

EUCALYPT

VEGETATION TYPE 6d

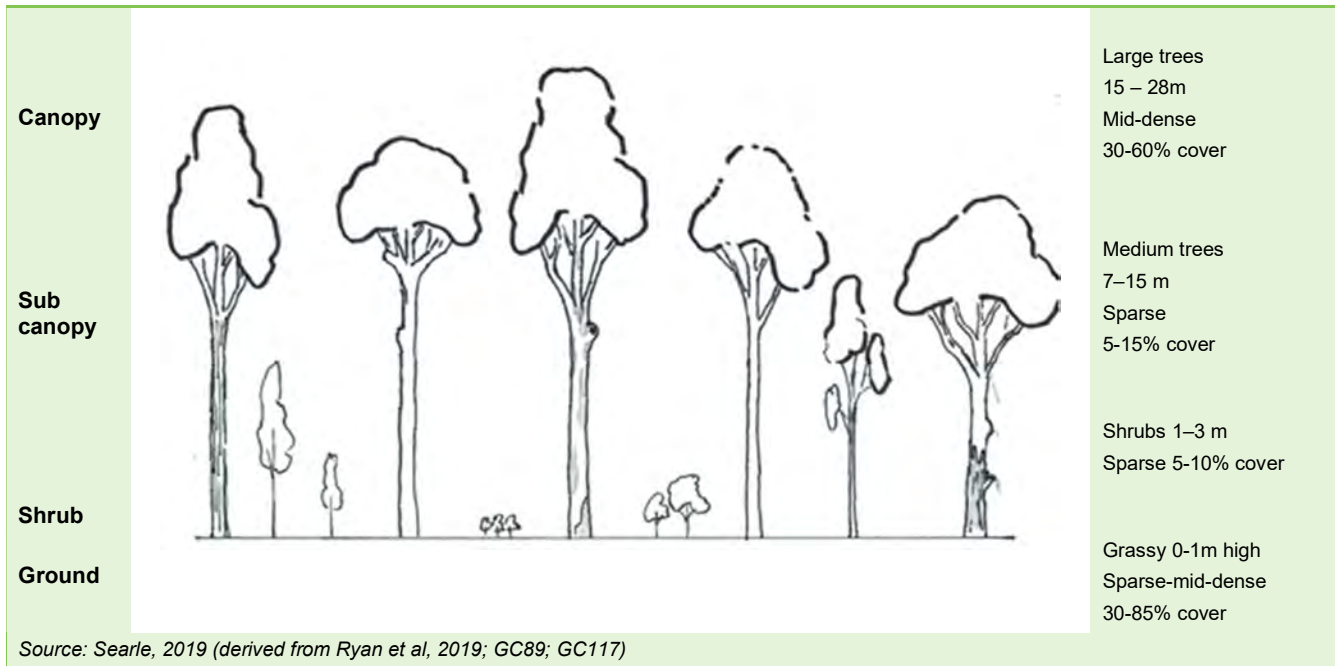
Regional Ecosystem: 12.8.14

Forest Red Gum - Pink Bloodwood - Grey Ironbark +/- Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus tereticornis* - *Corymbia intermedia* - *E. siderophloia* +/- *E. melliodora*) Woodland on Cainozoic igneous rocks



COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

Vegetation type (VT) 6d has an open canopy with a variety of tree species giving 30% to 60% canopy cover (shading to understorey plants). Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) is typically co-dominant, together with Pink Bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*) and Grey Ironbark (*Eucalyptus siderophloia*). Other characteristic species that may be present include Gum-topped Box (*E. melliodora*), Grey Gum (*E. biturbinata*) and Thin-leaved Stringybark (*E. eugenioides*).



The lower tree and shrub layers are sparse, with Forest She-oak (*Allocasuarina torulosa*) typically the most common and conspicuous small tree or shrub. 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



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



Grey Ironbark
Eucalyptus siderophloia



Pink Bloodwood
Corymbia intermedia



Thin-leaved Stringybark
Eucalyptus eugenioides



Yellow Box
Eucalyptus melliodora



Tallowwood
Eucalyptus microcorys



Broad-leaved Apple
Angophora subvelutina

SUB-CANOPY

Tree layer below canopy



Forest She-Oak

Allocasuarina torulosa



Broad-leaved Apple

Angophora subvelutina

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
TUSSOCK GRASS



Rainforest Grass

Oplismenus aemulus
GRASS



Creeping Beard Grass

Oplismenus hirtellus subsp.
imbecillis
GRASS

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.

