Coastal tea tree plains

Description	Very low fertility, flat to undulating land with a sandy surface that supports mostly tea tree and patches of bull oak.
Landform	Flat to slightly undulating coastal plains with relic terrace flats to slightly elevated peneplains.
Woody vegetation	Broad-leaved tea tree, pink bloodwood, narrow-leaved ironbark, cabbage palm and small areas of bull oak and grevillea. Occasionally a grasstree understorey.
Expected pasture composition	*Originally black speargrass native pasture community, with smaller areas of blady grass and low density of native legumes.* ** Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.*
Preferred	Golden beard grass, black speargrass, kangaroo grass.
Intermediate	Bluegrasses, giant black speargrass.
Non-preferred	Blady grass, poverty grass.
Annual grasses	Summer grass.
Common forbs	Sedges.
Suitable sown pastures	Pangola grass, Tully grass, signal grass, Rhodes grass, setaria, joint-vetch, stylo, centro.
Introduced weeds	Introduced weedy *Sporobolus* grasses, (including giant rat's tail), broad leaf weeds (including devil's fig, sida and flannel weed, urena/pink burr, Noogoora burr, snakeweed), grader and thatch grass.
Soil	Shallow to deep soil with a sandy loam topsoil over a grey to yellow clay. The dominant soil types are sodosols.
Description	***Surface:*** Hard-setting; ***Surface texture:*** Sandy to loam topsoil; ***Subsoil texture:*** sodic clay.
Water availability	Very low to low (30–80 mm).
Rooting depth	20–60 cm.
Fertility	Very low total nitrogen, very low phosphorous, low potash.

Salinity Low to moderate.

Sodicity Moderate to high.

pH Acid to alkaline.

Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 1156 – 1690 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	2470 - 3320	15%	5.9 – 7.9
	10 TBA 25 FPC	1140 - 1920	15%	10 – 17
Sown			30%	

Enterprise

Breeding and growing; finishing only possible with high fertiliser inputs.

Land use and management recommendations

- Tea tree sucker regrowth can be a serious problem.
- When developing new country, or clearing of regrowth country, it is recommended to leave clumps or strips of original vegetation, and blade plough or use Grasslan (chemical) pellet, to prevent tea tree regrowth on areas to be pastured.
- In some areas, deep ploughing may bring sodic clay to the surface which could hinder grass growth. If ripping is chosen, only rip to 30–40 cm depth, bumper and immediately spread pasture seed to stabilise the area.
- Tully and pangola grass recommended for low areas subject to flooding.

Land use limitations

- High input costs for sown pastures.
- Tea tree regrowth problems. In some areas the soils overlie sandstone.
- These soils are poorly drained with summer flooding often resulting in these areas turning ‘mushy’ with water logging affecting pasture and causing problems for animal and vehicle movement.
- There is a risk of soil compaction and ‘debil debil’ formation necessitates more frequent renovation (tillage).
- This country is very erodible despite the lack of elevation and slope.

