

EUCALYPT

Forests and woodlands



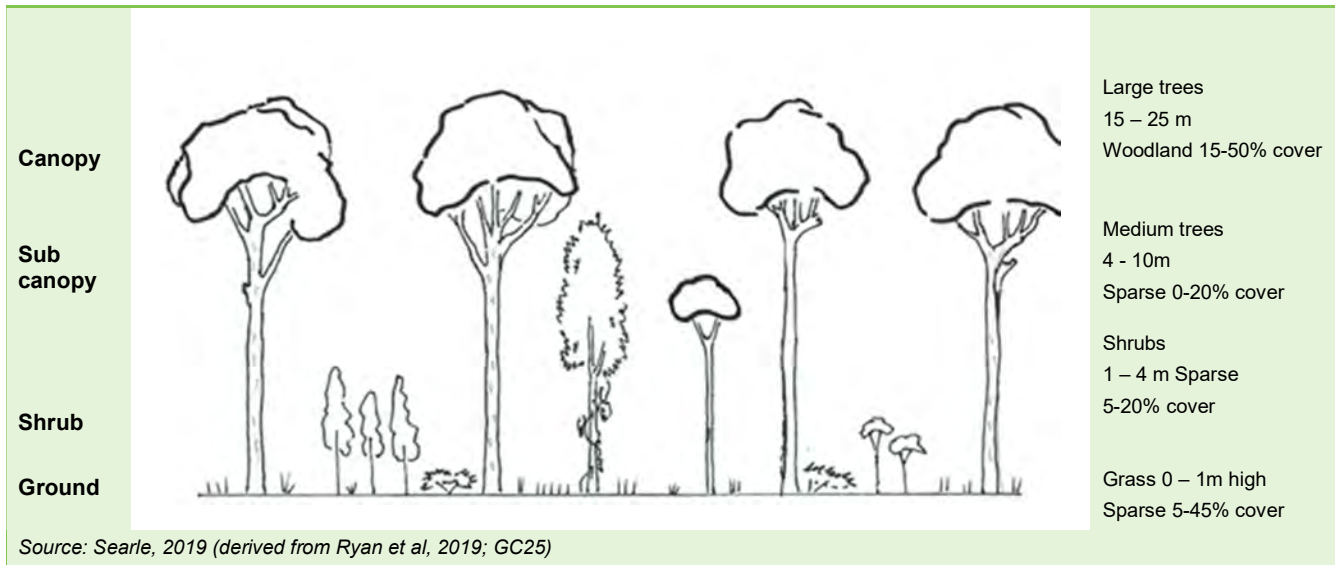
VEGETATION TYPE 3a

Regional Ecosystem: 12.9 – 10.4

Scribbly Gum - Pink Bloodwood (*Eucalyptus racemosa* - *Corymbia intermedia*) Woodland on Sedimentary Rocks

COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

Vegetation type (VT) 3a is a woodland with an open canopy (15-50% cover) shading underlying plants. Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus racemosa*) is the dominant and diagnostic canopy tree, often together with lower numbers of Pink Bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*). Swamp Box (*Lophostemon suaveolens*) or Broad-leaved Paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) are often present as isolated canopy trees, or more often as sub-canopy species with the often more numerous Black She-oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*).



The shrub layer is often sparse and comprised mainly of saplings of the higher trees present, together with Black Wattles (*Acacia concurrens*). The ground layer is dominated by a variety of native grasses, and may be sparse to mid-dense.

Characteristic plant species

Approximately **38 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



Scribbly Gum

Eucalyptus racemosa



Pink Bloodwood

Corymbia intermedia



Broad-leaved Paperbark

Melaleuca quinquenervia

SUB-CANOPY

Tree layer below canopy



Swamp Box

Lophostemon suaveolens



Black She-Oak

Allocasuarina littoralis



White Bottlebrush

Callistemon salignus
(also known as *Melaleuca salicina*)

SHRUB LAYER

Middle layer of vegetation usually made up of small trees and woody shrubs



Black Wattle

Acacia concurrens

GROUND LAYER AND VINES

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



Blady Grass

Imperata cylindrica

GRASS



Broad-leaved Mat Rush

Lomandra laxa

GRAMINOID

GROUND LAYER AND VINES

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



Graceful / Pademelon Grass
Ottocloa gracillima
GRASS



Common Silkpod
Parsonsia straminea
VINE



Wiry Panic
Entolasia stricta
GRASS (TUSSOCK)

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. In addition to characteristic species identified above as CWS species, the following CWS plant species may also be present in this vegetation type.



