

# EUCALYPT

## VEGETATION TYPE 3

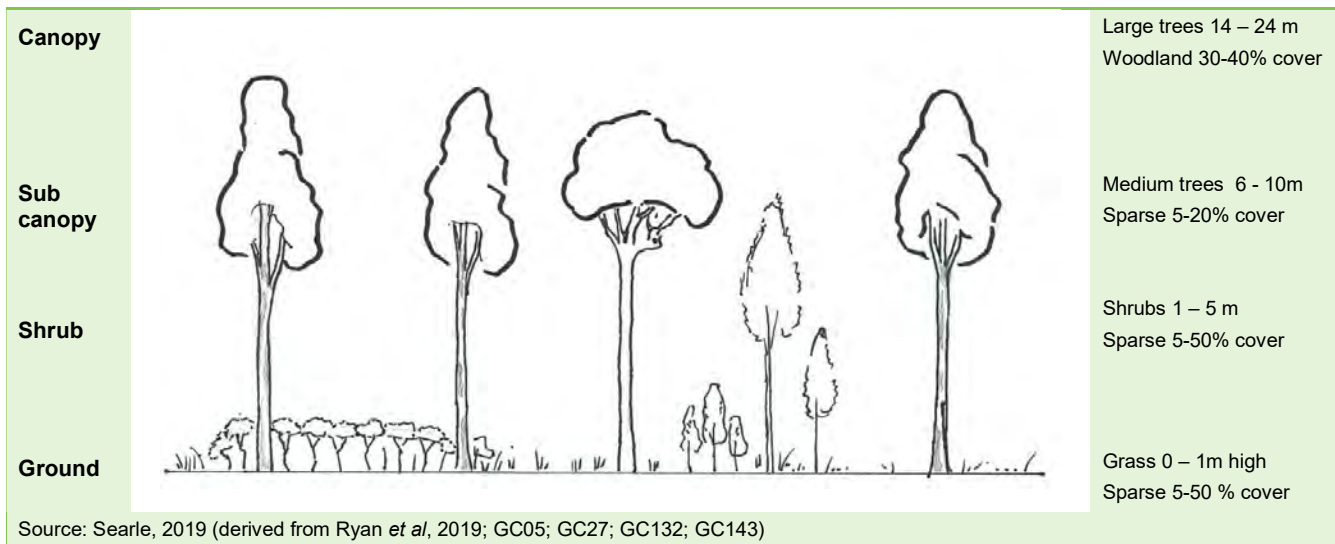
Regional Ecosystem: 12.11.27

Narrow-leaved Red Gum - Pink Bloodwood  
 +/- Grey Ironbark (*Eucalyptus seeana* -  
*Corymbia intermedia* +/- *E. siderophloia*)  
 Woodland on Metasediments



## COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

Vegetation type (VT) 3 is typically a woodland with an open canopy (30-40% cover) shading underlying plants, Narrow-leaved Red Gum (*Eucalyptus seeana*) typically as the dominant canopy tree, often together with lower numbers of Pink Bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*) and/or Grey Ironbark (*E. siderophloia*). A sparse lower tree layer is also present, typically including Black She-oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*), Swamp Box (*Lophostemon suaveolens*) and/or Red Ash (*Alphitonia excelsa*).



The shrub layer is often sparse and comprised mainly of wattles (*Acacia concurrens*, *A. disparrima*) and Red Ash (*A. excelsa*), although a dense shrub layer of Prickly-leaved Paperbark (*Melaleuca nodosa*) is characteristic in some areas. The ground cover is dominated by grasses.

# Characteristic plant species

Approximately **67 native plants** species have been recorded for this vegetation type. Characteristic plant species for this vegetation type are listed below. Dominant (most numerous) species are shaded.



Indicates species is a preferred koala food tree\*



Indicates species is a Glossy Black-Cockatoo feed tree species



Indicates species is a City-wide significant species

\* It is noted that in addition to preferred food trees, koalas utilise a range of eucalypt and non-eucalypt tree species for supplemental feeding and other uses such as shelter. These other species are also important and necessary features of koala habitat.

## CANOPY

Upper layer of vegetation exposed to sunlight which creates a canopy that shades lower layers



**Narrow-leaved Red Gum**  
*Eucalyptus seeana*



**Pink Bloodwood**  
*Corymbia intermedia*



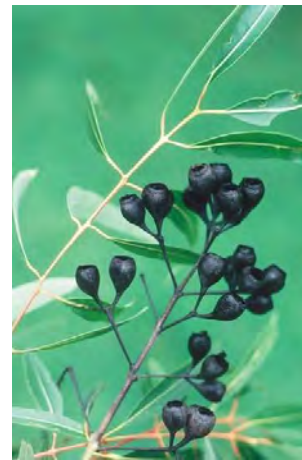
**Grey Ironbark**  
*Eucalyptus siderophloia*



**Black She-Oak**  
*Allocasuarina littoralis*



**Smooth-barked Apple**  
*Angophora leiocarpa*



## SUB-CANOPY

Tree layer below canopy



**Black She-Oak**

*Allocasuarina littoralis*



**Swamp Box**

*Lophostemon suaveolens*



**Soap Tree/Red Ash**

*Alphitonia excelsa*



**Supple Jack**

*Cyclophyllum coprosmoides*



**Black Wattle**

*Acacia concurrens*

## SHRUB LAYER

Middle layer of vegetation usually made up of small trees (including juvenile canopy and sub canopy tree species) and woody shrubs



**Prickly-leaved Paperbark**  
*Melaleuca nodosa*



**Black Wattle**  
*Acacia concurrens*



**Soap Tree/Red Ash**  
*Alphitonia excelsa*



**Hickory Wattle**  
*Acacia disparrima subsp. disparrima*



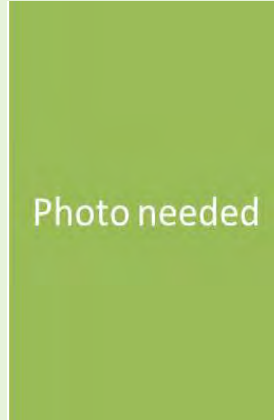
**Swamp Box**  
*Lophostemon suaveolens*

## GROUND LAYER AND VINES

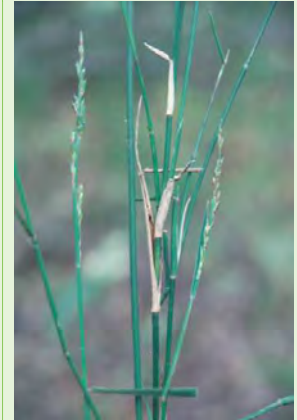
Lowest layer of vegetation. Plant types can include grasses; graminoids (non-woody plants with a grass-like morphology); ferns; and forbs (non-woody, broad-leaved, flowering plants) and vines which may extend upwards into the canopy.



**Blady Grass**  
*Imperata cylindrica*  
GRASS



**Small-flowered Fingergrass**  
*Digitaria parviflora*  
GRASS (TUSSOCK)



**Wiry Panic**  
*Entolasia stricta*  
GRASS (TUSSOCK)



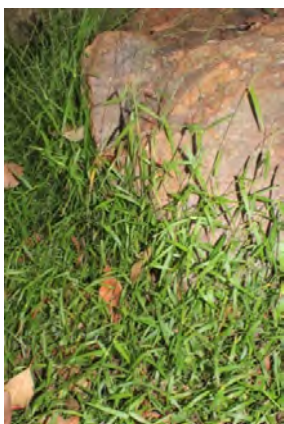
**Weeping Grass**  
*Microlaena stipoides*  
GRASS (TUSSOCK)



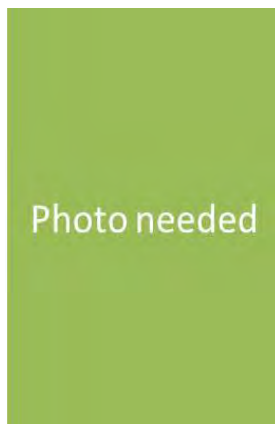
**Poverty Grass**  
*Eremochloa bimaculata*  
GRASS



**Variable Sword-sedge**  
*Lepidosperma laterale*  
GRAMINOID (SEDGE)



**Graceful / Pademelon Grass**  
*Ottochloa gracillima*  
GRASS



**Hairy Panic**  
*Panicum effusum*  
GRASS



**Broad-leaved Mat Rush**  
*Lomandra laxa*  
GRAMINOID



**Barbwire Grass**  
*Cymbopogon refractus*  
GRASS

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## City-wide significant plant species