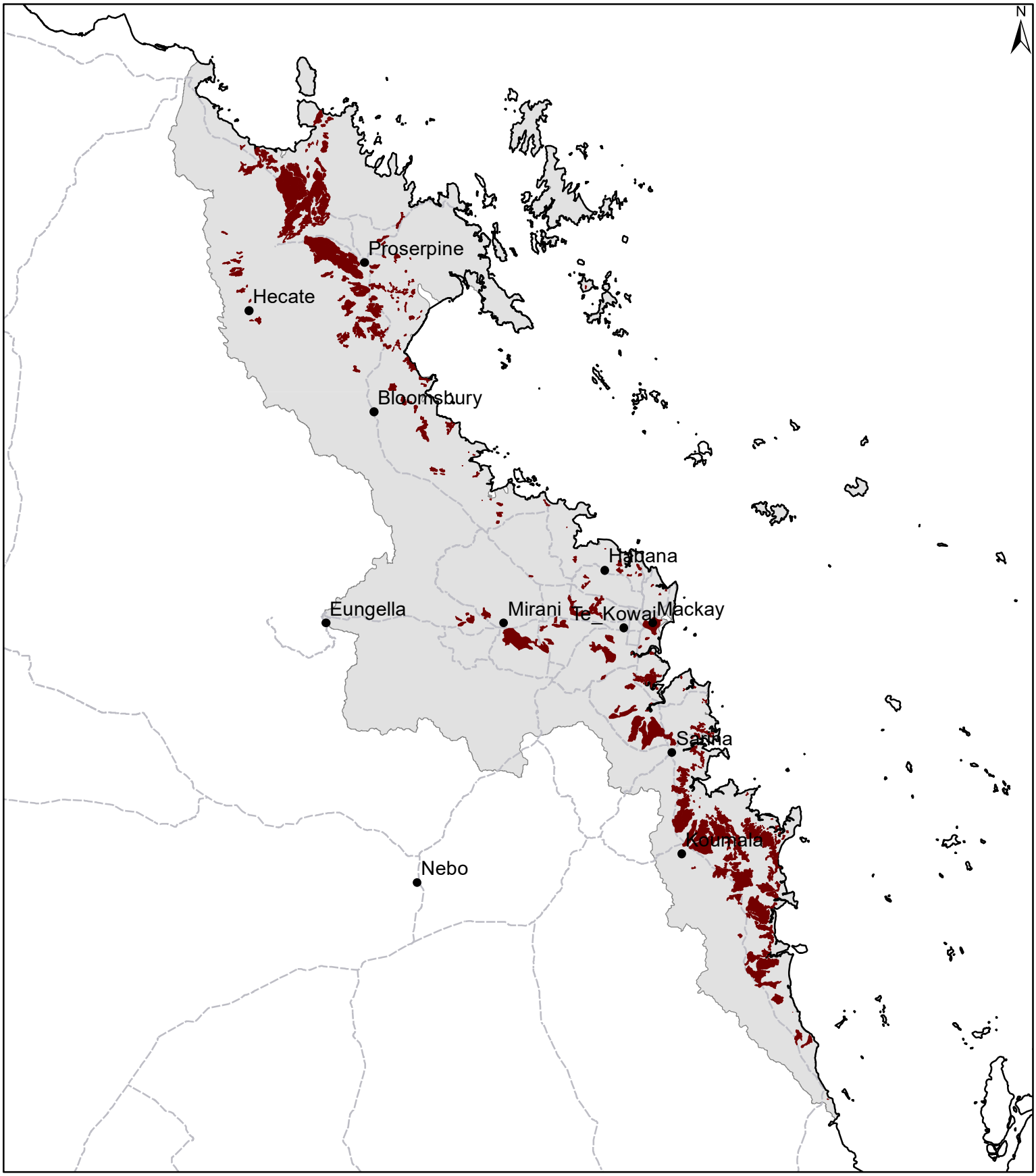
Conservation features and related management

- This land type has a conservation status ‘Of Concern’ and a biodiversity status of ‘Endangered’.
- This vegetation type typically has a very diverse ground stratum, and many of these species remain poorly collected and known.
- It is known habitat for the threatened fauna species – grey goshawk, beach thick-knee, eastern small-eyed snake, locally rare bar-breasted honey-eater and squirrel gliders. Also habitat for the bats and other fauna such as orange-footed scrub fowl and red-tail black cockatoos.
- Conservative grazing regime to allow recruitment of canopy species.
- Protect trees with hollows (living and dead) and a ground stratum with hollow logs.
- Fencing off this area to exclude grazing during wet season will assist in controlling erosion and disturbance.

Regional Ecosystems

8.1.5, 8.3.2, 8.3.13b, 8.5.2a, 8.5.2c, 8.5.6, 8.5.7.

MW04 Coastal tea tree plains



Area of land type in region: 5%
Median rainfall (region): 631 – 1690 mm
Average rainfall (region): 736 – 1808 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 35%
Median FPC: 25%
Median TBA: 10 m2/ha

Queensland Government