

# Coastal country



## Landform

Grassland on low plains adjacent to marine plains.

## Woody vegetation

Predominantly paperbark understorey with coolibah, north-west ghost gum, western bloodwood, Cooktown ironwood, snappy gum, currant bush (conkerberry), silver-leaved box, large leaf cabbage gum, broad-leaved carbeen, figs, wattles, beefwood, batswing coral tree, ebony, mangroves, lolly bush, quinine, bauhinia, guttapercha, whitewood, bean tree and palms.

## Expected pasture composition

*\* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species*

### Preferred

Golden beard grass/ribbon grass, silky browntop, slender chloris, porcupine spinifex, wanderrie grasses, lovegrasses, white grass, northern rice grass, Australian wild rice, Mitchell grass, Queensland bluegrass.

### Intermediate

Cane grass, blady grass, beetle grass.

### Non-preferred

Wiregrasses.

### Annual grasses

Fire grass, downs couch, Australian dropseed, Flinders grass, hare's foot grass

### Common forbs

Potato/tomato bushes, beach bean, marsh wort.

## Suitable sown pastures

Non suitable.

## Introduced weeds

Rubber vine, parkinsonia, prickly acacia.

<b>Soil</b>	Shallow, impervious, highly erosive in the subsoil. Red earths, slightly deeper with a range from sandy loams to light clays.
Description	<b>Surface:</b> Sandy, fine sandy or silty clay loams or clays, light to grey to greyish brown in the upper portion; <b>Surface texture:</b> sandy loam to clay; <b>Sub-soil texture:</b> bleached below; with a sub-soil texture that is a massive structure with hard consistence some presence of carbonate nodules and/or gypsum at shallow depths.
Features	Surface horizons can be sandy with clay underneath. Often pasture growth is limited to the sandy horizon. Soils subject to inundation will have a surface salt crust.
Water availability	Low.
Rooting depth	Moderate to shallow.
Infiltration	Moderate initially slowing after 20 mm, significant run off expected after 35 mm. Estimates based on low to moderate intensity storm rain. Good soaking rain required to wet the soil profile.
Fertility	Moderate to low.
Salinity	Moderate to high.
Sodicity	Moderate
pH	Neutral to acid at the surface, varying from strongly alkaline to strongly acidic in the subsoil.
<b>Utilisation</b>	15%.
<b>Enterprise</b>	Breeding.
<b>Land use and management recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use fire judiciously as management tool to control woody weeds.</li> <li>• Maintenance of ground cover to minimise shrub invasion and wind and water (gully) erosion.</li> </ul>
<b>Land use limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pasture growth is often limited by salts in the clay subsoil.</li> <li>• Fresh water is scarce and so stock can only graze for a short period of time following the wet season while surface water is available. Production may be limited by weedy growth of guttapercha.</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation features and related management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seasonal wetland.</li> <li>• Important feeding sites for birds.</li> </ul>
<b>Regional ecosystems</b>	2.3.1, 2.3.1x51, 2.3.4x42, 2.3.4x50, 2.3.34x31.