

Coastal tea tree plains



Landform	Broad coastal plains.
Woody vegetation	Broad-leaved and narrow-leaved tea tree, pink bloodwood and bullock with emergent narrow-leaved ironbark, Queensland peppermint, poplar gum, ghost gum, grass tree and cabbage palm.
Expected pasture composition	* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Golden beard grass, black speargrass, giant speargrass, native legumes (<i>Alysicarpus</i> and <i>Desmodium</i> species).
Intermediate	
Non-preferred	Poverty grass, blady grass.
Annual grasses	Summer grasses
Suitable sown pastures	Pangola grass, Koronivia, jointvetch on low-lying areas with poor drainage; signal grass, creeping bluegrass, Rhodes grass, Caribbean and shrubby stylos and roundleaf cassia on better drained areas.
Introduced weeds	Weedy sporobolous grasses.
Soil	Either bleached coarse sands or silty surfaced grey and brown sodic duplex soils with debil-debil mounds (tenosols or sodosols).
Description	Surface: Hard-setting; Surface texture: coarse sand or silty loam; Subsoil texture: coarse sand or mottled medium clay.
Water availability	Low to very low.
Rooting depth	0.6 m
Fertility	Very low total nitrogen; very low phosphorus.
Salinity	Low
Sodicity	Only texture contrast soil, moderate (0.6–0.9 m).
pH	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 ² /ha) (FPC %)	Median annual pasture growth (DM kg/ha)	Safe annual utilisation pasture growth (%)	LTCC (ha/AE)
Native species	0 TBA/FPC	1630 - 1710	15%	11 - 12
	13 TBA 32 FPC	390 - 400	15%	49 – 50

Enterprise

Breeding, occasional growing and fattening using high input sown pastures.

Land use and management recommendations

- Use fire to control seedlings and woody regrowth. Tea tree regrowth following clearing may require deep disk ploughing (15–20 cm), blade ploughing or Grasslan treatment.
- Use fire less frequently in sown pasture systems.
- Retain trees on bed and banks of streams and larger (shade and shelter) areas of tree vegetation as clumps or strips.

Land use limitations

- Woody regrowth problems.
- Erosive.
- Access problems due to summer waterlogging.
- Low nutritional value of native pastures; high input costs for sown pastures.

Conservation features and related management

- From autumn through to spring the coastal tea tree areas experience cycles of flowering that attract noisy flocks of lorikeets and various honeyeaters. A great variety of smaller heath plants, also flower from winter into spring.
- At risk plants of the coastal tea tree plains include the orchid *Habenaria xanthantha* and the Byfield vanilla lily (*Sowerbaea subtilis*).
- These plains are important habitat for migratory coastal woodland birds such as kingfishers, whistlers and some robins. They are important habitat for north-south and upland/lowland movement by migratory/nomadic bird species and important seasonal habitat for frogs.
- Low nutrient status and poor physical characteristics of these coastal plain soils require care in management.
- The sparse grass and sedge layer can suffer from dense suckering of trees and compaction where there is disturbance from overgrazing or clearing with the use of machinery and inappropriate herbicide.
- Regular burning (3 to 5 years) with moderate but not hot fires is a better means of keeping this low coastal woodland open and fostering retention of the fire adapted native plant species which support both stock and native fauna.
- This land type is favoured by feral pigs and they can cause severe disturbance, therefore feral pig controls should be implemented if evidence of their presence is detected.

