

# EUCALYPT

## VEGETATION TYPE 6c

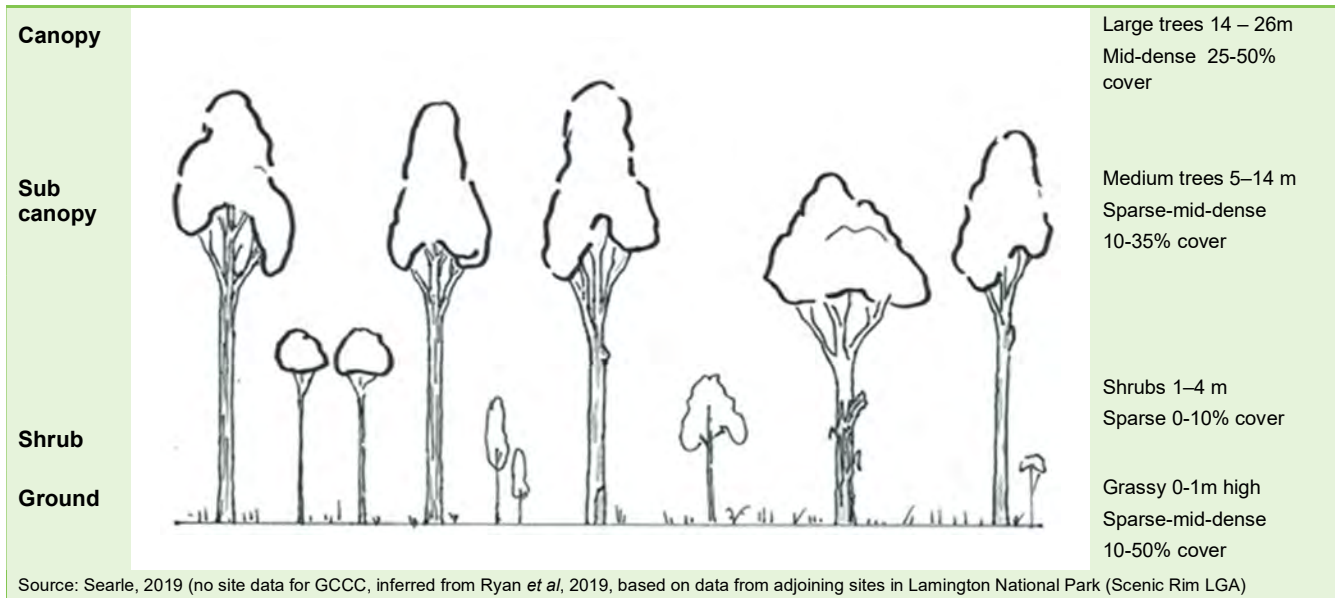
Regional Ecosystem: 12.8.16

Narrow-leaved Ironbark - Forest Red Gum  
(*E. crebra* - *E. tereticornis*) Woodland on  
Cainozoic Igneous Rocks



## COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

Vegetation type (VT) 6c an open canopy layer providing 25% to 50% canopy cover (shading to understorey plants). Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*) is most dominant on more exposed areas, whilst Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) is co-dominant and increases in density with decreasing exposure or on deeper soil profiles. The canopy also varies in height with location, and the community may also include a distinct lower layer of trees, including Forest She-oak (*Allocasuarina torulosa*), Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*) and/or Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*).



The shrub layer is sparse, with Black Wattle (*Acacia concurrens*) and Soap Bush (*Alphitonia excelsa*) the main or only shrubs present. Ground cover is sparse to mid-dense depending on location, and is comprised mainly of grasses.

## Characteristic plant species

Approximately **126 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

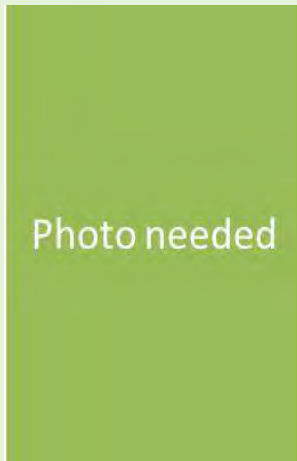
\* It is noted that in addition to preferred food trees, koalas utilise a range of eucalypt and non-eucalypt tree species for supplemental feeding and other uses such as shelter. These other species are also important and necessary features of koala habitat.