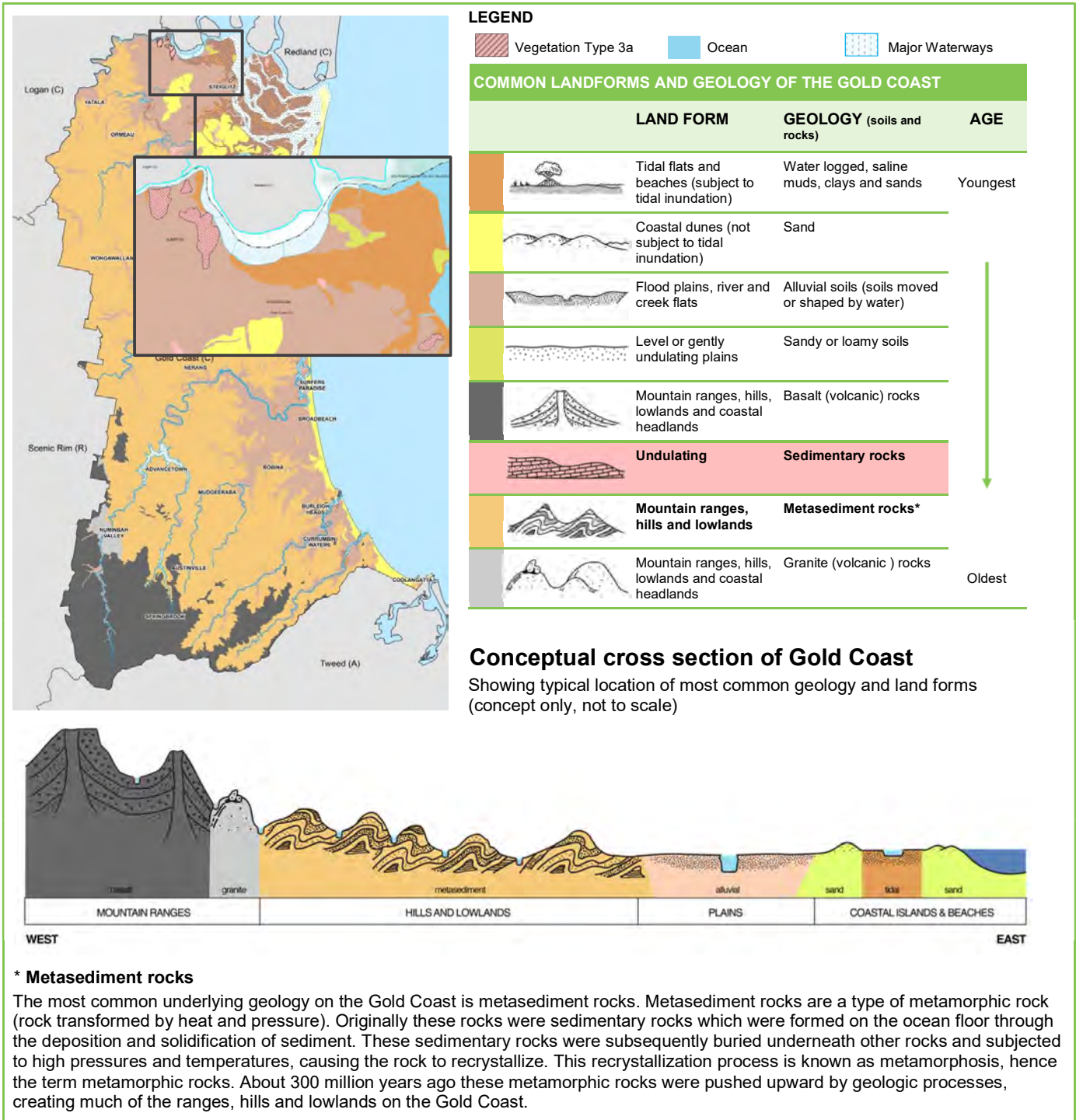
Flat-stemmed Rush
Tricoryne anceps subsp. pterocaulon
FORB

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.

Scribbly Gum Woodland on sedimentary rocks is a naturally restricted vegetation type within the Gold Coast City area, and occurs in a few isolated patches on suitable geology in the far north of the City, in the canelands suburbs of Alberton and Steiglitz. These areas are on sandy loam soils derived from weathering of the underlying sedimentary rocks, and occur as low rises in these coastal areas.

Historic distribution of Vegetation Type 3a



2017 EXTENT AND CONSERVATION STATUS

Gold Coast

The current extent* of this vegetation type on the Gold Coast is 16 hectares.

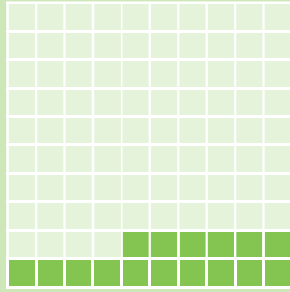
1 HECTARE (HA) = 2.46 ACRES = THE SIZE OF AN INTERNATIONAL RUGBY FIELD

EXTENT (ha)

Historic
120ha

2017*
16ha

16% of
historical
extent

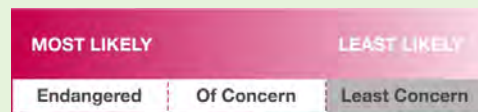


* Extent as mapped in 2017. Includes remnant vegetation only. Does not include disturbed remnant or regrowth

Queensland

The conservation status of vegetation in Queensland is specified under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, which lists this regional ecosystem (RE 12.9 – 10.4) as being 'Least Concern'.

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

Scribbly Gum Woodland on sedimentary rocks is restricted to isolated patches of remnant bushland within the rural canefields. These patches have been partially cleared and disturbed in the past by adjoining agricultural development and use. Due to their small and fragmented nature, they are threatened by weed invasion, inappropriate (particularly too frequent) fire, and further fragmentation and degradation.

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.