

Glossary for technical descriptions

Term	Definition
Pre-clearing vegetation	The vegetation present before clearing. This has been determined from remnant vegetation, aerial photographs, and ecological and in some instances historical knowledge.
Remnant vegetation	For woody vegetation to be mapped as remnant the dominant canopy must have >70% of the height and >50% of the cover relative to the undisturbed height and cover of that stratum and is dominated by species characteristic of the vegetation's undisturbed canopy.
REDD	The regional ecosystem description database: http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/REDD Field definitions used in the descriptions can be found online: ‘Explanation of fields in RE descriptions’
CORVEG	The Queensland Herbarium's site survey database
Structural formation	Classes of structural formation are qualified by height and PFC or crown cover. See table 29 in Methodology for survey and mapping of regional ecosystems in Queensland .
Basal area	Basal areas are estimated by plotless sampling using the Bitterlich method. Basal area is recorded by species and stratum using a single sweep of a Bitterlich stick or basal area prism or dendrometer with basal area factor of 1 (BAF1) from the centre of the plot. Each tree counted contributes 1 m ² /ha of basal area. A smaller basal area factor of 0.75 is used in more lightly wooded areas, such as open woodlands and semi-arid and arid areas. Species located outside the 50 x 10 m plot are included in the basal area count.
Emergent	In the modified Specht (1970) system, the Queensland Herbarium describes the vegetation by the predominant stratum, which is the one that is assessed as contributing the most above-ground biomass. The tallest stratum is regarded as the emergent layer if it does not form the most above-ground biomass, regardless of its canopy cover
Canopy tree layer	The predominant layer (for example, T1 layer) with the highest biomass.
Sub-canopy tree layer	The sub-canopy layer (for example, T2 layer).
Tree	Woody plants, more than 2 m tall with a single stem or branches well above the base.
Tree canopy height	The average canopy height in metres, as estimated for the tree layer.
Tree canopy cover	Refers to the estimation of the percentage canopy cover of the tree layer.
Shrub	Woody plant that is multi-stemmed from the base (or within 200mm from ground level) or single stemmed, and less than 2 m tall.
Shrub canopy height	The average canopy height in metres, as estimated for the shrub layer.
Shrub canopy cover	The estimation of the percentage canopy cover of the shrub layer.
Stem density	Stem density uses the stem count by strata and by species in a plot and provides another measure of species abundance in each layer.
Tall shrub	Woody plant multi-stemmed from the base (or within 200mm from ground level) and greater than 2 m tall. To be considered with ‘Trees’ in the benchmark document. Note that a ‘Tall shrub’ can be the same species as a ‘Tree’ within or between assessment sites (e.g. <i>Acacia aneura</i> , <i>Acacia cambagei</i>). This term is relevant to a select number of semi-arid Acacia dominant regional ecosystems only.
Graminoid	Of the families: <i>Poaceae</i> , <i>Cyperaceae</i> and <i>Juncaceae</i> .

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Grass	<p>A collective term for the following plant life forms:</p> <p>Tussock grass: Forms discrete but open tussocks usually with distinct individual shoots, or if not, then forming a hummock. These are the common agricultural grasses.</p> <p>Hummock grass: Coarse xeromorphic grass with a mound-like form often dead in the middle; genus <i>Triodia</i></p> <p>Other grass: Member of the family Poaceae, but having neither a distinctive tussock nor hummock appearance.</p>
Forb (included in other species)	Herbaceous or slightly woody, annual or sometimes perennial plant; not a grass or life form defined under Other species.
Perennial species	Perennial species are long-lived plants, tending to persist for three or more years. Generally perennial grasses are characterized by larger bulk than annual grasses i.e. forming tussocks and large root mass with evidence of previous seasons growth i.e. remains of last years tiller bases, and presence of stolons or rhizomes.
Other species	<p>Includes species belonging to the following life forms:</p> <p>Sedge: Herbaceous, usually perennial erect plant generally with a tufted habit and of the families Cyperaceae and Restionaceae.</p> <p>Rush: Herbaceous, usually perennial erect plant. Rushes are grouped into families Juncaceae, Typhaceae, Restionaceae and the genera <i>Lomandra</i> and <i>Dianella</i>.</p> <p>Fern and fern allies: Characterized by large and usually branched leaves (fronds), herbaceous to arborescent and terrestrial to aquatic; spores in sporangia on the leaves.</p> <p>Bryophyte: Mosses and Liverworts. Mosses are small plants usually with a slender leaf-bearing stem with no true vascular tissue. Liverworts are often moss-like in appearance or consisting of a flat, ribbon-like green thallus.</p> <p>Epiphytes: (including orchids), mistletoes and parasites. Plant with roots attached to the aerial portions of other plants. Often could also be another growth form, such as fern or forb.</p> <p>Lichen: Composite plant consisting of a fungus living symbiotically with algae; without true roots, stems or leaves.</p> <p>Vines: Climbing, twining, winding or sprawling plants usually with a woody stem.</p> <p>Aquatic: Plant growing in a waterway or wetland with the majority of its biomass under water for most of the year. Fresh, saline or brackish water.</p>