

# Marine plains



<b>Landform</b>	Level saline coastal plains, mostly bare mud and salt flats or plains of saline clay meadows on the slightly elevated plains or low plateaus.
<b>Woody vegetation</b>	Predominantly treeless plains or sparse woodland of coolibah and guttapercha, with mangroves in stream channels.
<b>Expected pasture composition</b>	* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Marine couch, mudgrass, northern rice grass.
Intermediate	Canegrass, slender chloris, beetle grass, spiny mud grass.
Non-preferred	
Annual grasses	
Common forbs	Spike rushes, fringe rush, common sedges. Sampshire grows on saline and tidal mud flats and is eaten when stock have high salt tolerance or when fresh water is readily available.
<b>Suitable sown pastures</b>	Not suitable for sown pastures.
<b>Introduced weeds</b>	Rubbervine, parkinsonia (more elevated areas).
<b>Soil</b>	Grey and black saline crackling clays with areas of mud flats or saline soils with sandy surfaces.
<b>Description</b>	<b>Surface:</b> Loose or thin salt crust; <b>Surface texture:</b> clay loam or sandy or shelly clay; <b>Subsoil texture:</b> silty to heavy.
<b>Features</b>	Sandy or shelly clay surfaces occurring on slightly elevated plains. Carbonate nodules and/or gypsum occur at shallow depths.

Water availability

Virtually no internal drainage. Water ponds readily.

High water holding capacity. Availability limited by salinity and sodicity.

Rooting depth

Shallow.

Infiltration

Moderate to low.

Fertility

Moderate to high. Low Nitrogen, high Phosphorous.

Salinity

High.

Sodicity

High.

pH

Acidic sands, slightly alkaline to acidic clays.

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

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 761 – 831 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	1300 - 2030	25%	5.8 – 9.0
	6 TBA 15 FPC	610 - 920	25%	13 – 19

**Enterprise**

Breeding.

**Land use and management recommendations**

- Suitable for grazing 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**

- Extreme salinity and regular inundation prevent any agricultural development.
- As fresh water is scarce, stock can only graze for a short period of time while surface water is available following the wet season.

**Conservation features and related management**

- Permanent and seasonal wetlands.
- Seasonally important habitat for water birds breeding and feeding.
- Can be refuge for fauna including macropods.

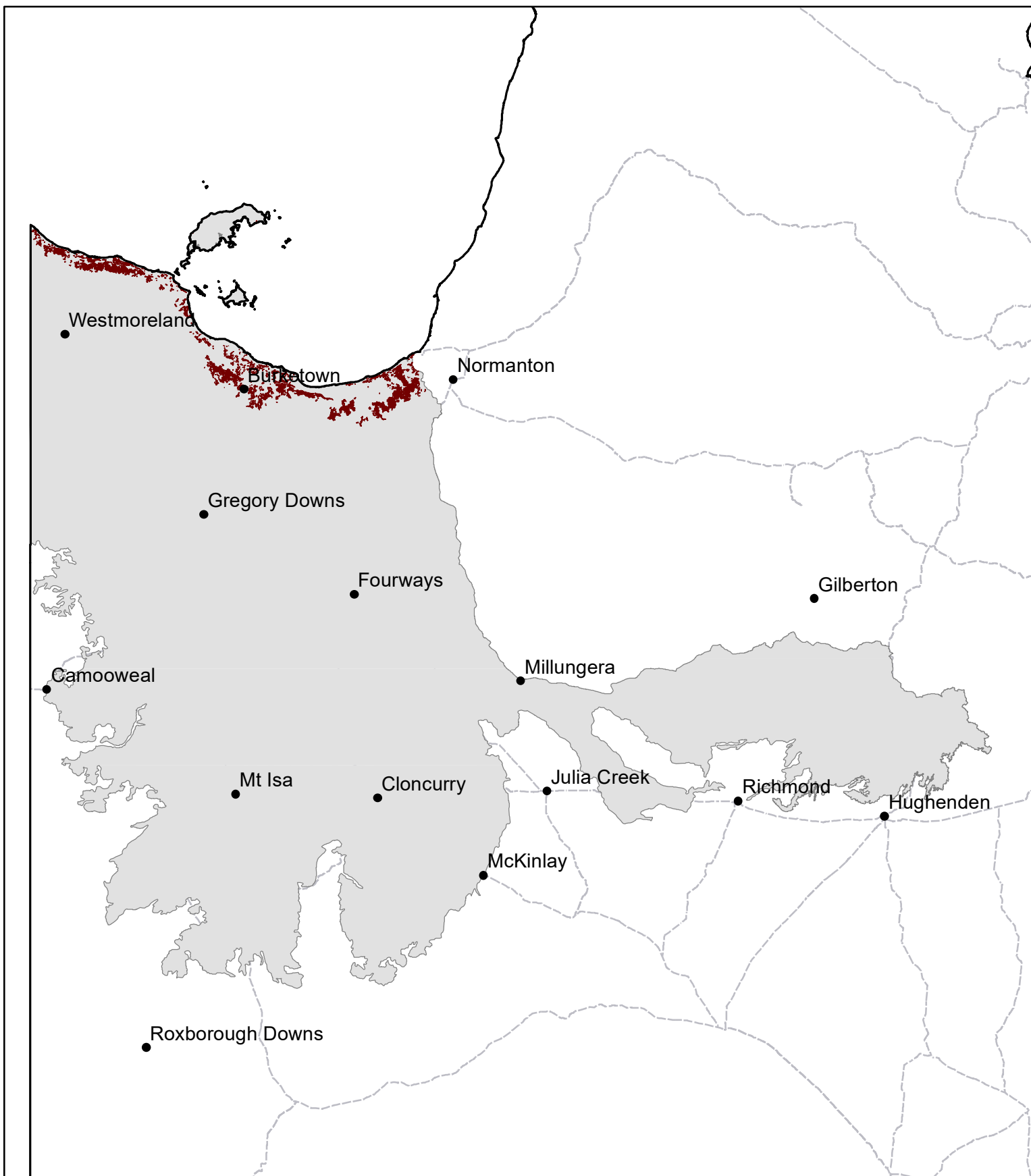
**Regional Ecosystems**

2.3.2a, 2.3.2x1, 2.9.1.

**Land Systems**

Carpentaria (58) (Perry 1964).

# SG08 Marine plains



Area of land type in region: 1%  
Median rainfall (region): 233 – 831 mm  
Average rainfall (region): 271 – 952 mm  
Area of land type with FPC: 17%  
Median FPC: 15%  
Median TBA: 6 m<sup>2</sup>/ha



**Queensland**  
Government