

# Coastal sand dunes



<b>Landform</b>	Coastal sand dunes.
<b>Woody vegetation</b>	Pink bloodwood, white mahogany, Moreton Bay ash, turpentine, paperbark tea tree, swamp box woodland with a grass tree, grevillea, coast banksia understorey.
<b>Expected pasture composition</b>	* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Kangaroo grass, giant speargrass.
Intermediate	Spring grass.
Non-preferred	Wiregrass, lovegrass.
Annual grasses	Fire grass.
<b>Suitable sown pastures</b>	Creeping bluegrass, Indian bluegrass, digit grass, roundleaf cassia, Caribbean stylo, shrubby stylo; limited options for pangola and Rhodes grasses.
<b>Introduced weeds</b>	Molasses grass, lantana, bellyache bush.
<b>Soil</b>	Deep yellow, red and brown sands (tenosols).
Description	<b>Surface texture:</b> Loose sand, often bleached; <b>Surface texture:</b> sand; <b>Subsoil texture:</b> sand.
Water availability	Very low.
Rooting depth	Deep (>1 m)
Fertility	Very low total nitrogen; very low phosphorus.
Salinity	Low
Sodicity	Non-sodic

pH

Neutral to acid.

**Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)**

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 727 – 755 mm				
Pasture type	Median tree cover  (TBA m <sup>2</sup> /ha) (FPC %)	Median annual pasture growth  (DM kg/ha)	Safe annual utilisation pasture growth  (%)	LTCC  (ha/AE)
Native species	0 TBA/FPC	2600	20%	5.6
	20 TBA 47 FPC	320 - 380	20%	39 – 46

**Enterprise**

Breeding

**Land use and management recommendations**

- Limited clearing options, fire or chemical treatment of woody regrowth, less use of fire where there is sown pastures.

**Land use limitations**

- Low nutritional quality of native pastures.
- High input costs for sown pastures.

**Conservation features and related management**

- Important water recharge areas.
- Coastal dunes can have low swales with paperbark tea tree (*Melaleuca* spp.) and vine scrubs (beach rainforest). These scrubs are a valuable for migratory fruit pigeons. Seasonal flowering tea tree areas are important areas for flying fox, lorikeets, and many honeyeater species.
- Breeding of egrets, spoonbills, ibis and other waterbirds may occur during periods when the tree lined dune swales are inundated by freshwater floods.
- The closed vine scrubs on dunes are important for many species of butterfly and act as migratory stop-over points for nomadic birds up and down the coast such as rose-crowned fruit dove, top knot pigeons, channel-billed cuckoos and koels.
- Sand dunes are very good habitat for 'digging' fauna, such as burrowing frogs, sand goannas and sand-swimming skinks.
- Weeds (such as molasses grass, red Natal grass, lantana and bellyache bush) can be a problem around their periphery. Surrounding areas of dense guinea grass should be grazed in order to minimise damage from wildfires to these scrubs.
- Coastal sand dune systems are very susceptible to damage from grazing. Use fencing or low stocking rates to avoid disturbance to the frontal dunes that are most susceptible to wind and wave erosion. Protected dunes further inland can provide seasonal grazing on the blady grass dominated pasture, although annual burning of blady grass should be avoided.
- Overstocking can cause damage through tunnelling and enhance wind and weed incursion into the scrubs.

