at Araluen Cascades to reduce identified visitor safety hazards. Update pre-visit information (webpages) and onsite signs to show Restricted Access Area, and schedule compliance for summer weekends and school holidays. Draft and implement a communication plan to advise tourism and community stakeholders of the transition.
	Wheel of Fire track and SMS (Finch Hatton Gorge, Eungella National Park)	<p>Class 4</p>  <p>LCS 3-4</p>	<p>Class 4</p>  <p>LCS 3-4</p>	<p>Walking track and point of interest. 4.2km return. PAOT <50.</p> <p>Toilet provided at the trailhead.</p> <p>Regulatory safety signs prohibit jumping, diving and climbing at Wheel of Fire.</p>	<p>Walking track and point of interest. 4.2km return. PAOT <50.</p> <p>Use to remain as a medium length walk from trailhead to the falls and rockpool.</p> <p>Toilet provided at trailhead.</p> <p>Declared restricted access area for visitor safety: high-risk cliffs and slippery falls.</p> <p>Future use not expected to rise dramatically.</p>	<p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A medium length walk weaving between large granite boulders and shaded rainforest to the falls and rockpool. Short uphill sections and stairs in places. Moderate levels of fitness and some walking experience required. <p>Commercial and organised events conditions of use:</p> <p>Considered activities: guided tour (walking, nature observation, photography)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A maximum group size of 15 people will be imposed on each tour group, including the guide/s. The maximum group size of 30 (including school groups) for organised events, must be broken into smaller groups no larger than 15 (including teacher/s). Maximum of 12 commercial tours per year per authority holder. No more than 1 commercial and/or organised group accessing the track at any one time. Commercial groups will not be permitted to use the walking track and lookouts during school and public holidays or on weekends. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. <p>Management actions:</p>





Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
Zone 3	The Diggings camping area (Credition State Forest)	Medium  LCS 5	Medium  LCS 5	Camping area. 80 PAOT across two open areas. Maximum vehicles: 3. Maximum stay: 22 nights. 6-month booking horizon. Pressure on site increasing, with rubbish, fire pits/scars and vegetation trampling evident. Poor mobile phone coverage.	Camping area. 80 PAOT across two open areas. Maximum people per booking: 8 Maximum vehicles per booking: 2 Maximum 14 night stay. 6-month booking horizon. Toilets are provided. Campfires are permitted in fire rings only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Restricted Access Area at falls to reduce identified visitor safety hazards. Update pre-visit information (webpages) and onsite signs to show Restricted Access Area, and schedule compliance for summer weekends and school holidays. Draft and implement communication plan, to advise tourism and community stakeholders of the transition. <p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two open camping areas, on opposite sides of Broken River, with no separately defined sites. Vehicle-based camping with toilet facilities and tall trees offering shade. <p>Commercial and organised event conditions of use: Considered activities: camping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A maximum capacity of 8 people will be imposed on each commercial or organised group, including the guide/s. Maximum of 2-night stay. Campfires permitted in fire rings only. Generators permitted, operating at or below 65dB(A) and only between 9am and 8pm. Accessible only to 4WDs and high clearance camper trailers. Dogs prohibited in camping area. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum of 14-night stay. Campfires permitted in fire rings only. Generators permitted, operating at or below 65dB(A) and only between 9am and 8pm. Accessible only to 4WDs and high clearance camper trailers. Dogs prohibited in camping area. May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the Online Booking System to allow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum people per booking: 8 Maximum vehicles per booking: 2

Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
	Credition to Denham Range (Credition State Forest, MHGW)	Class 5  LCS 3-4	Class 5  LCS 3-4	Walking trail. 11km one way. PAOT <6. Maximum unmanaged group size <6. Visitors are informed of the high level of self-reliance, fitness and experience required.	Walking trail. 11km one way. PAOT <6. Maximum unmanaged group size <6. Visitors are informed of the high level of self-reliance, fitness and experience required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maximum stay: 14 days • Provide pre-visit and onsite regulatory messaging to prohibit dogs in the camping area. • Supply an appropriate number of fire rings. <p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A long walk from the Credition State Forest boundary along a formed trail and Cockies Creek Road to Denham Range camping area (sharing 8.5km with vehicles on Cockies Creek Road). • A semi-remote experience suitable for experienced and self-reliant bushwalkers. <p>Commercial conditions of use: Considered activities: bushwalking, nature observation, photography, sightseeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No camping or campfires permitted. • Small groups up to 6 PAOT. • No more than 1 commercial activity accessing the trail on any one day. • No more than 1 commercial activity per week. • No mountain bike or other wheeled access, except on Cockies Creek Road. • May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>Organised events conditions of use: Considered activities: bushwalking, trail running, nature observation, photography, sightseeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No camping or campfires permitted. • Maximum size of organised event is 50, with staged starting times. • No more than one large-scale organised walking or running event per year. • No mountain bike or other wheeled access, except on Cockies Creek Road. • May be closed at any time for management purposes and natural disasters. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No camping or campfires permitted • No mountain bikes permitted, except on Cockies Creek Road.

Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
	Denham Range camping area (Credition State Forest)	Small  LCS 4	Small  LCS 4	Camping area. 24 PAOT across open camping area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 PAOT shows under Credition State Forest in OBS 6 PAOT shows under MHGW in OBS. Maximum of 3 vehicles. Good mobile phone coverage.	Camping area. For Credition State Forest in OBS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum people per booking: 6 Maximum vehicles per booking: 2 For MHGW in OBS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum people per booking: 6 Water (treat before drinking). Toilets are provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be closed at any time for management purposes or natural disaster events. Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasise use of minimal impact bushwalking practices. Monitor levels of use. Incorporate messaging regarding fallen trees and other obstacles likely to be encountered in pre-visit publications. Define shared and non-shared sections of the trail with onsite signs. Recreation opportunity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open camping atop a mountain ridge with cool breezes and views. Vehicle-based and walk-in camping with toilet facilities and no separately defined sites. Commercial conditions of use: Considered activities: camping, walking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A maximum capacity of 6 people will be imposed on each commercial group, including the guide/s. Maximum of 2-night stay. No more than 1 commercial activity at any one time. Campfires permitted in fire rings only. Generators not permitted. Accessible only to walkers, 4WDs and high clearance camper trailers. Organised event conditions of use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised events will not be permitted. FIT conditions of use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum of 7-night stay. Campfires permitted in fire rings only. Generators are not permitted. No more than 6 vehicles permitted at any one time. Accessible only to 4WDs. Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the option of designated campsites at Denham Range camping area. Review the Online Booking System (OBS) for Mackay Highlands Great Walk, to improve functionality.

