

Washpool National Park



MAINLAND ISLAND CHARACTERISTICS

Jurisdiction	New South Wales
NRM Region	Northern Rivers
LGAs	Clarence Valley Glen Innes Severn Shire Tenterfield
Size	50, 000 hectares
Dominant Type	Eucalypt tall open forests
Land Tenure	World Heritage Area National Park Limited private landholdings
Surrounding Issues	Pest density Weed density

Overall Priority	Conservation Value	Threat Status
Very High	Very High	Medium

Key Biodiversity Values

Key biodiversity and conservation values of WASHPOOL NATIONAL PARK

- 18 threatened species
- 1 threatened community
- 7 migratory species
- Very high species richness
- Very high endemism
- Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area
- Gondwana rainforests of Australia National/Commonwealth Heritage Place
- Native vegetation present
- Vertebrate pest species present

CONSERVATION VALUE

Categories	Ranks/Scores
1 Biodiversity values	Very High (16)
2 Uniqueness	Very High (4)
3 Representativeness	Medium (2)
4 Adjacency	High (3)
5 Area to perimeter ratio	High (3)

THREAT STATUS

Categories	Ranks/Scores
1 Density of pest species	High (6)
2 Pest impact level	High (3)
3 Invasion fronts/range boundaries	Very High (4)
4 Land use risk	Low (2)
5 Weed density	Very High (4)
6 Area without statutory protection	Low (1)



Key Threats and Impacts

Pest Species Present or Potentially Present

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cane toad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral cat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral pig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rodents
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carp, European carp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral water buffalo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tilapia, Mozambique Tilapia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European red fox	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral donkey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Indian Myna, Common Myna	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weather loach; Oriental weather loach
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European wild rabbit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral goat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mosquito fish, Plague Minnow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wild dog
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral camel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral horse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red-eared slider turtle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Potential impacts of pest species on matters of National Environmental Significance

Feral cat <i>Apus pacificus</i> <i>Petrogale penicillata</i> <i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i>	<i>Pseudomys oralis</i> <i>Turnix melanogaster</i>	European red fox <i>Merops ornatus</i> <i>Petrogale penicillata</i> <i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i>	<i>Pseudomys oralis</i> <i>Rostratula australis</i> <i>Turnix melanogaster</i>
Feral deer <i>Cynanchum elegans</i>		Feral pig <i>Cynanchum elegans</i> White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland	<i>Turnix melanogaster</i>
Wild dog <i>Merops ornatus</i> <i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i>	<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	European wild rabbit <i>Cynanchum elegans</i> <i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	<i>Thesium australe</i>
Mosquito fish, Plague Minnow <i>Mixophyes balbus</i>			

Other threatening processes

- Situated on pest invasion front / range boundary
- High density of Weeds of National Significance

Highest priority biodiversity issues

Pest impacts on *Petrogale penicillata*

Pest management actions listed in recovery plan for *Pseudomys oralis*

Impacts of wild dogs, foxes and goats (see below)



CRITICAL SYNOPSIS OF VERTEBRATE PEST MANAGEMENT REGIME

Need for vertebrate pest management	<p>Management of vertebrate pests is required in order to protect and conserve the natural heritage values of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area in order to meet Australia's international obligations as a signatory nation to the World Heritage Convention. Management is further required to ensure the Australian World Heritage management principles are met as prescribed under the <i>Environment Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p> <p>Private and public land managers have a legal obligation to control pest animal species under the <i>Rural Lands Protection Act 1998</i> (RLP Act). National Parks and Wildlife Service are also obligated to manage the Washpool National Park as required by the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>.</p> <p>Foxes, goats and wild dogs are considered significant pests requiring control measures within the Washpool National Park (NPWS, 2005).</p>
Planning instruments	<p>The following management plans and policies are relevant to the management of vertebrate pests within the Washpool National Park mainland island:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Heritage Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves Strategic Overview for Management (DEH 2000) Gibraltar Range Group of Parks (Incorporating Barool, Capoompetta, Gibraltar Range, Nymboida and Washpool National Parks and Nymboida and Washpool State Conservation Areas) Plan of Management (NPWS, 2005)
Management actions	<p>The following pest animal management measures are identified in the Gibraltar Range Group of Parks Plan of Management;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a pest species management plan for the control of pest animals. Implementation of control programs for wild dogs, feral pigs, goats, deer, foxes, cats and rabbits. Assist in the preparation and implementation of a local wild dog management plan in accordance with the RLP Act.
Monitoring regimes	<p>Monitoring regimes undertaken in the Washpool National Park and surrounding area include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radio tracking of the Parma wallaby (<i>Macropus parma</i>) by UNE PHD student in Barool National Park, Gibraltar Range National Park and Washpool National Park (DECC, 2005) Monitoring of the occurrence of pest species within the Park <p>The Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia: A Monitoring Strategy (Chester & Bushnell, 2005) details monitoring programs undertaken within Washpool National Park and the broader World Heritage Area. The report recommends monitoring regimes which should be undertaken within this area, including monitoring of pest animal species.</p>
Management responsibility	<p>Department of Environment and Climate Change National Parks and Wildlife Service Private landholders</p>
Cost-benefit analysis	<p>The NSW Invasive Species Plan highlights that pest management will be prioritized in areas where it provides the best cost to benefit ration in protecting biodiversity, productivity and community most threatened by invasive species.</p>
Special features	<p>Collaboration with university students in monitoring.</p>
Summary / comments	<p>Within the Washpool National Park mainland island, pest management appears to be well managed with monitoring regimes in place.</p>

References:

Chester, G. and Bushnell, S. (Eds) (2005) Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia: A Monitoring Strategy. Department of Environment and Conservation and Queensland Environmental Protection Agency, New South Wales. http://www.jcu.edu.au/rainforest/publications/cerra_monitoring.pdf

DEH (2000) *World Heritage Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia. Strategic Overview for Management*. Department of Environment and Heritage.

Department of Environment and Climate Change (2005) Department of Environment and Climate Change. Viewed 2 June 2009. http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/pas_speciestype_details.aspx?type=Marsupials&kingdom=Animal

National Parks and Wildlife Service (2005) Gibraltar Range Group of Parks (Incorporating Barool, Capoompeta, Gibraltar Range, Nymboida and Washpool National Parks and Nymboida and Washpool State Conservation Areas) Plan of Management. Department of Environment and Conservation, New South Wales. <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/parks/PoMGibraltarRange.pdf>