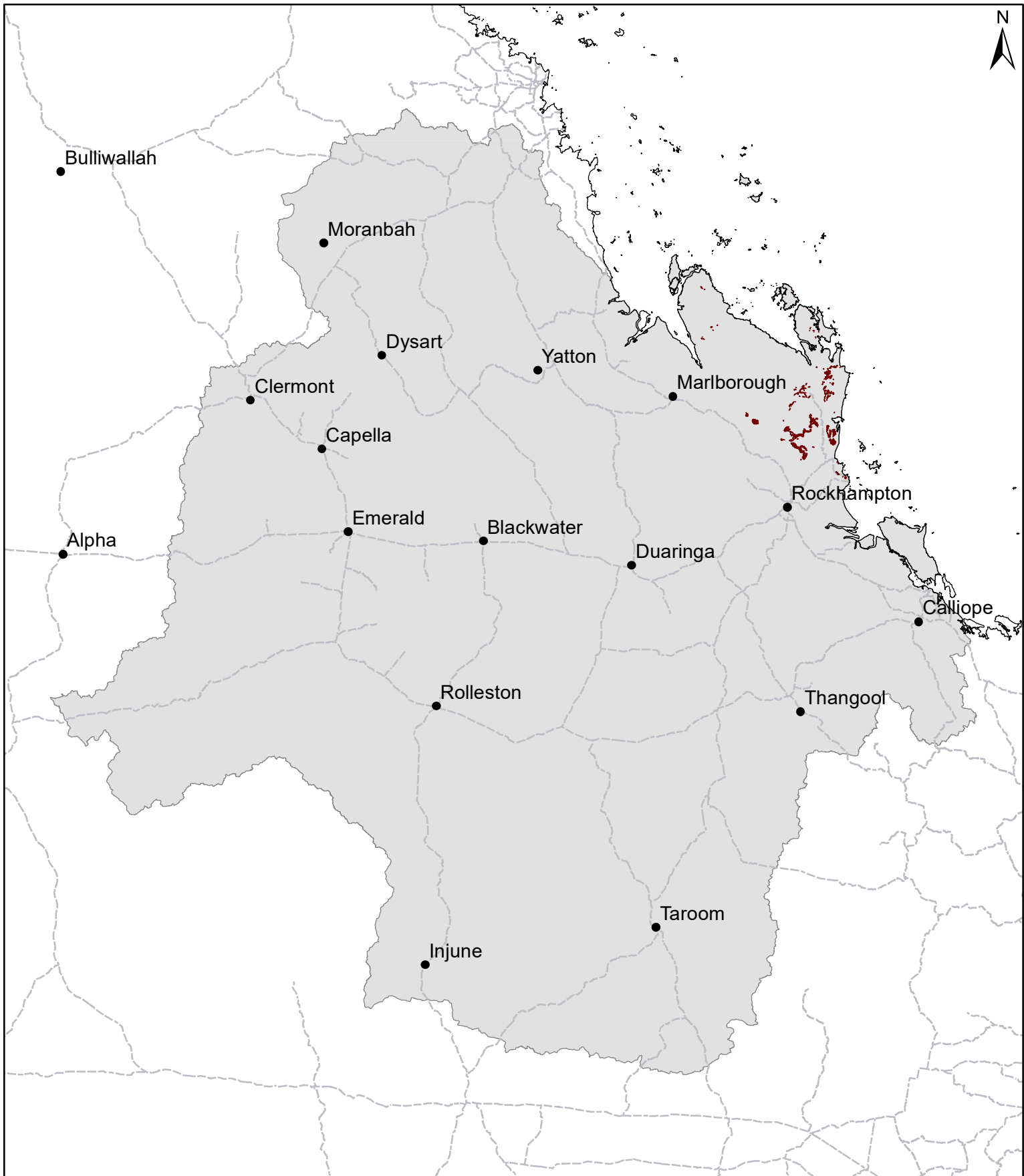
Regional Ecosystems

8.2.13a-b, 8.3.3b, 9.5.15, 11.3.12, 11.3.12a, 11.3.9, 11.3.9a, 11.5.8.

Land resource area

Tea tree plains; tea tree on coarse sands – granite fans and plains, tea tree on silty surfaced sodic duplex soils – fans and plains (Forster in prep).

FT10 Coastal tea tree plains



Area of land type in region: 0.1%
Median rainfall (region): 494 – 830 mm
Average rainfall (region): 560 – 869 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 59%
Median FPC: 32%
Median TBA: 13 m²/ha



Queensland
Government