

Marine plains



Landform	Level, saline coastal plains, mostly bare mud and salt flats or plains of saline clays.
Woody vegetation	Treeless plains.
Expected pasture composition	<i>*Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Marine couch, mudgrass, northern rice grass.
Intermediate	Canegrass, slender chloris.
Non-preferred	
Annual grasses	None.
Common forbs	Spike rushes, fringe rush, sedges. Samphire grows on some mud and salt flats but is not eaten.
Suitable sown pastures	Not suitable for sown pastures.
Introduced weeds	Rubbervine, parkinsonia (more elevated areas).
Soil	Grey and black saline, cracking clay soils (solonchaks).
Description	Surface: Thin salt crust; Surface texture: heavy clay; Subsoil texture: heavy clay.
Features	Carbonate nodules and/or gypsum at shallow depths.
Water availability	High

Fertility	Moderate to high. Low nitrogen (2%); high phosphorus (21 mg/kg); high potassium (2.2 cmol /kg).
Salinity	Very high.
Sodicity	Highly sodic.
pH	Neutral (6.7) at surface; increasing alkalinity down the profile.

Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 778 – 1297 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	3420	25%	3.4
	7 TBA 18 FPC	2890 - 3030	25%	3.9 – 4.0

Enterprise

Breeding herds.

Land use and management recommendations

- Suitable for grazing of 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

- Regular inundation.
- Most surface water is saline, restricting grazing to short periods only during wet season when fresh water is available.
- Soils too saline for agriculture.

Conservation features and related management

- Significant wader habitat.
- Seasonally important habitat for water birds for feeding and breeding.

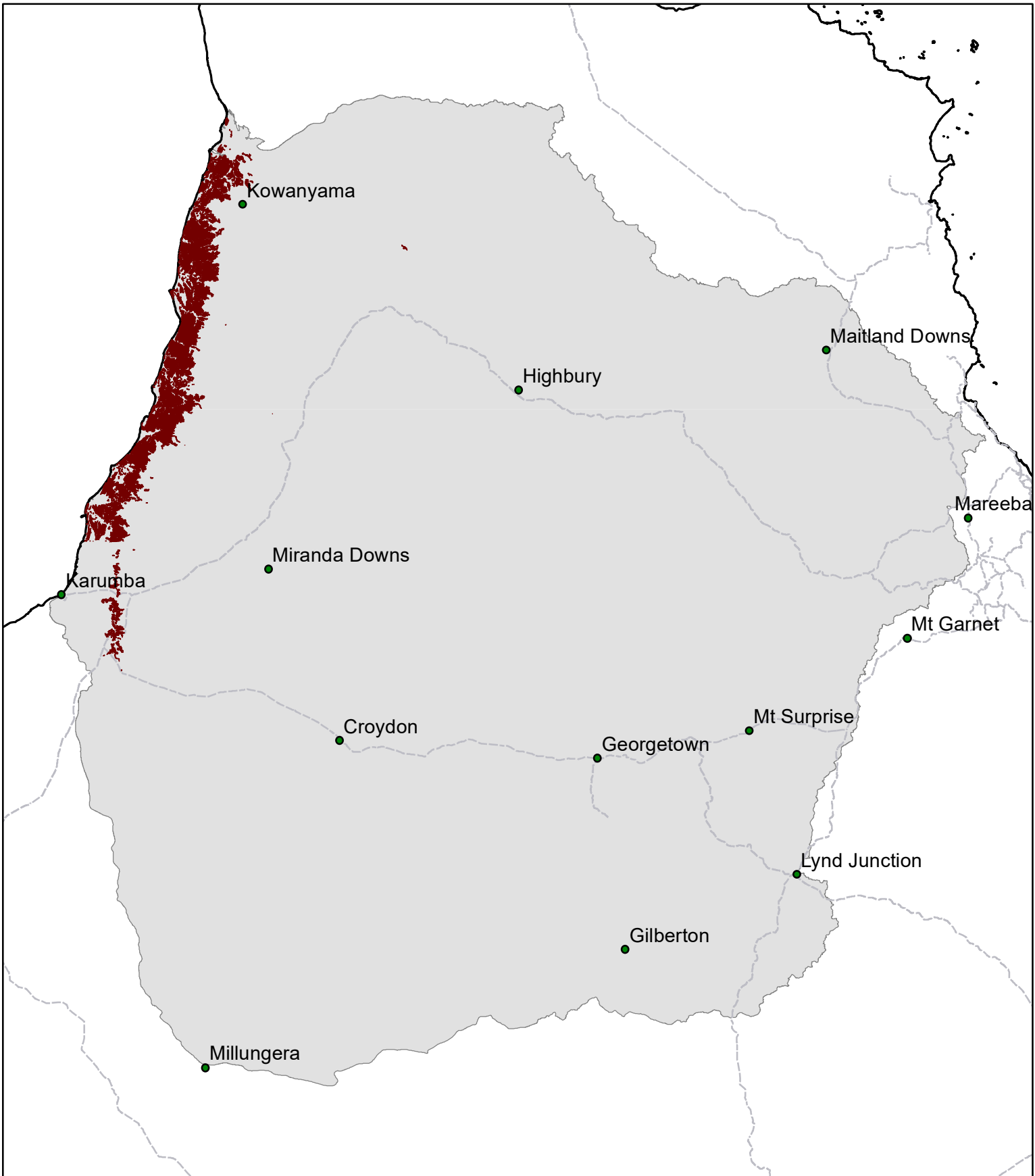
Regional Ecosystems

7.1.1, 7.1.2a-b, 7.1.3a-c, 7.1.4a-d, 7.1.5.

Land system, Local Pasture Unit

Carpentaria (58) (Perry *et al* 1964); LPU 131 (Tohill and Gillies 1992).

NG06 Marine plains



Area of land type in region: 1%
Median rainfall (region): 544 – 1297 mm
Average rainfall (region): 580 – 1370 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 13%
Median FPC: 18%
Median TBA: 7 m²/ha



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