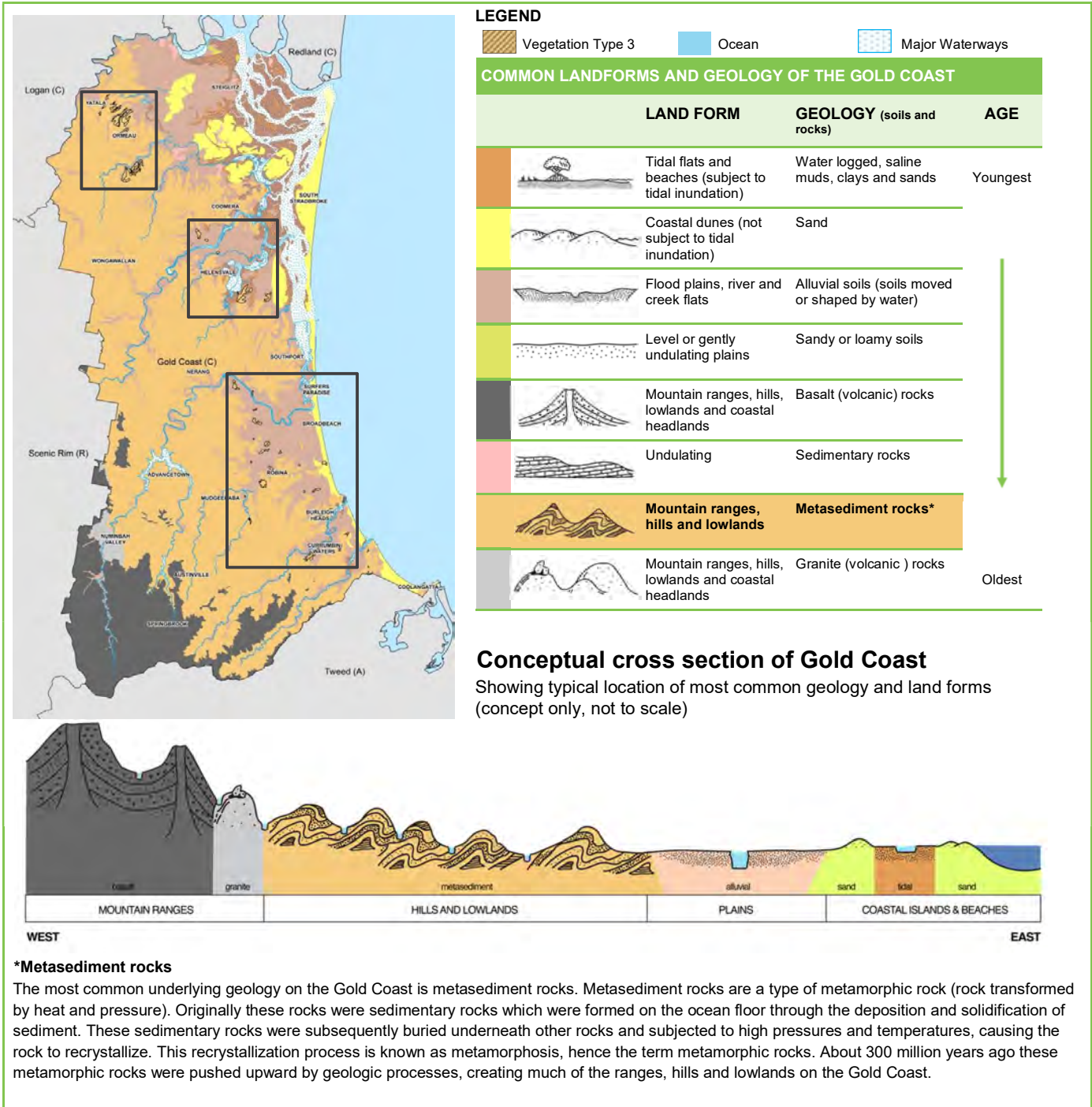
The City of Gold Coast recognises species which are locally significant as City Wide Significant (CWS) species. These species are important because they may be threatened, restricted to the Gold Coast, or at the edge of their geographic range. No City Wide Significant plant species have been identified in this vegetation type.

## OCCURRENCE

Native plants occur in vegetation communities, which are consistently associated with a particular soil type, landform (shape of the land, e.g. hills or plains) aspect (position on a slope in relation to the sun) and climate.

Narrow-leaved Red Gum-Pink Bloodwood Woodland on metasediments typically occurs on low, eastern foot slopes of coastal hills, at or near the margins of adjoining floodplains of the coastal lowlands. Soils are moderately fertile loams with considerable organic content. It often forms a narrow band of vegetation on low slopes, particularly in the northern half of Gold Coast City, immediately upslope from areas cleared for cane farming, and merges into other more dominant vegetation types upslope where low rolling hills begin to occur to the west (i.e. VT1 and VT4; Mixed Stringybark woodland and Spotted Gum/Ironbark woodland respectively). Common localities include Eagleby, Waterford, Yatala, Pimpama, Coomera and Helensvale/Gaven. This vegetation type also occurs on the northern floodplain of the Logan River outside the City area.

