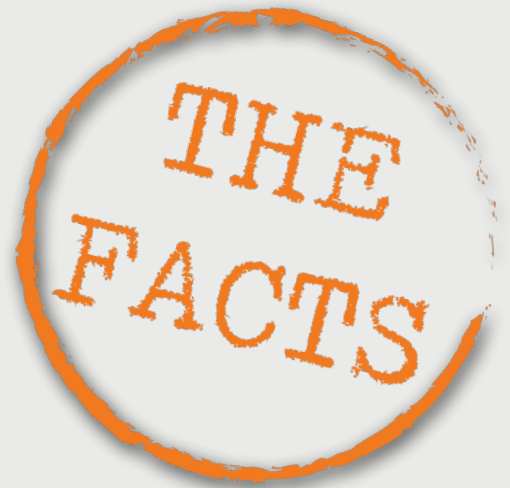


Terrestrial Ecosystems



Terrestrial ecosystems include all the plants and animals that inhabit our landscapes. Terrestrial ecosystems provide food, fibre, fuel and shelter. Terrestrial ecosystems store, transform and release carbon, water and other nutrients, protect soil resources and reduce the impact of extreme weather events. They provide habitat, produce oxygen and regulate climate.

Grazing, forestry, horticulture and cropping systems rely on pastures, trees, pollination and other elements of terrestrial ecosystems. The region's dominate vegetation is brigalow, a type of wattle (*Acacia harpophylla*). Despite extensive land clearing, the region retains many interesting, unusual and threatened species.

Pressures

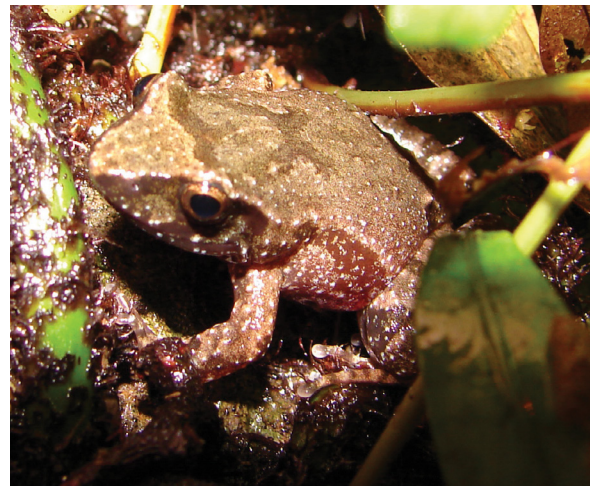
Most central Queensland ecosystems are highly fragmented from historical clearing and land development. Clearing continues to occur, although at a much lower rate than previously.

As a result, 110 of the region's ecosystems are 'endangered' and 158 are 'of concern' under Queensland legislation. At least 16 exotic animal species and 186 exotic plant species are found in the region.

New habitats are forming as a result of naturalised weeds, large infrastructure disturbance and rehabilitation, and vegetation thickening.

Vegetation thickening is a complex response to grazing pressure and changed fire regimes.

Generally the health of terrestrial ecosystems is in decline. This is shown in the many species now occurring over smaller ranges, the decline and loss of some species and ecosystems, and loss of ecosystem function. Conservation areas provide critical refuges for many species.



The region has many iconic animal species, such as the Kroombit tinkerfrog.

CQSS2030

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND
Sustainability Strategy 2030

Trends

Land clearing remains the greatest threat to regional biodiversity. Biodiversity values are expected to continue to decline in response to historical and ongoing vegetation clearing and habitat fragmentation.

Increasing temperatures and changes to seasonality and extreme weather events will impact biodiversity. Impacts are likely to include changes to the ranges of species and ecosystems. A heavily fragmented landscape is less resilient to climate change pressures.

Regional objectives

Terrestrial ecosystems support the region's plants and animals. Land clearing and habitat fragmentation impact the region's biodiversity.

We need to maintain and improve the extent and condition of terrestrial ecosystems.

We need to manage habitat connectivity to sustain the region's biodiversity.



Terrestrial ecosystems remain culturally significant to the region's Indigenous groups.

Contact us

Fitzroy Basin Association Inc.
80 East Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 139
Rockhampton Qld 4700

Telephone: (07) 4999 2800
Email: admin@fba.org.au
Website: www.fba.org.au



Australian Government

