

Working at Eungella

Management structure

Eungella National Park is located 80km west of Mackay in an area referred to as the Mackay Highlands. The park is managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service & Partnerships (QPWS&P) Division of the Department of Environment and Science (DES), which is responsible for managing national parks and state forests within Queensland.

Daily management of the area is delivered from the Eungella ranger base located 5km from the town of Eungella.

QPWS&P's operational teams at the Eungella ranger base are responsible for day-to-day delivery of park management services including visitor management, walking track development and maintenance, fire and weed management, assets and infrastructure management and emergency response.

Teams have a diverse and interesting work program, which includes providing support for adjacent ranger bases at Clermont and Mackay.

Working conditions

Shift arrangements

Eungella rangers work a five days on, two days off roster from Monday to Friday. This is subject to change and operational need.

Allowances are provided for weekend work if required.

Accommodation

There is limited accommodation on-park with most staff having to find private accommodation.

For further information regarding private accommodation, refer to the 'Location Guide'.

General information

Eungella National Park is a unique and high profile location. Rangers in uniform are in the public eye and represent a 'face' for the department. It is essential that staff have neat uniforms and are well-groomed at all times. Rangers must be polite, professional and courteous in their interactions with the public. It is a requirement that rangers wear the uniform provided.

QPWS&P staff are often required to respond in the event of medical emergencies, vehicle accidents,

search and rescues and wildfire outbreaks. Rangers may also assist other agencies with incidents or emergencies.



Rainforest, Eungella National Park. Photo: Tourism and Events Queensland

Work health and safety is a significant priority for staff at Eungella. Rangers are required to understand and follow departmental work health and safety policies and procedures and uphold safe work practices when working alone, with other departmental staff, or with volunteers and members of the public.

The operational requirements of working as a ranger at Eungella include regular work away from the base and camping outdoors. For this reason, an awareness of remote area operations is essential.

Some rangers at Eungella are required to hold a weapons licence or have the ability to acquire a weapons licence to assist in wildlife and pest management. Rangers may be required to use a weapon to euthanise wildlife and/or pest animals.

Training of rangers is important to QPWS&P. Appropriate training is provided to designated rangers so they can obtain and manage relevant competencies and licences. It is expected that when staff are nominated for training they will attend and participate to the best of their ability to achieve a successful outcome. Training may include the application of chemicals, use of plant equipment and implementation of the Australian Inter-service Incident Management System for emergency response.



Eungella National Park. Photo: Tourism and Events Queensland

Further information

Rangers are required to work across several focus areas in times of operational need. The main outcomes of each are as follows:

Pest management

Pest management responsibilities include:

- co-operatively managing the ecological, social and economic impacts of current and potential pests on QPWS&P managed estate
- ensuring that pest management on QPWS&P managed areas is aligned with State government and departmental policies, and is properly planned and executed to produce tangible long-term outcomes
- wildlife management, including addressing problematic or dangerous wildlife in public use areas, trapping, containment and release of wildlife and collecting and entering data from field work
- some pest management control methods including:
 - plant pest management—monitoring, spraying chemicals, physical containment and removal of species
 - pest animal management—monitoring, trapping, baiting and shooting.

Fire management

Fire management responsibilities include:

- managing and responding to fires on, and where appropriate, near its managed areas, to minimise the risk of adverse effects of fire on human life, property, sustainable resource production, community assets, environmental and cultural values
- undertaking fire management, including planned burning operations and firebreaks.

Estate management

Estate management responsibilities include:

- developing and implementing strategic plans, management plans and management statements
- developing plans for natural resource

management and undertaking assessments, monitoring and research

- implementing Indigenous joint management plans and agreements
- managing partnerships for parks and forests including intergovernmental arrangements.

Visitor management

Visitor management responsibilities include:

- interacting with the public to promote tourism and recreational use of QPWS&P managed estate
- managing visitor facilities such as walking tracks, camping and day use areas and ensuring cleanliness
- developing and delivering interpretive programs to inform and educate park and forest users
- conducting compliance activities.

Asset and safety management

Asset and safety management responsibilities include:

- planning and delivering capital infrastructure projects within budget and timeframes
- maintaining management infrastructure such as ranger bases, workshops and fire trails
- managing and operating vehicle fleet, heavy plant and minor plant and equipment
- managing a safe workplace
- assisting with construction and maintenance duties (e.g. erecting signage, cleaning and maintaining facilities and equipment).

Other duties

Other duties may include:

- administrative duties such as compiling and maintaining reports and records and the procurement of goods and services using computers and technology
- managing and monitoring of platypi and visitors at Broken River

Working as a ranger at Eungella is a rewarding and challenging career.

For more information, search for any of the parks listed in this information sheet on the DES website www.des.qld.gov.au