## Historic distribution of Vegetation Type 3



## 2017 EXTENT AND CONSERVATION STATUS

### Gold Coast

Narrow-leaved Red Gum/Pink Bloodwood Open Forest has undergone extensive clearing in Gold Coast City, with only 5% of pre-clearing extent remaining. This is the third-greatest loss of extent of vegetation types in the area. The current extent\* of this vegetation type on the Gold Coast is 75 hectares.

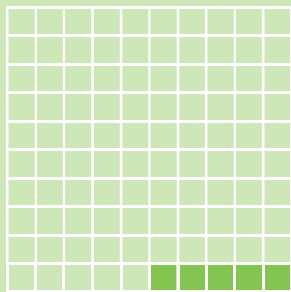
**1 HECTARE (HA) = 2.46 ACRES = THE SIZE OF AN INTERNATIONAL RUGBY FIELD**

#### EXTENT (ha)

Historic  
1,440ha

2017\*  
75ha

5% of  
historical  
extent



\* Extent as mapped in 2017. Includes remnant vegetation only. Does not include disturbed remnant or regrowth

### Queensland

The conservation status of vegetation in Queensland is specified under the Vegetation Management Act 1999, which lists this regional ecosystem (RE 12.11.27) as being of 'Endangered'.

#### LIKELIHOOD OF BECOMING EXTINCT (in QLD) due to biodiversity loss/degradation



## USEFUL RESOURCES

City of Gold Coast website: Environmental weeds and invasive plants.

Find out more about regional ecosystems at the Queensland Government Regional Ecosystems webpage.

## CREDITS

Content – ngh Environmental and Jason Searle.  
Vegetation Type Photo – Lui Weber ©  
Unless otherwise noted all other photos – Glenn Leiper ©

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## THREATS

Narrow-leaved Red Gum-Pink Bloodwood Woodland on metasediments has been subject to previous clearing for agricultural purposes, although still occurs in reasonable patches. These areas are generally on low slopes and gently undulating country, and are threatened with expanding urban and industrial development adjoining the Pacific Highway corridor. Clearing, fragmentation and gradual degradation are ongoing threats to the remaining patches of this vegetation type within Gold Coast City. Fire and weeds are additional threats requiring appropriate ongoing management.

### Common threats to all vegetation types

#### Clearing

Native vegetation is protected by Federal, State and local legislation. However, with increasing population growth in the region, Southeast Queensland is experiencing large amounts of vegetation clearing, particularly in areas designated for urban development. Protecting native vegetation on your property is one of the most beneficial things you can do to protect wildlife and the natural environment.

#### Weeds

Environmental weeds are the second biggest threat to our natural environment after land clearing. Environmental weeds (introduced plants that have naturalised and are invading our bushland) degrade our natural environment by:

- out competing native plant species for available nutrients and light,
- taking over and transforming native landscapes often leading to local plant or animal extinctions and loss of biodiversity,
- reducing the availability of food and other resources for many native animals whilst sometimes benefiting pest animals,
- increasing the risk of destructive wildfire,
- often being toxic to people and animals.

#### Fire

Very broadly, vegetation types are either adapted to fire or fire sensitive. Fire can become a threat if:

- it extends into vegetation types which should not be burnt e.g. rainforest,
- the frequency and/or intensity of the fire is too high,
- the area burnt is too large.

#### Grazing

The grazing of animals like cattle, horses, goats and feral animals such as deer can cause trampling or loss of diversity of seedlings and compact soil, preventing natural regeneration.

#### Collecting

Unethical and illegal collection of plant specimens in the wild poses a serious threat to some species, particularly orchids, grass trees and epiphytes.

#### Climate change

Changes in temperature and rainfall can have significant effects on our city's vegetation. For example, without consistent rainfall, areas become drier, potentially resulting in higher fire frequency and/or intensity, which some plants and vegetation communities won't be able to tolerate. Plants (and animals) need available space to migrate as conditions change, with high altitude species at the greatest risk as there is nowhere suitable for them to go. Warmer conditions may also provide the right habitat for a greater variety of weeds. As sea levels rise, salt water moves further upstream and vegetation also becomes inundated.