## CANOPY

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



**Narrow-leaved Ironbark**  
*Eucalyptus crebra*



**Forest Red Gum/  
Queensland Blue Gum**  
*Eucalyptus tereticornis*



**Yellow Box**  
*Eucalyptus melliodora*



**Pink Bloodwood**  
*Corymbia intermedia*



**Thin-leaved Stringybark**  
*Eucalyptus eugenioides*



**Moreton Bay Ash**  
*Corymbia tessellaris*



**Broad-leaved Apple**  
*Angophora subvelutina*



## SUB-CANOPY

Tree layer below canopy



**Forest She-Oak**  
*Allocasuarina torulosa*



**Brush Box**  
*Lophostemon confertus*



**Kurrajong**  
*Brachychiton populneus*

## SHRUB LAYER

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



**Black Wattle**  
*Acacia concurrens*



**Red Ash/Soap Bush**  
*Alphitonia excelsa*

## 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.



**Kangaroo Grass**  
*Themeda triandra*  
GRASS (TUSSOCK)



**Barbwire Grass**  
*Cymbopogon refractus*  
GRASS (TUSSOCK)



**Tall Sedge**  
*Carex appressa*  
GRASS (TUSSOCK)



**Blady Grass**  
*Imperata cylindrica*  
GRASS



**Hairy Oxalis**  
*Oxalis chnoodes*  
FORB

## City-wide significant plant species



The City of Gold Coast recognises species which are locally significant as City Wide Significant species. These species are important because they may be threatened, restricted to the Gold Coast, or at the edge of their geographic range. There are no additional CWS plant species recorded in this vegetation type.

