

# 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.

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

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 1614 – 1679 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	8010 - 8680	50% (sown)	0.7
	42 TBA 83 FPC	< 3320 - 4220	50% (sown)	> 1.4 – 1.8

### Enterprise

Initially developed for dairy farms. Currently breeding and finishing with fertiliser inputs.

### Land use and management recommendations

- High input of fertiliser to maintain sown pastures.
- Need to be vigilant with lantana control.
- Suitable for pasture improvement (depending on topography).
- Retain trees on bed and bank of streams.
- Selective logging of timber trees could be possible, if undertaken in accordance with State Forestry and vegetation management policies and guidelines.
- Maintain good pasture cover to avoid erosion during high rainfall periods.
- Use off stream watering points for cattle grazing where possible.

### Land use limitations

- Steep slopes (<15–20%) can limit pasture development.
- Tree vegetation status should be checked before development.
- Pasture rundown is relatively quick after clearing (5 years).

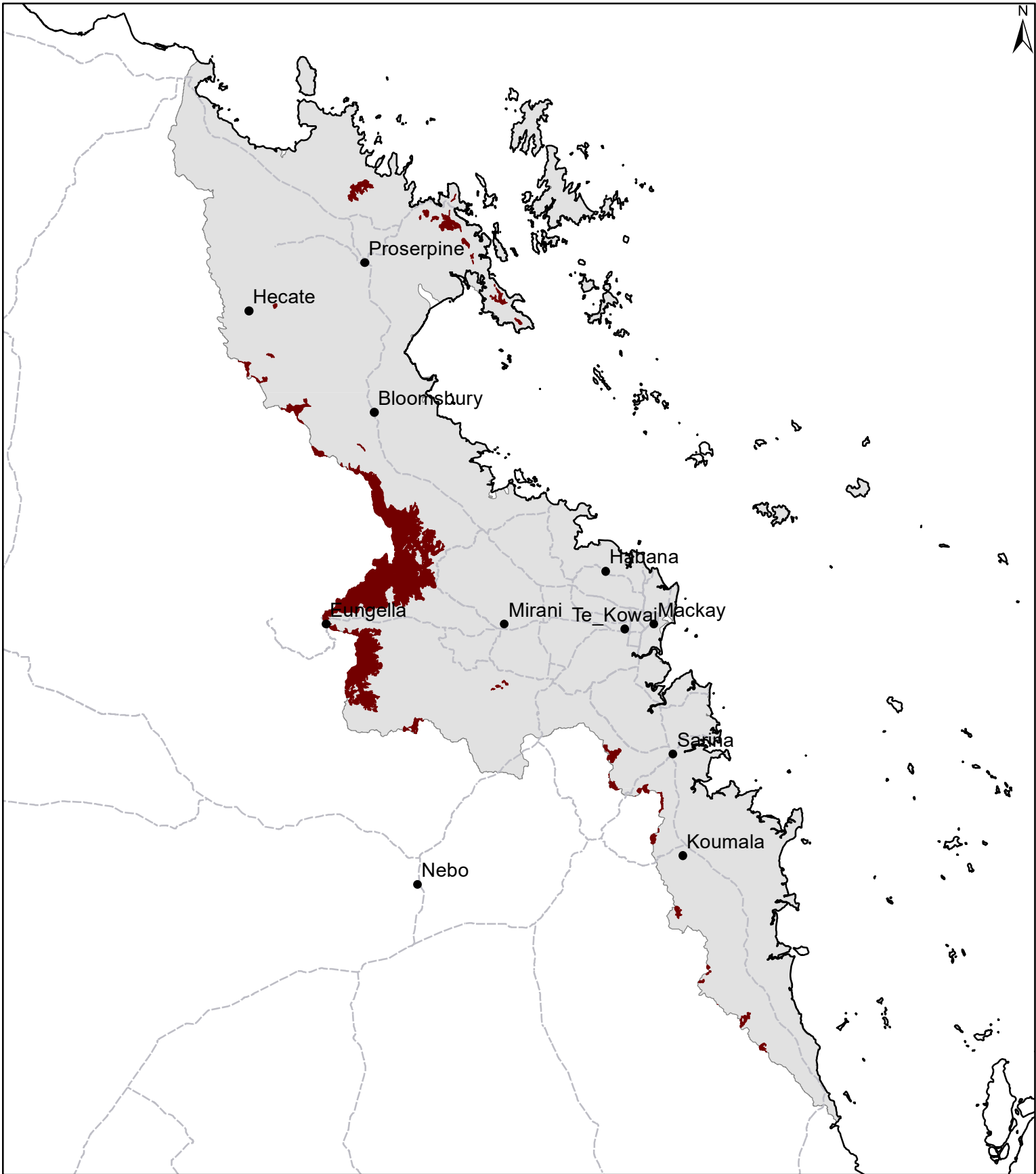
### Conservation features and related management

- Very high conservation values where existing rainforest vegetation remains.
- 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.
- Isolation of remnants over time has resulted in speciation within distinct rainforest types.
- Grazing exclusion area. Protect community edges from fire encroachment.

### Regional Ecosystems

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.

# MW09 Wet highland rainforests



Area of land type in region: 7%  
Median rainfall (region): 631 – 1690 mm  
Average rainfall (region): 736 – 1808 mm  
Area of land type with FPC: 53%  
Median FPC: 83%  
Median TBA: 42 m<sup>2</sup>/ha



**Queensland  
Government**