

Riverine floodplain



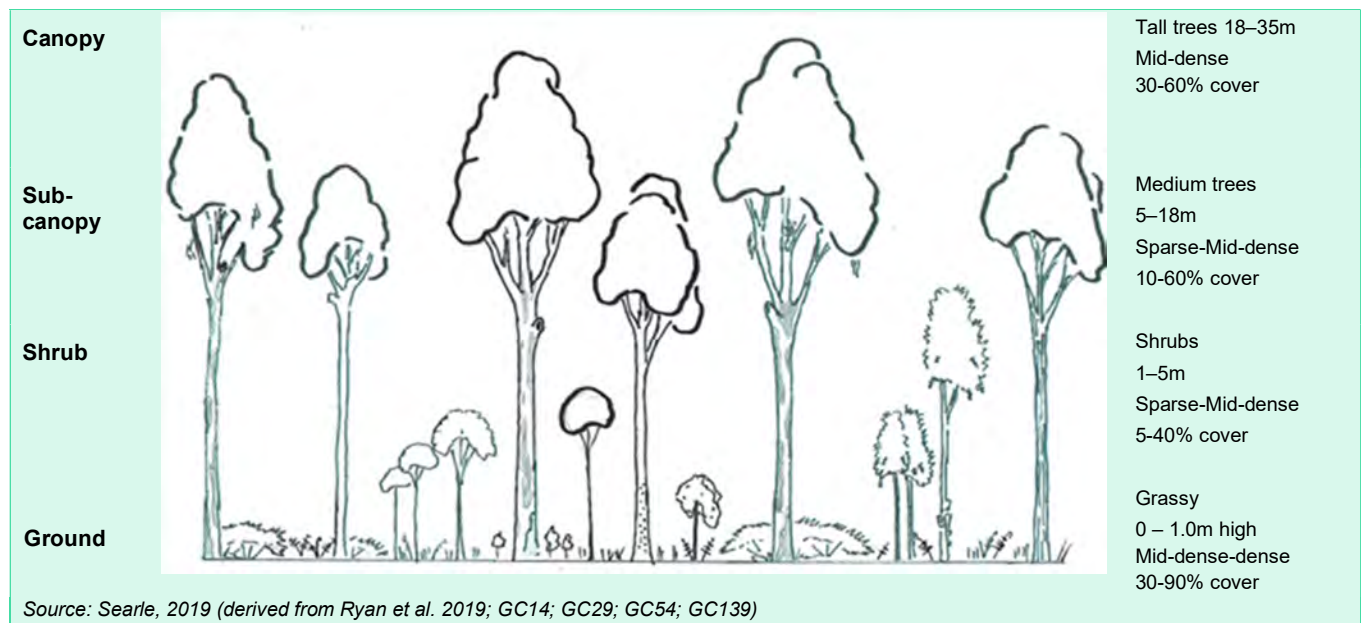
VEGETATION TYPE 6

Regional Ecosystem: 12.3.11

Forest Red Gum/Pink Bloodwood/Grey Ironbark (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*/*Corymbia intermedia*/*E. siderophloia*) Woodland to Open Forest on Alluvium

COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

Vegetation type (VT) 6 is a woodland to open forest which grows on alluvial soils. It is characterised by a canopy of Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*). The canopy layer may include tall and very large, mature Forest Red Gums in some locations, depending on clearing history. Pink Bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*) and/or Grey Ironbark (*E. siderophloia*) are often present in lower numbers. A sub-canopy layer is also often present and may be the densest layer. This layer includes medium sized canopy trees, often including some Broad-leaved Paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) and/or Swamp Box (*Lophostemon suaveolens*) trees.



The shrub layer is sparse to mid-dense, and with a diverse mix of native shrubs, including Cheese Tree (*Glochidion sumatranum*), Soap Bush (*Alphitonia excelsa*) and wattles (*Acacia concurrens*, *A. disparrima*). The ground layer is mid dense to dense and typically comprises a mix of grasses (*Oplismenus aemulus*, *Imperata cylindrica*, *Ottochloa gracillima*) and ferns (*Pteridium esculentum*, *Calochlaena dubia*). The vine *Parsonsia straminea* is sometimes common.