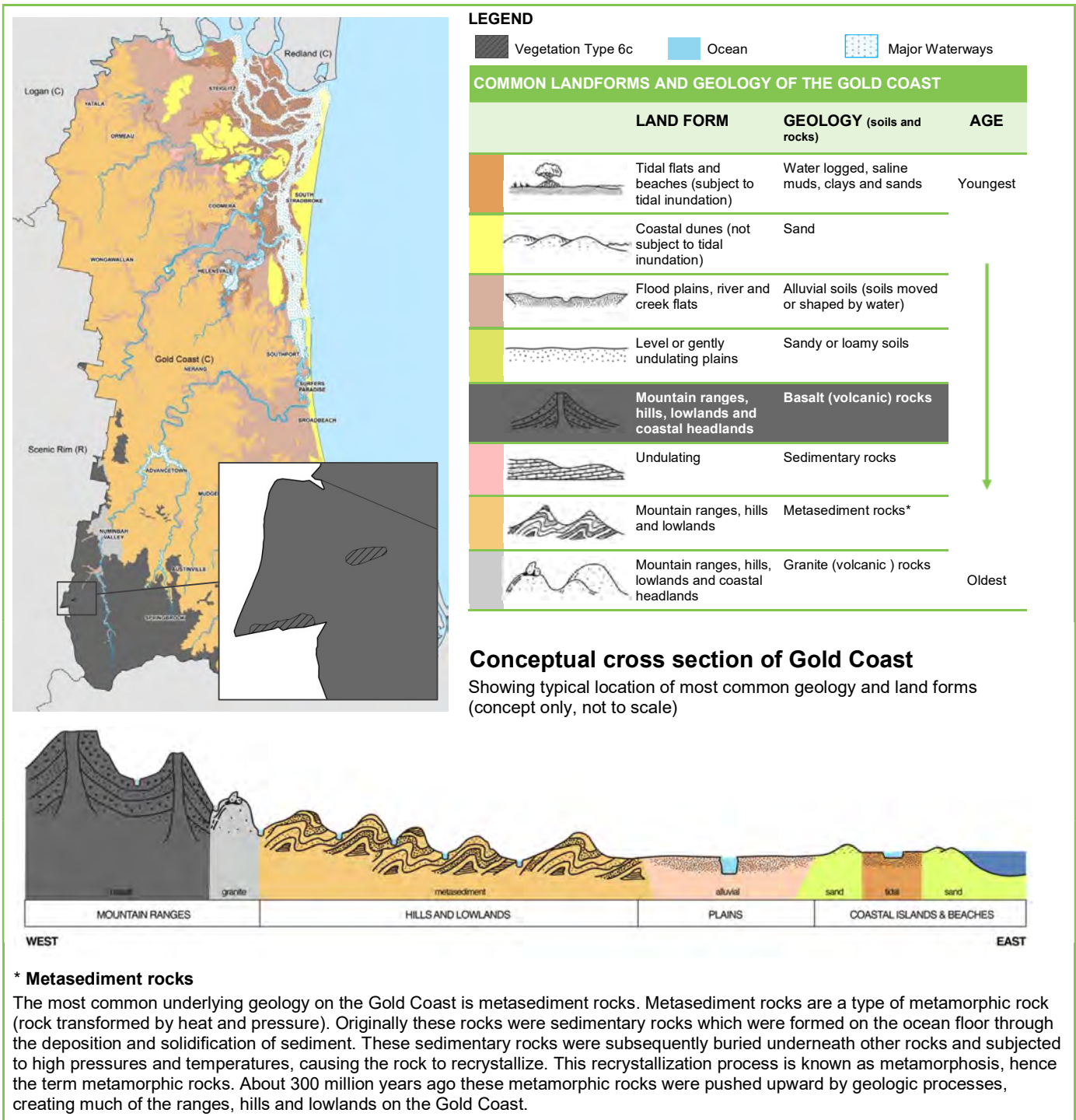


## OCCURRENCE

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 Ironbark - Forest Red Gum Woodland on Cainozoic igneous rocks is restricted to ridges and high slopes on the eastern edge of the Lamington plateau within Gold Coast City. It occurs on fertile, basalt-derived soils in more exposed areas with a relatively thin soil profile compared to adjoining vegetation types on the same geological land form. It transitions in VT6d (Forest Red Gum/Yellow Box (*E. tereticornis*/*E. melliodora*) Woodland on Cainozoic Igneous Rocks) on deeper soils and in more sheltered locations. This vegetation community occurs more extensively in adjoining areas to the west in Scenic Rim Council area.

## Historic distribution of Vegetation Type 6c



## 2017 EXTENT AND CONSERVATION STATUS

### Gold Coast

Both historically and currently one of the least common vegetation types on the Gold Coast. The current extent\* of this vegetation type on the Gold Coast is 10 hectares.

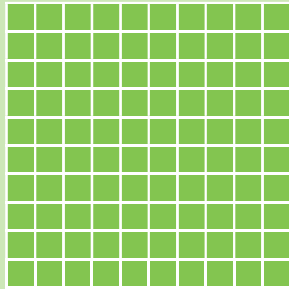
**1 HECTARE (HA) = 2.46 ACRES  $\cong$  THE SIZE OF AN INTERNATIONAL RUGBY FIELD**

#### EXTENT (ha)

Historic  
10ha

2017\*  
10ha

100% of  
historical  
extent

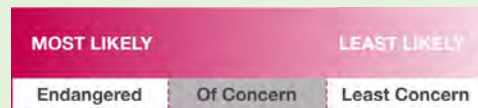


\* Extent as mapped in 2017. Includes remnant vegetation only. Does not include disturbed remnant or regrowth

### Queensland

The conservation status of vegetation in Queensland is specified under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, which lists this regional ecosystem (RE 12.8.16) 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 ©

Version 3, November 2020

## THREATS

VT6c occurs only within conservations areas in the Numinbah Valley within Gold Coast City, and is consequently secure and well protected. Major management issues include weed and fire management, with Lantana and Corky Passion Flower representing the main current weed threats.

### 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.