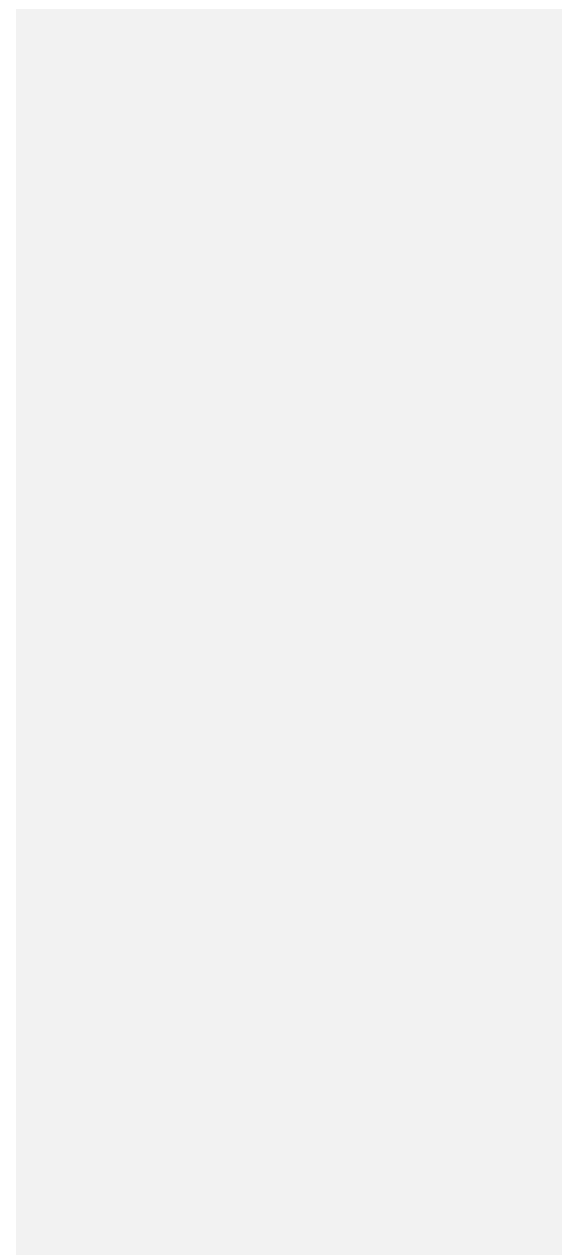
Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
	Wishing Pool circuit (Eungella National Park, MHGW)	Class 4  LCS 3	Class 4  LCS 3	Walking track 1.7km return. PAOT <15. Maximum unmanaged group size <6. Suitable for experienced and self-reliant bushwalkers.	Walking track 1.7km return. PAOT <15. Maximum unmanaged group size <6. Suitable for experienced and self-reliant bushwalkers.	<p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A short walk through rainforest, offering reflections in Broken River. Suitable for more experienced bushwalkers. <p>Commercial conditions of use: Considered activities: bushwalking, nature observation, photography, sightseeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. Commercial groups up to 15 PAOT. No more than 1 commercial operation accessing the trail on any one day. Commercial access on week days only. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes or natural disaster events. <p>Organised event conditions of use: Considered activities: bushwalking, nature observation, photography, sightseeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. The maximum organised group size of 30 (including school groups), must be broken into smaller groups no larger than 15 (including teacher/s). No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes or natural disaster events. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes or natural disaster events.
	Peases lookout (Eungella National Park)	Medium  LSC 4-5	Medium  LSC 4-5	Lookout. PAOT <20. Managed group size <15. Timber lookout with seating.	Lookout. PAOT <20. Managed group size <15. Timber lookout with seating.	<p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lookout with sweeping views of the Pioneer Valley. Opportunities for landscape photography/viewing and bird watching. <p>Commercial and organised event conditions: Considered activities: nature observation, photography, sightseeing, nature-based organised events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted.

Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
Zone 2	Credition Creek track (Eungella National Park, MHGW)	Class 4	Class 4	Walking track. 8km one way. PAOT <6.	Walking track. 8km one way. PAOT <6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A maximum group size up to 30 PAOT, must be broken into smaller groups of 15 or less to avoid congestion at the lookout. No more than 1 commercial operation of the same type or one organised event accessing the lookout at any one time. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes or natural disaster events. <p>FIT conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes or natural disaster events. <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trim vegetation as required to maintain panoramic views from the lookout. <p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-remote bushwalking along a formed trail next to Broken River. Suitable for experienced and self-reliant bushwalkers. <p>Commercial conditions of use:</p> <p>Considered activities: bushwalking, nature observation, photography, sightseeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. Small groups up to 6 PAOT. No more than 1 commercial operation accessing the trail on any one day. No more than 1 commercial activity per week. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes or natural disaster events. <p>Organised events conditions of use:</p> <p>Considered activities: bushwalking, trail running, nature observation, photography, sightseeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. Maximum size of organised event is 50, with staged starting times. No more than one larger scale organised walking or running event per year.
		LCS 3	LCS 3	Maximum unmanaged group size <6. Visitors are informed of the high level of self-reliance, fitness and experience required.	Maximum unmanaged group size <6. No visitor facilities or infrastructure provided. Use to remain as semi-remote area walking experience. Future use not expected to rise significantly.	

Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
Zone 1	Semi-remote section	Class 6  LSC 3	Class 6  LSC 3	Off-track remote bushwalking. PAOT <6. Maximum unmanaged group size <6. Suitable for experienced and self-reliant bushwalkers. Visitors are informed of the high level of fitness and experience required.	Off-track remote bushwalking. PAOT <6. Maximum unmanaged group size <6. Managed primarily for nature conservation and the protection of key values. Retain as a remote area bushwalking experience, with no visitor facilities or infrastructure provided. Future use is not expected to rise significantly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes or natural disaster events. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. May be closed at any time for management purposes or natural disaster events. <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasise use of minimal impact bushwalking practices. Monitor levels of use. Incorporate messaging regarding fallen trees and other obstacles likely to be encountered in pre-visit publications. Inspect track every 2 months (6 times per year). <p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote, self-sufficient hiking for experienced, fit and self-reliant bushwalkers. A predominantly natural setting. <p>Commercial and organised event conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No commercial or organised events permitted. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. Small groups up to 6 PAOT. May be closed at any time for management purposes or natural disaster events. <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasise use of minimal impact bushwalking practices, particularly regarding weed hygiene and pathogens.
	Highly remote areas	Class 6  LCS 1-2	Class 6  LCS 1-2	Off-track remote bushwalking. PAOT <6. Maximum unmanaged group size <6. Visitors are informed of the high	Off-track remote bushwalking. PAOT <6. Maximum unmanaged group size <6. Managed primarily for nature conservation	<p>Recreation opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote, self-sufficient hike for experienced, fit and self-reliant bushwalkers. A predominantly natural experience. <p>Commercial and organised event conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No commercial or organised events permitted. <p>FIT conditions of use:</p>

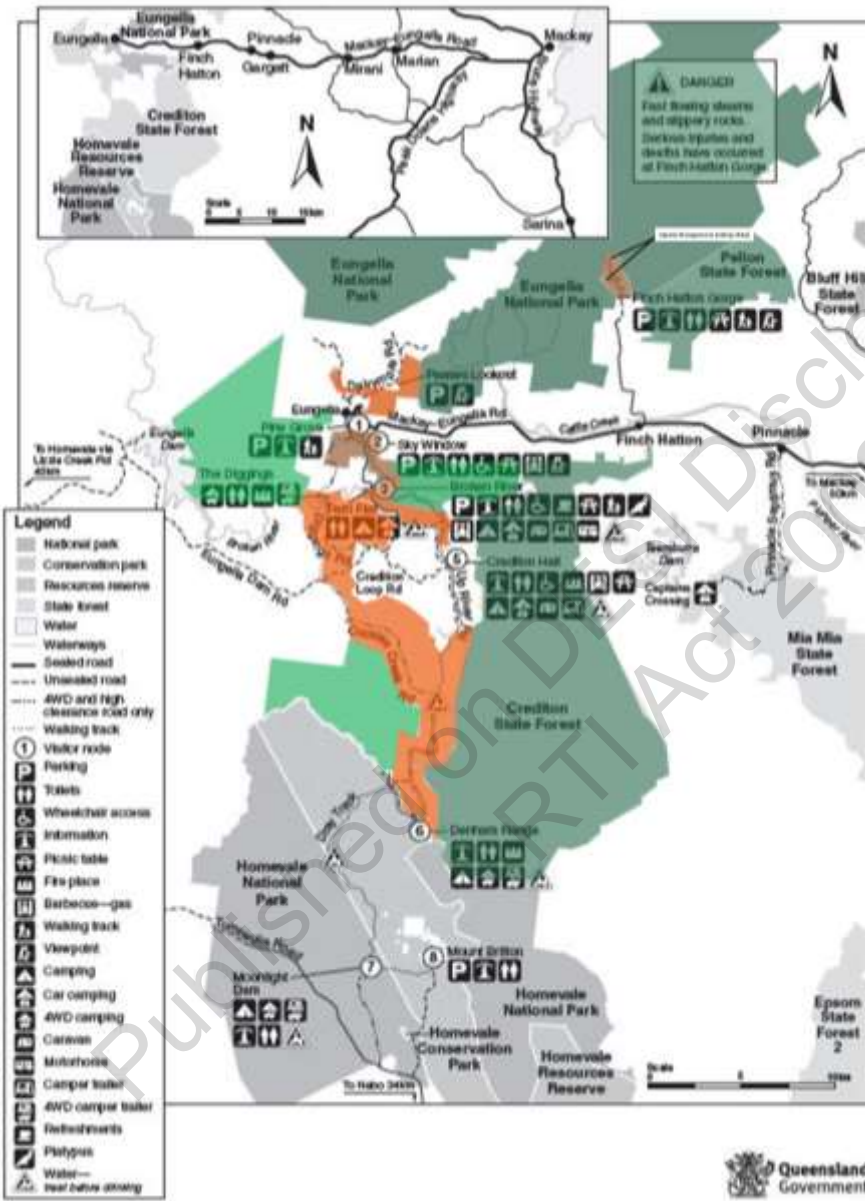
Zone	Site name	Existing LoS and LCS	Desired LoS and LCS	Current site use (PAOT, Max.)	Future site use	Recreation opportunity and conditions of use
				level of fitness and experience required.	and the protection of key values. Retain as a remote area bushwalking experience, with no visitor facilities or infrastructure provided. Future use is not expected to rise significantly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping or campfires permitted. No mountain bike or other wheeled access permitted. Small groups up to 6 PAOT. May be closed at any time for management purposes or natural disaster events. <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasise use of minimal impact bushwalking practices, particularly regarding weed hygiene and pathogens.

