

# Wet highland rainforests



<b>Description</b>	Rainforest on steeper areas of Clarke range with an elevation more than 700 m.
<b>Landform</b>	High hills and steep slopes.
<b>Woody vegetation</b>	Rainforest vegetation including red, white and Mackay cedars, hoop pine, red Eungella satinash, scrub cherry, black tulip oak, quandong. On the fringes flooded or rose gums occur.
<b>Expected pasture composition</b>	<i>Originally sparse or absent native pasture community, considerable areas developed for dairy farms post 1940s.</i> <i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	
Intermediate	
Non-preferred	Narrow-leaf mat grass* has naturalised following fertility rundown post clearing.
<b>Suitable sown pastures</b>	Rhodes grass, setaria grasses, kikuyu grass, clovers, creeping vigna (legume).
<b>Introduced weeds</b>	Introduced weedy <i>Sporobolus</i> grasses (e.g. giant rat's tail), lantana. Susceptible to general broad leaf and grass weeds depending on pasture and grazing management.
<b>Soil</b>	Moderately deep to deep, gradational soil with clay loam topsoil over reddish brown subsoil. The main soil type is dermosols.
Description	<b>Surface:</b> Hard-setting to firm; <b>Surface texture:</b> dark loam to clay; <b>Subsoil texture:</b> red clay.
Water availability	Moderate to high.

Rooting depth	0.5–1 m.
Fertility	Quick rundown once rainforest cleared.
Salinity	Low
Sodicity	Low
pH	Acid trend.
<b>Utilisation</b>	50% (sown)
<b>Enterprise</b>	Initially developed for dairy farms. Currently breeding and finishing with fertiliser inputs.
<b>Land use and management recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High input of fertiliser to maintain sown pastures.</li> <li>• Need to be vigilant with lantana control.</li> <li>• Suitable for pasture improvement (depending on topography).</li> <li>• Retain trees on bed and bank of streams.</li> <li>• Selective logging of timber trees could be possible, if undertaken in accordance with State Forestry and vegetation management policies and guidelines.</li> <li>• Maintain good pasture cover to avoid erosion during high rainfall periods.</li> <li>• Use off stream watering points for cattle grazing where possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Land use limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steep slopes (&lt;15–20%) can limit pasture development.</li> <li>• Tree vegetation status should be checked before development.</li> <li>• Pasture rundown is relatively quick after clearing (5 years).</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation features and related management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very high conservation values where existing rainforest vegetation remains.</li> <li>• Habitat for threatened fauna species including rufous owl, Eungella honeyeater, Proserpine rock wallaby, Eungella day frog and Eungella tinker frog, skink and endemic leaf-tail geckos. The light colour form of the southern boobook owl is of locally significant conservation value. Also habitat for the red-bellied black snake and eastern small-eyed snake.</li> <li>• Isolation of remnants over time has resulted in speciation within distinct rainforest types.</li> <li>• Grazing exclusion area. Protect community edges from fire encroachment.</li> </ul>
<b>Regional ecosystems</b>	7.11.12a-b, 7.11.12f, 7.11.1a-b, 7.11.1f, 7.11.29a, 7.11.30, 7.11.7d, 7.12.16a-b, 7.12.17, 7.12.1b, 7.12.64a-e, 7.12.68, 7.12.7a-b, 7.12.9, 7.8.13, 7.8.14, 7.8.2a-c, 7.8.3a, 7.8.4a-d, 8.8.1a, 8.12.1a-b, 8.12.2, 8.12.3b, 8.12.17a, 8.12.17c, 8.12.30.