Characteristic plant species

Approximately **100 native plants species** have been recorded for this vegetation type. Characteristic plant species 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.



Forest Red Gum
Eucalyptus tereticornis



Pink Bloodwood
Corymbia intermedia



Grey Ironbark
Eucalyptus siderophloia



Jason Searle ©



Swamp Box
Lophostemon suaveolens

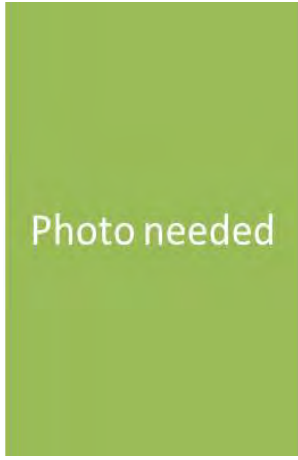


CANOPY

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



Moreton Bay Ash
Corymbia tessellaris



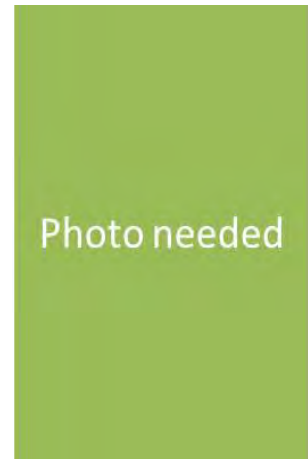
Broad-leaved Paperbark
Melaleuca quinquenervia



Smooth-barked Apple
Angophora leiocarpa



Spotted Gum
Corymbia citriodora subsp.
Variegata



SUB CANOPY

Tree layer below canopy.



Swamp Box

Lophostemon suaveolens



Broad-leaved Paperbark

Melaleuca quinquenervia



Umbrella Cheese Tree

Glochidion sumatranum



White Bottlebrush

Melaleuca salicina



Coastal Banksia

Banksia integrifolia



Hickory Wattle

Acacia disparrima subsp.
disparrima



Red Ash/Soap Bush

Alphitonia excelsa

SHRUB LAYER

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



Juvenile tree

Swamp Box

Lophostemon suaveolens



Juvenile tree

Black Wattle

Acacia concurrens



Hickory Wattle

Acacia disparrima subsp. *disparrima*



Juvenile tree

Umbrella Cheese Tree

Glochidion sumatranum



Wild May

Leptospermum polygalifolium



Juvenile tree

Red Ash/Soap Bush

Alphitonia excelsa



Cockspur Thorn

Maclura cochinchinensis

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 (where present) may extend upwards into the canopy.



Rainforest Grass
Oplismenus aemulus
GRASS



Blady Grass
Imperata cylindrica
GRASS



Graceful / Pademelon Grass
Ottochloa gracillima
GRASS



Weeping Grass
Microlaena stipoides
TUSSOCK GRASS



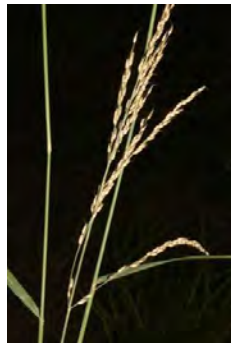
Common Bracken
Pteridium esculentum
FERN