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Map 1. Eungella National Park and Crediton State Forest visitor management zones

Commented [MA1]: This zoning map is accurate and is being used as a placeholder while Spatial Services develops a more polished version.











4. Appendices

Appendix 1. Key to visitor management zone definitions

Zone	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Special Management Setting
Zone description	A totally, or almost totally natural landscape, with minimal evidence of modern human activity. Usually large remote areas.	Predominantly natural landscape with only minor disturbance. Inconspicuous evidence of modern human activity in small limited areas.	Predominantly natural landscape with some disturbed areas; human activity apparent at small sites.	Mostly natural areas, but with disturbance and high levels of human activity apparent at some sites at some times.	Modified immediate environment but with rural, natural or semi-urban background. Human activity is primary intent of site.	Special management settings are applied to areas that have special values, opportunities or management issues, to enhance visitor experience, ensure visitor safety or protect key values.
General visitor experience	Totally self-reliant visitor experience in wilderness setting. High degree of isolation and sense of solitude. Very high level of outdoor skills required.	Highly self-reliant visitor experience in very natural area. Frequent opportunities for sense of solitude. High level of outdoor skills required.	Degree of self-reliance required in predominantly natural setting. Sense of isolation and solitude moderate to low. Moderate level of outdoor skill required.	Infrequent opportunities for solitude. Encounters with others frequent. Sites managed for visitor safety and comfort. Low level of outdoor skills required.	Semi-urban recreation experience with no opportunity for solitude. Encounters with individuals and groups constant. Site may be crowded at peak times. No outdoor skills required.	
LCS* (upper limit)	LCS 3	LCS 4	LCS 5	LCS 6	LCS 7	
Suggested group sizes	LoS PAOT Range Very small Managed group size: <6	LoS PAOT Range Very small to small Managed group size: <15	LoS PAOT Range Very small to medium Managed group size: <25	LoS PAOT Range Very small to large Managed group size: <50	LoS PAOT Range Very small to very large Managed group size: <75	
Site capacity class	Very small 1-10 PAOT	Small 11-20 PAOT	Medium 21-50 PAOT	Large 51-150 PAOT	Very large >151 PAOT	

* Notes the equivalent Landscape Classification System's (LCS) represented in the Visitor Management Zone.
LoS - Level of Service. PAOT - Persons at one time.