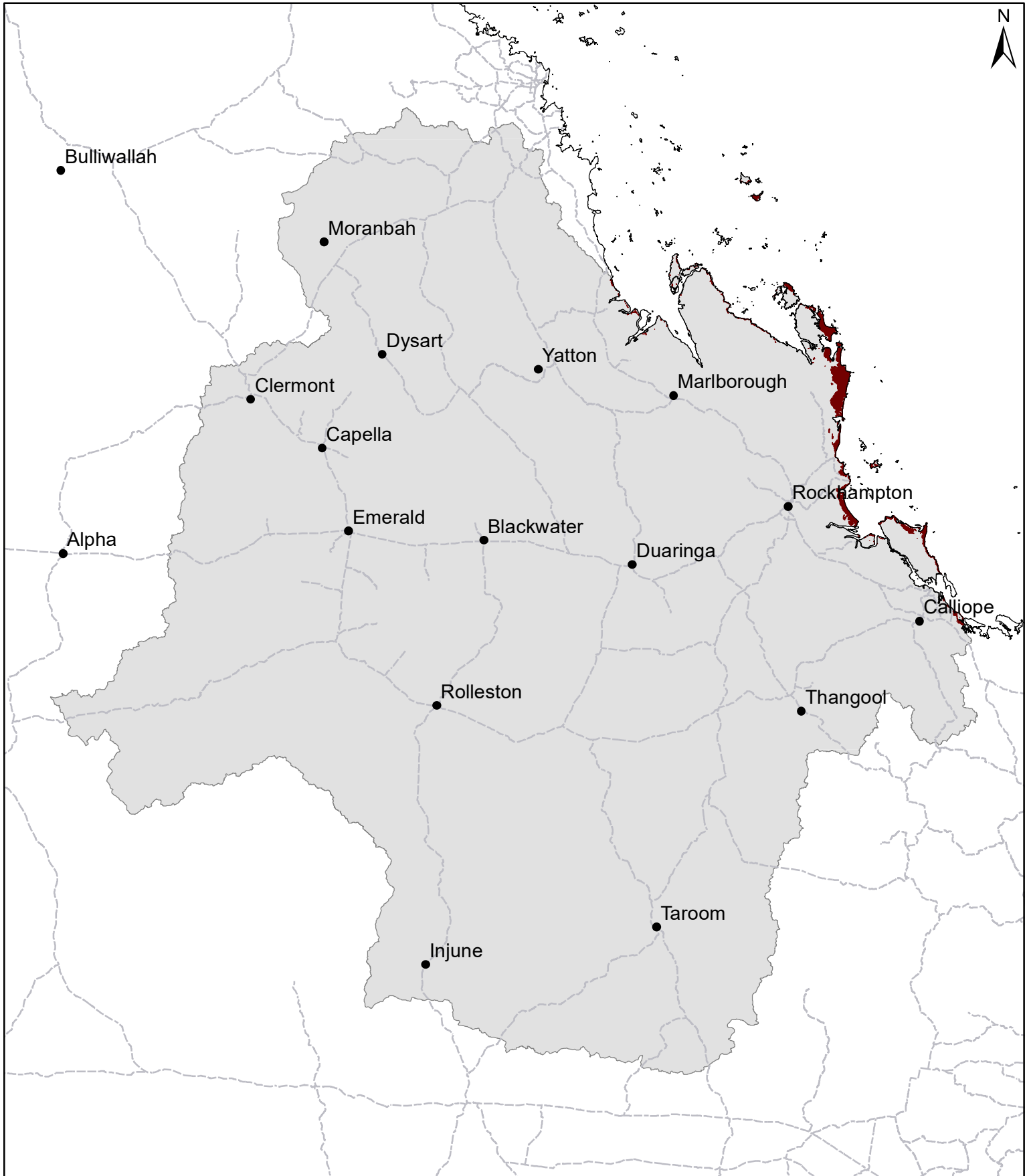
**Regional Ecosystems**

8.2.1, 8.2.2, 8.2.3a, 8.2.3d, 8.2.4x2a-c, 8.2.6a-b, 8.2.7b-c, 8.2.7e, 8.2.8a-b, 8.2.8d-e, 8.2.10, 8.2.11, 8.2.12b, 8.2.13a, 11.2.1, 11.2.2, 11.2.2a-b, 11.2.3, 11.2.4, 11.2.5, 11.2.5a-b, 12.2.4, 12.2.6, 12.2.8, 12.2.9, 12.3.13, 12.3.14, 12.3.14a, 12.5.10, 12.5.9, 12.5.9a, 12.9-10.22, 12.2.11, 12.2.12, 12.2.13, 12.2.14, 12.2.14a-c, 12.2.14e-i, 12.2.15, 12.2.16, 12.12.19.

**Land resource area**

Sand plains – eucalypts and coastal scrub on sands (Forster, in prep).

# FT09 Coastal sand dunes



Area of land type in region: 0.3%  
Median rainfall (region): 494 – 830 mm  
Average rainfall (region): 560 – 869 mm  
Area of land type with FPC: 88%  
Median FPC: 47%  
Median TBA: 20 m<sup>2</sup>/ha



**Queensland**  
Government