Common Ground Fern
Calochlaena dubia
FERN



Long-leaved Mat-rush
Lomandra longifolia
GRASS



Reedgrass
Arundinella nepalensis
TUSSOCK GRASS



Common Silkpod
Parsonsia straminea
VINE



City-wide significant plant species



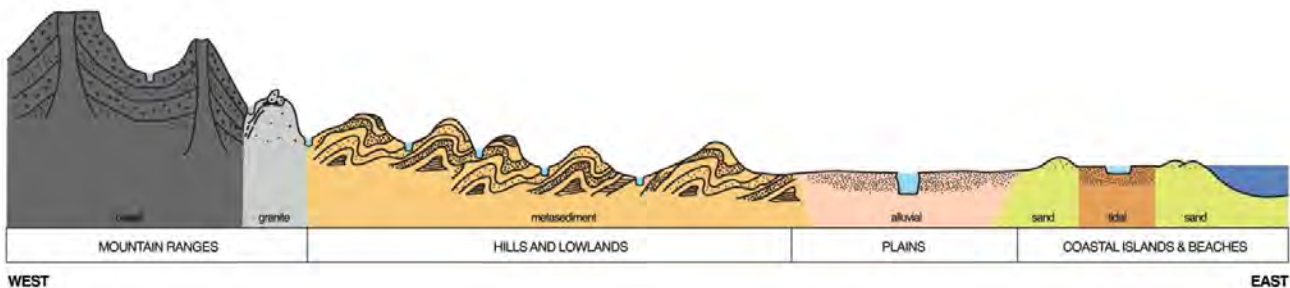
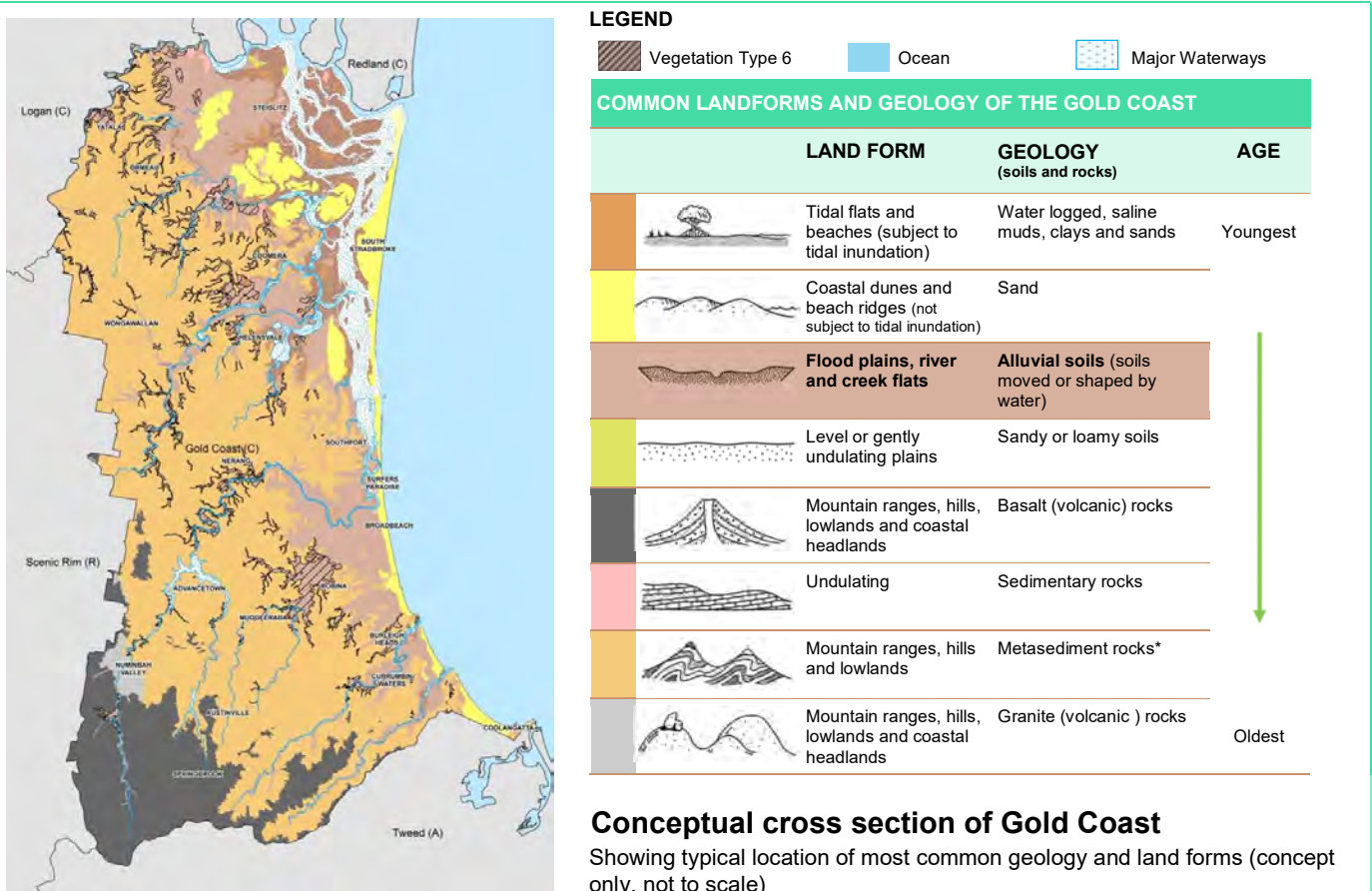
The City of Gold Coast recognises species which are locally significant as City-wide significant (CWS) species. These species are important because they may be threatened, restricted to the Gold Coast, or at the edge of their geographic range. No CWS plant species are listed in this vegetation type.