Appendix 2. Key to shared-trail definitions

<p>Site level of service</p>	 <p>Bronze Relatively common opportunities in modest demand with limited associated experiences and few (if any) basic facilities (high self-sufficiency).</p>	 <p>Silver Regionally significant opportunities in popular demand with some attractive associated experiences and modest facilities (may include vault, composting and hybrid toilets, water, picnic tables, basic interpretation).</p>	 <p>Gold High-quality opportunities in high demand with many attractive associated experiences and developed facilities (may include vault, composting, hybrid and flush toilets, showers, BBQs, covered picnic areas, extensive interpretation).</p>	 <p>Platinum Exclusive (nationally unique) opportunities with outstanding site quality associated opportunities and well developed facilities (private composting, hybrid and flush toilets, hot showers, kitchen, personal interpretation). Often operated by private partners, market-based pricing.</p>		
<p>Shared-trail level of service for maintenance</p>	 <p>Bronze Maintenance intervention is minimal, of acceptable quality and enough to ensure tracks are safe and free of major foreseeable hazards; and keep most tracks available for use in normal circumstances. Maintenance standards will be acceptable to client expectations.</p>	 <p>Silver Maintenance provides good quality presentation of park features through good visitor access, visitor facilities, vegetation and environmental management of the tracks. Maintenance intervention is routine, good quality and enough to ensure the site is safe and free of major foreseeable hazards; and keep most tracks available for use in most circumstances. Maintenance standards will adequately meet client expectations.</p>	 <p>Gold Maintenance provides high quality presentation of the park features through high level visitor access, visitor facilities and vegetation and environmental management of the tracks. Maintenance intervention is frequent, good quality and enough to ensure tracks are safe and free of most foreseeable hazards; and keep all tracks available for use in most circumstances. Maintenance standards will easily meet client expectations.</p>	 <p>Platinum Maintenance provides outstanding and ageless presentation of the park features through unsurpassed visitor access, visitor facilities and vegetation and environmental management of the tracks. Maintenance is well planned and responsive, of high quality and aimed at ensuring the tracks are safe and free of all foreseeable hazards; and keep all tracks available in all but exceptional circumstances. Maintenance standards will exceed client expectations.</p>		
<p>Walking track classification[^]</p> <p>[^] AUS Standards ^{**} Grades are in accordance with the AS1428 series for wheelchair access</p>	<p>Class 1** Opportunity for large numbers of visitors, including those with reduced mobility, to undertake walks that are provided with a high level of interpretation and facilities. Users can expect abundant opportunities to learn about the natural environment through interpretive signs or brochures. Users can expect frequent encounters with others.</p>	<p>Class 2 Opportunity for large numbers of visitors to walk easily in natural environments that are provided with a moderate to high level of interpretation and facilities. Users can expect to learn about the natural environment with moderate to abundant opportunities to learn through interpretive signs or brochures. Users can expect frequent encounters with others.</p>	<p>Class 3 Opportunity for visitors to walk in slightly modified natural environments requiring a moderate level of fitness and where the provision of interpretation and facilities is not common. Users can expect opportunities to observe and appreciate the natural environment with limited provision of interpretive signage. Users can expect occasional encounters with others.</p>	<p>Class 4 Opportunity for visitors to explore and discover relatively undisturbed natural environments along defined and distinct tracks with minimal (if any) facilities. Users can expect opportunities to observe and appreciate the natural environment without provision of interpretive signage. Users can expect opportunities for solitude with few encounters with others.</p>	<p>Class 5 Opportunity for visitors with advanced outdoor knowledge and skills to find their own way along often-indistinct tracks in remote locations. Users can expect frequent opportunities for solitude with few encounters with others.</p>	<p>Class 6 Opportunity for highly experienced walkers to explore remote and challenging natural areas without reliance on managed tracks. Users can expect extended periods of solitude with few encounters with others.</p>

