Marine plains

Landform	Marine plains.
Woody vegetation	Mangrove associations.
Expected pasture composition	** Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.* *@ Denotes non-grass species that are important to grazing and land condition values in estuarine wetland land types.*
Preferred	Marine couch, samphire@, fresh water couch.
Intermediate	Fringe rush@
Non-preferred	Sedges@
Annual grasses	
Suitable sown pastures	Ponded pastures (where existing) permitted; limited options for sown pastures on associated sand ridges.
Introduced weeds	
Soil	Deep saline grey cracking clay (vertosol).
Description	***Surface*:** Hard or crusting; ***Surface texture*:** medium to heavy clay; ***Subsoil texture:*** mottled heavy clay.
Water availability	High for adapted plants.

Rooting depth	Moderate (0.5 m) for adapted plants.
Fertility	Moderate to high total nitrogen; Moderate to high phosphorus.
Salinity	Very high (below surface).
Sodicity	Very high (>0.3 m).
pH	Alkaline

Utilisation

30%

Enterprise

Growing and finishing.

Land use and management recommendations

- Grazing.
- Areas with fresh to brackish water swamps and freshwater couch, sedges and reeds have higher productivity than marine plains mainly with marine couch and bare areas.

Land use limitations

- Clay pans restrict pasture growth.
- Grazing leases below the high tide mark are under review.

Conservation features and related management

- Mangroves are a protected plant species.
- Waterbirds are the most conspicuous component of the fauna of marine plains. These areas provide abundant food in the dense cover, and in the more open areas, for most of the major waterbird groups.
- A key strategy for grazing management is for fencing that enables wetlands to be excluded from grazing at strategic times, particularly when their edges are soft and liable to deep plugging and when wetland plants have not yet completed the seeding stage.
- Where exotic pasture grasses, such as para grass and hymenachne have become established, an appropriate level of grazing pressure on these grasses will be necessary to ensure they do not spread and overrun the area to the exclusion of native plants.

Regional ecosystems

7.1.1, 7.1.2a, 11.1.1, 11.1.2, 11.1.2a-b, 11.1.3, 11.1.3a, 11.1.4, 11.1.4a-d, 12.1.1, 12.1.2, 12.1.3, 12.1.3f, 12.1.3g.

Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations