

Riverine floodplain



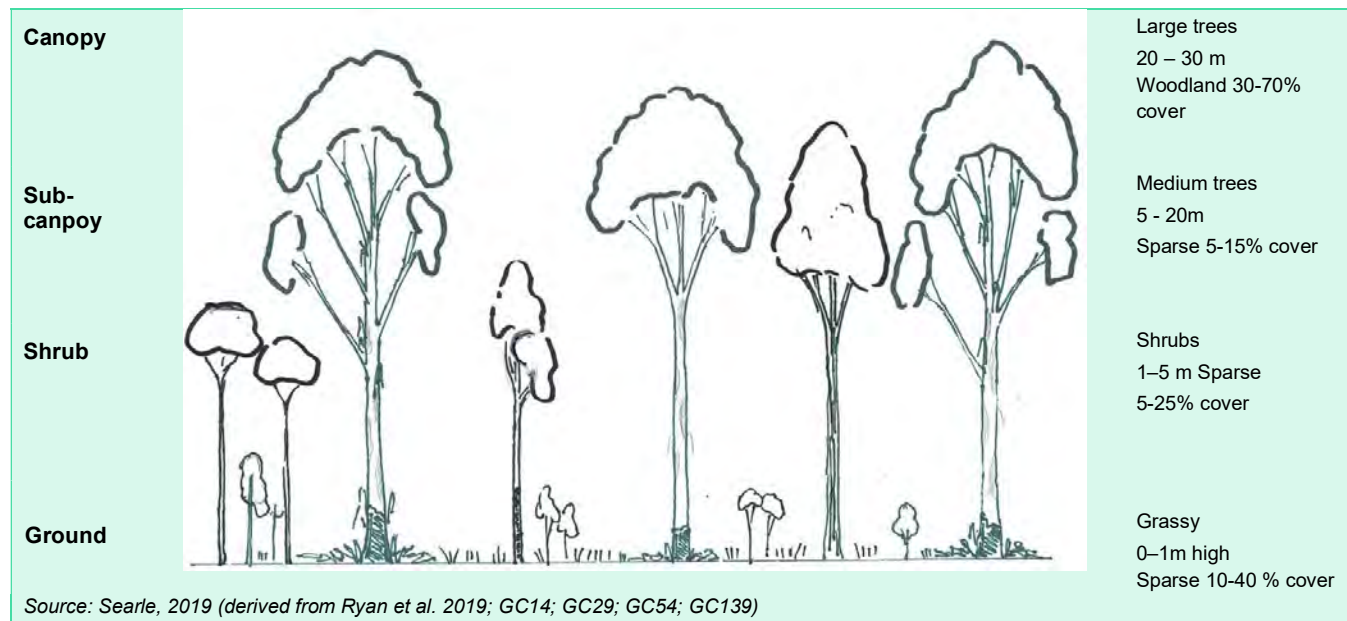
VEGETATION TYPE 7a

Regional Ecosystem: 12.3.3

Gum-topped Box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*)
Woodland on Alluvium

COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

VT 7a is typically a tall woodland which occurs on alluvium. It has an open canopy (30-70% cover) which is dominated by mature Gum-topped Box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*) trees, often with *E. siderophloia* / *E. crebra*, *Corymbia intermedia* and *C. citriodora* also present.



The sub-canopy is sparse and mainly smaller canopy trees, together with other medium-sized trees (*Corymbia tessellaris*, *Lophostemon suaveolens*, *Alphitonia excelsa*). The shrub layer is also sparse to mid-dense and comprised mainly of wattles (*Acacia leiocalyx*, *A. disparrima*) and Red Ash (*Alphitonia excelsa*). The ground layer is dominated by grasses.

