

Marine plains



Landform

Level saline coastal plains, mostly bare mud and salt flats or plains of saline clay meadows on the slightly elevated plains or low plateaus.

Woody vegetation

Predominantly treeless plains or sparse woodland of coolibah and guttapercha, with mangroves in stream channels.

Expected pasture composition

** Denotes non-native species*

Preferred

Marine couch, mudgrass, northern rice grass.

Intermediate

Canegrass, slender chloris, beetle grass, spiny mudgrass.

Non-preferred

Annual grasses

Common forbs

Spike rushes, fringe rush, common sedges.

Samphire grows on saline and tidal mud flats and is eaten when stock have high salt tolerance or when fresh water is readily available.

Suitable sown pastures

Not suitable for sown pastures.

Introduced weeds

Rubbervine, parkinsonia (more elevated areas).

Soil	Grey and black saline crackling clays with areas of mud flats or saline soils with sandy surfaces.
Description	Surface: Loose or thin salt crust; Surface texture: clay loam or sandy or shelly clay; Sub-soil texture: silty to heavy.
Features	Sandy or shelly clay surfaces occurring on slightly elevated plains. Carbonate nodules and/or gypsum occur at shallow depths. Virtually no internal drainage. Water ponds readily.
Water availability	High water holding capacity. Availability limited by salinity and sodicity.
Rooting depth	Shallow.
Infiltration	Moderate to low.
Fertility	Moderate to high. Low Nitrogen, high Phosphorous.
Salinity	High.
Sodicity	High.
pH	Acidic sands, slightly alkaline to acidic clays.
Utilisation	25%
Enterprise	Breeding.
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for grazing native pastures. • Seasonal inundation provides wet season spelling in most years • Early dry (July) burning and overgrazing should be avoided to maintain effective ground cover at break of season.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme salinity and regular inundation prevent any agricultural development. • As fresh water is scarce, stock can only graze for a short period of time while surface water is available following the wet season.
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent and seasonal wetlands. • Seasonally important habitat for water birds breeding and feeding. • Can be refuge for fauna including macropods.
Regional ecosystems	2.3.2a, 2.3.2x1, 2.9.1.
Land Systems	Carpentaria (58) (Perry 1964)