Photo needed



Blue Grass

Poa cheelii
GRASS

Blady Grass

Imperata cylindrica
GRASS

City-wide significant plant species



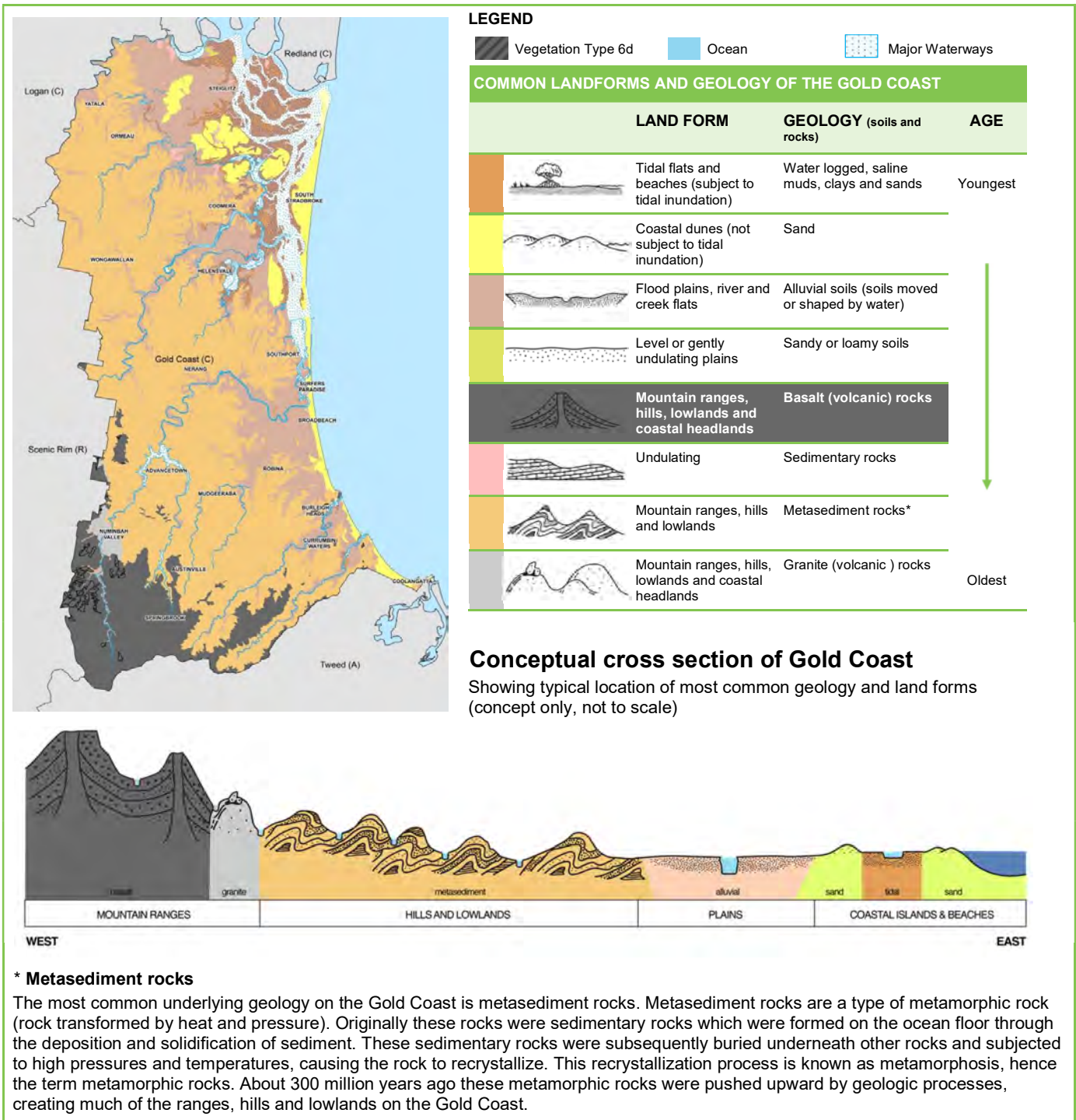
The City of Gold Coast recognises species which are locally significant as City Wide Significant (CWS) species. These species are important because they may be threatened, restricted to the Gold Coast, or at the edge of their geographic range. There are no additional CWS plant species recorded in this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

VT6d is restricted to high slopes and semi-exposed areas on the eastern edge of the Lamington plateau within Gold Coast City. There are also small patches along Burleigh Ridge. It occurs on highly fertile, basalt-derived soils in areas with a moderately deep soil profile compared to adjoining vegetation types on the same geological land form. It transitions in VT6c (Narrow-leaved Ironbark/Forest Red Gum woodland on Cainozoic igneous rocks) on thinner soils and in more exposed locations. This vegetation community occurs more extensively in adjoining areas to the west in Scenic Rim Council area.

Historic distribution of Vegetation Type 6d



2017 EXTENT AND CONSERVATION STATUS

Gold Coast

The current extent* of this vegetation type on the Gold Coast is 799 hectares.

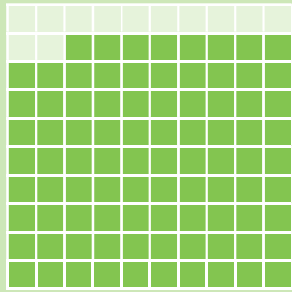
1 HECTARE (HA) = 2.46 ACRES \cong THE SIZE OF AN INTERNATIONAL RUGBY FIELD

EXTENT (ha)

Historic
909ha

2017*
799ha

88% 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 12.8.14) 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

VT6d occurs in protected 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.