Characteristic plant species

Approximately **44 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

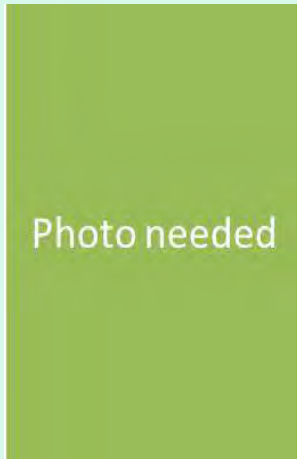


Indicates species is a City-wide significant species

* 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

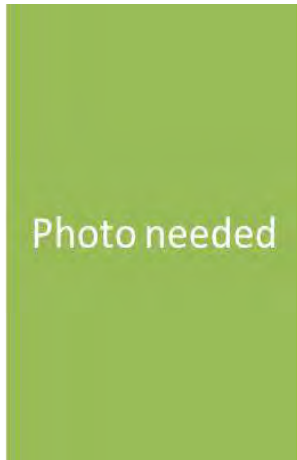
Upper layer of vegetation exposed to sunlight which creates a canopy that shades lower layers



Gum-topped Box
Eucalyptus moluccana



Grey Ironbark
Eucalyptus siderophloia



Narrow-leaved Ironbark
Eucalyptus crebra



Pink Bloodwood
Corymbia intermedia

Spotted Gum
Corymbia citriodora

SUB - CANOPY

Tree layer below canopy



Swamp Box
Lophostemon suaveolens



Moreton Bay Ash
Corymbia tessellaris



Red Ash/Soap Tree
Alphitonia excelsa



SHURB LAYER

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



Common Hop Bush
Dodonaea triquetra



Black Wattle
Acacia concurrens



Juvenile tree



Hickory Wattle
Acacia disparrima subsp. disparrima

Juvenile tree



Early Black Wattle
Acacia leiocalyx

Juvenile tree



Juvenile tree

Red Ash/Soap Bush
Alphitonia excelsa

GROUND LAYER AND VINES

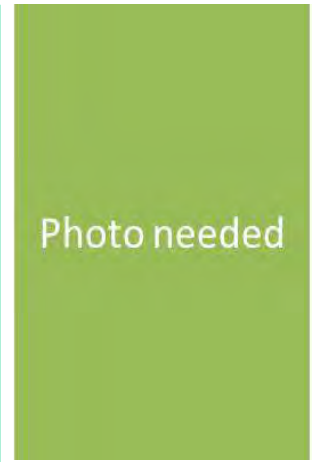
Lowest layer of vegetation. Plant types can include grasses; graminoids (non-woody plants with a grass-like morphology); ferns; forbs (non-woody, broad-leaved, flowering plants) and vines (where present) may extend upwards into the canopy.



Blady Grass
Imperata cylindrica
GRASS



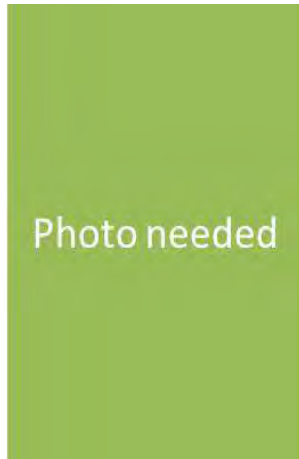
Graceful / Pademelon Grass
Ottochloa gracillima
GRASS



Purple Wiregrass
Aristida ramosa
GRASS



Broad-leaved Pink Tongues
Rostellularia obtusa
FORB



Small-flowered Fingergrass
Digitaria parviflora
GRASS



Small-leaved Water Vine
Cissus opaca
VINE



Wombat Berry
Eustrephus latifolius
VINE (scrambling)