Appendix 3. Glossary

Interpreting key VBMF concepts

Adaptive management	The process of adjusting and improving how we manage parks, forests and reserves after assessing the outcomes of previous strategies and on-ground actions.
Condition and trend	The condition of a key value is assessed as either good, good with some concern, significant concern or critical. Trend describes what is happening to the condition: is it improving, stable, or deteriorating. A key value's current condition is determined during the planning process. A desired condition is a realistic goal for the future condition of the key value. The ongoing condition of key values is assessed with regular health checks, monitoring and scientific assessment.
Custodial/management obligations	The requirements in legislation and government policies that we, as the land management agency, have to ensure QPWS's parks, forests and reserves are lawfully managed and good neighbours. Management provides for the protection of life and property, biosecurity and positive relationships with adjacent communities and landholders, as well as enhancing and protecting our values.
Desired outcome	A statement in the key value and management direction statements about moving from the current status (condition or LoS) to a desired status. The goal for management.
Health check	Basic form of monitoring that uses indicators and visual assessments to regularly evaluate the condition of key values. Regular health checks ensure QPWS can respond quickly to adverse change and redirect management priorities.
Key value	A natural, cultural, and/or social value that is of most significance to that area. It is what makes the area special and if lost, would diminish what makes the area distinct from others.
Key value statement	A statement in the management plan/statement that is developed for each key value. It describes the key value, current condition, desired condition, current threats and threat ratings, strategic management direction and priorities for further thematic strategy planning and on-ground management action.
Level of service (LoS)	A planning tool used to identify the acceptable management standard, or level of resourcing that is required to maintain an area based on its values, threats and the complexity of management. There are five LoS ratings ranging from 'acceptable' to 'exceptional' noting that an acceptable rating is the minimum standard required to deliver good management and meet our custodial obligations under law as a land manager. A 'current' LoS rating is the level at the time of planning, the 'desired' LoS is where we want to be.
Management direction	How we manage each management theme to protect and enhance our key values and meet our custodial management obligations.
Management direction statement	A statement in the management plan/statement, developed for each management theme that describes the current LoS, desired LoS, custodial obligations, strategic management direction and priorities for further thematic strategy planning and on-ground management action.
Management theme	QPWS has identified a number of management themes that are common to most of the parks, forests and reserves in our estate: fire management; pest management; natural values management; historic cultural heritage management; visitor management; community, partnerships and other interests; field management capability; operational planning and management support.
Management instrument	A management plan or management statement.
Priority rating (key value SMDs)	A rating given to a strategic management direction according to the need for action to prevent further decline, stabilise current condition, or restore and enhance values, with consideration given to legislative obligations, cost, social, economic and political factors. Critical (1) Loss or very significant decline in the condition of key value/s is highly likely if action not taken OR significant improvement in the condition of key value/s is highly likely if action is taken. Very high (2) - Significant decline in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is not taken OR significant improvement in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is taken. High (3) -Decline in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is not taken OR improvement in the condition of key value/s is likely if action is taken. Moderate (4) -Some decline in the condition of key value/s is possible if action is not taken OR some improvement in the condition of key value/s is possible if action is taken. Desirable (5) - While decline in the condition of key value/s is not likely in the short term, the action, if taken would help build long-term resilience of key value/s.
Priority rating (LoS SMDs)	A rating given to a LoS or custodial obligation strategic management direction. A scale from 1 (extremely urgent) – 5 (not urgent or optional) is assigned, with consideration given to legislative obligations, cost, social, economic and political factors.
Strategic management direction	A broad strategy aimed at mitigating or removing a threat to a key value and maintaining or improving the condition of a park's value; or addressing the gap between the current LoS and desired LoS for a management theme.
Threat or threatening process and threat rating	Based on IUCN's classifications, QPWS has identified threatening processes that have the potential to affect Queensland's values (e.g. natural systems modifications, invasive species etc.). Current threats to key values are identified and given a threat rating based on a combination of the extent of the impact, the severity of the impact, and the urgency of action.

Visitor concepts

Commercial tour operator (CTO)	Means the company, individual/s approved by QPWS to conduct commercial tourism activities in a specified QPWS managed area.
Group size	Means the number of people arriving together in an organised manner, for example, a bus arriving with 50 people is a group size of 50.
Persons at one time (PAOT)	The measure of visitor load on a site at any one time, for example, the total number of visitors there at lunchtime. PAOT is usually a measure as the number of visitors in one hectare or at a site.
Sustainable Visitor Capacity (SVC)	The type and level of use a site can support over a given time period without causing excessive damage to the sites' physical environment and cultural values or diminishing the quality of the users' recreation experience.
Visitor	Anyone who visits a park, forest, reserve for recreational experience and educational purposes rather than enjoyment.
Visitor impacts	A measure of how a visitor changes the physical, biological, cultural, social and managerial characteristics of a site. Impacts include soil compaction, polluting water bodies, trampling vegetation and raising the noise level at a site. Managers determine what types of changes and how much change is acceptable, and what is unacceptable, and define indicators that will warn when the limits are being approached.
Walking track class	The class of a walking track as defined in AS 2156.1.

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