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.

This vegetation type occurs on broad floodplains, and was formerly widespread across the mid-catchment areas of Gold Coast's major rivers and creeks, including the Albert, Coomera, Pimpama and Nerang Rivers, and Tallebudgera and Currumbin Creeks. It typically occurs on relatively sandy to clay soils with good moisture and organic content. It transitions into VT8 (Broad-leaved Paperbark/Forest Red Gum/Brush Box woodland to open forest on alluvium) on lower areas closer to the coast. Common localities where larger patches of this vegetation type still remain include Coomera, Ormeau, Guanaba, Maudsland, Nerang, Advancetown, Numinbah, Coombabah, Gaven, Helensvale, Gilston, Mudgeeraba, Reedy Creek and Wolffdene.

Historic distribution of Vegetation Type 6



* Metasediment rocks

The most common underlying geology on the Gold Coast is metasediment rocks. Metasediment rocks are a type of metamorphic rock (rock transformed by heat and pressure). Originally, these rocks were sedimentary rocks which were formed on the ocean floor through the deposition and solidification of sediment. These sedimentary rocks were subsequently buried underneath other rocks and subjected to high pressures and temperatures, causing the rock to recrystallize. This recrystallization process is known as metamorphism, hence the term metamorphic rocks. About 300 million years ago these metamorphic rocks were pushed upward by geologic processes, creating much of the ranges, hills and lowlands on the Gold Coast.

2017 EXTENT AND CONSERVATION STATUS

Gold Coast

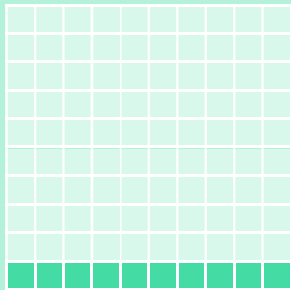
Historically, the most common type of riverine vegetation on the Gold Coast. Only 10% of its historical extent remains. The 2017 extent* of this vegetation type on the Gold Coast was 594 hectares.

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

EXTENT (ha)

Historic
6,039ha

2017*
594ha
10% of
historical
extent

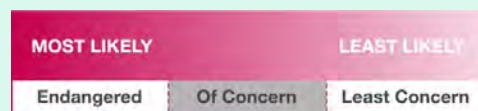


* Extent as mapped in 2017. Includes remnant vegetation only. does not include disturbed remnant or regrowth vegetation.

Queensland

The conservation status of vegetation in Queensland is specified under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, which lists this regional ecosystem (RE 12.3.11) as being 'Of 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

Forest Red Gum/Pink Bloodwood/Grey Ironbark woodland on alluvium is a previously widespread vegetation type that has been extensively cleared. It is subject to ongoing pressure for clearing for urban development, including ancillary uses such as road and infrastructure corridors, flood detention facilities and general residential and commercial development. It is also a productive and well-watered vegetation type and weeds often infest it, especially in areas where disturbance or fragmentation has opened up the canopy layer. Invasive weeds, including Lantana, Broad-leaved Pepper Bush, Camphor Laurel, Cat's Claw Creeper, Wandering Jew, and Guinea Grass are common.

About common threats

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, and/or
- 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, and/or
- 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.