City-wide significant plant species



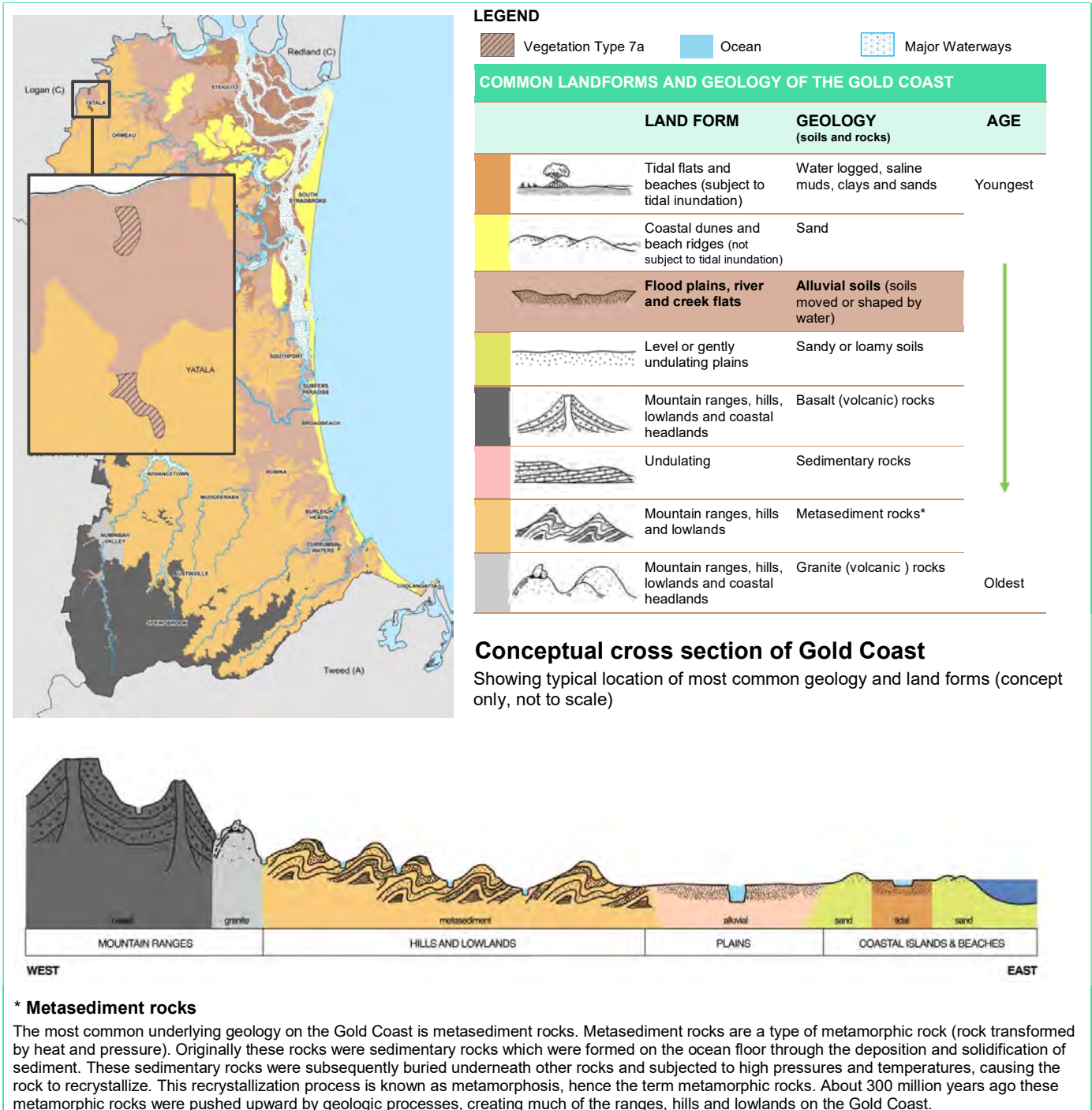
The City of Gold Coast recognises species which are locally significant as City-wide significant (CWS) species. These species are important because they may be threatened, restricted to the Gold Coast, or at the edge of their geographic range. Characteristic species have been identified above as CWS species. There are no other 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.

This vegetation type is a naturally restricted and only ever occurred in the Yatala-Windaroo area within Gold Coast City. Underlying soils are alluvial clay, which are moderately rich and water retentive. This vegetation type also occurs further to the west outside the City area.

Historic distribution of Vegetation Type 7a



2017 EXTENT AND CONSERVATION STATUS

Gold Coast

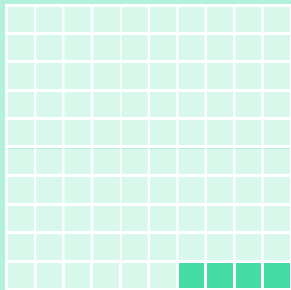
Historically one of the least common types of vegetation on the Gold Coast and much of its historical extent has been lost. The 2017 extent* of this vegetation type on the Gold Coast was less than 1 hectare.

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

EXTENT (ha)

Historic
17ha

2017*
<1ha
4% 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 12.3.3) as being '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

Gum-topped Box open forest on alluvium has been subject to previous clearing for agricultural purposes, and now occurs as a few fragments in western Yatala. This area is threatened with further development and subdivision. Clearing, fragmentation and gradual degradation are ongoing threats to the small remaining patches of this vegetation type within the Gold Coast.

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,
- 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.