

Plant Community Type (PCT) Descriptions – Dorrigo Koala Biodiversity Corridor Mapping Project 2024

PCT ID	PCT Name	Vegetation Class	Vegetation Formation	Median Elevation (m)	Median Annual Rainfall (mm)	Median Annual Mean Temp (°C)	Vegetation Description	TEC Assessed	State TEC Profile ID
3031	Northern Escarpment Coachwood-Beech Rainforest	Northern Warm Temperate Rainforests	Rainforests	1007.6	1435	12.6	Very tall to extremely tall rainforest, or rarely, extremely tall eucalypt open forest with very tall rainforest sub-canopy, which occurs on the escarpment and higher ranges between Washpool National Park and Barrington Tops. The canopy is typically dominated by two species with the highest cover, almost always <i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i> and/or very frequently <i>Doryphora sassafras</i> . Other species with relatively lower cover almost always include <i>Orites excelsus</i> , very frequently <i>Caldcluvia paniculosa</i> , commonly <i>Callicoma serratifolia</i> and occasionally <i>Nothofagus moorei</i> , which may sometimes have a high foliage cover. <i>Cryptocarya meissneriana</i> is frequent as a mid-stratum tree. The ground layer varies from sparse to dense, very frequently including <i>Lomandra spicata</i> , commonly with <i>Drymophila moorei</i> , <i>Blechnum watsii</i> and <i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i> . This PCT occurs mainly in cool, wet locations receiving 1250-1630 mm mean annual rainfall, at high elevations of 650-1120 metres asl. Where it occurs at the lower end of this elevation range, it is usually in cool, sheltered gullies. It occupies a similar range to PCT 3032 however occurs at generally higher elevations and differs from that PCT in its much higher abundance of <i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i> and <i>Orites excelsa</i> . It occupies a very similar range and environment to PCT 3033 and often grades into that PCT, however tends to occur in more sheltered or cooler sites and has a higher frequency and abundance of <i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i> , <i>Blechnum watsii</i> and <i>Drymophila moorei</i> . All three of these PCTs occur on a wide range of lithologies and soil types. Sites which are transitional between PCT 3031 and PCT 3033, or those which have been disturbed, may be difficult to assign with confidence to either one of these two PCTs.	No associated TEC	
3032	Northern Escarpment Sassafras-Booyong-Corkwood Rainforest	Northern Warm Temperate Rainforests	Rainforests	656.3	1398	14.52	Very tall to extremely tall dense rainforest, or occasionally extremely tall eucalypt open forest with a dense rainforest subcanopy, which occurs extensively on the escarpment and adjacent ranges north from Barrington Tops. The tree canopy composition is very variable; however it very frequently includes various combinations of <i>Caldcluvia paniculosa</i> , <i>Heritiera actinophylla</i> , <i>Doryphora sassafras</i> and <i>Schizomeria ovata</i> . There is a mid-dense to dense mid-stratum of trees, shrubs and vines, very frequently including <i>Tasmannia insipida</i> , <i>Pittosporum multiflorus</i> and <i>Palmeria scandens</i> . Epiphytic ferns (e.g. <i>Arthropteris tenella</i> and <i>Asplenium australasicum</i>) are almost always present and may be locally abundant. This PCT mostly occurs in moderately cool, wet locations receiving 1140-1760 mm mean annual rainfall, at mid-elevations of 380-860 metres asl. It has a very similar distribution to PCTs 3031 and 3033 however occurs at lower elevations than either of these, both of which occur mostly above 750 metres asl. All three of these PCTs occur on a wide range of lithologies and soil types. PCT 3032 differs from both these PCTs in having higher frequency and abundance of <i>Heritiera actinophylla</i> , <i>Diploglottis australis</i> , <i>Neolitsea dealbata</i> and a range of other subtropical rainforest species.	Has associated TEC	20073
3033	Northern Escarpment Sassafras-Prickly Ash Rainforest	Northern Warm Temperate Rainforests	Rainforests	949.3	1292	12.93	Very tall to extremely tall dense rainforest, or rarely extremely tall eucalypt open forest with a dense rainforest sub-canopy, which occurs extensively on the escarpment and adjacent ranges north from Barrington Tops. The canopy almost always includes <i>Doryphora sassafras</i> with the highest foliage cover, very frequently <i>Orites excelsa</i> and <i>Caldcluvia paniculosa</i> , occasionally with <i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i> . There is a mid-dense to dense mid-stratum of trees, shrubs and vines, that very frequently includes <i>Pittosporum multiflorum</i> , <i>Tasmannia insipida</i> and <i>Palmeria scandens</i> , accompanied commonly by the climbing epiphytic ferns <i>Microsorium scandens</i> and <i>Arthropteris tenella</i> . This PCT occurs mainly in cool, wet locations receiving 1070-1620 mm mean annual rainfall, at mid to high elevations of 680-1080 metres asl. It has a very similar distribution to PCT 3032 however it occurs at higher elevations. It occupies a very similar range and environment to PCT 3031 and often grades into that PCT, however tends to occur in more exposed or warmer sites and has a higher frequency and abundance of <i>Schizomeria ovata</i> , <i>Sloanea woollsii</i> , <i>Polyosma cunninghamii</i> , <i>Palmeria scandens</i> and <i>Arthropteris tenella</i> . All three of these PCTs occur on a wide range of lithologies and soil types. Sites which are transitional between PCT 3033 and PCT 3031, or those which have been disturbed, may be difficult to assign with confidence to either one of these two PCTs.	Has associated TEC	10497
3052	Northern Escarpment Antarctic Beech Rainforest	Cool Temperate Rainforests	Rainforests	1357.1	1603	10.56	A very tall dense rainforest, or occasionally extremely tall eucalypt open forest with a dense rainforest sub-canopy, which is disjunct on the plateau escarpment south-west of Dorrigo and on Barrington Tops, with possible scattered occurrences in the Nowendoc area, south-east of Walcha. Tree species diversity is low, with <i>Nothofagus moorei</i> almost always present and very often the dominant, or sometimes sole dominant tree, although very frequently <i>Doryphora sassafras</i> is present. Other species which occur occasionally or rarely include <i>Elaeocarpus holopetalus</i> , which occurs in the canopy or mid-stratum, and <i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i> and <i>Eucalyptus fastigata</i> , which occur as canopy or emergents. The vine <i>Smilax australis</i> is almost always present. There is a mid-stratum that very frequently includes shrub <i>Coprosma quadrifida</i> and tree fern <i>Dicksonia antarctica</i> , which varies from sparse to dense, often occurring more densely along creeks. PCT 3052 occurs in cold, very wet locations receiving 1330-2090 mm mean annual rainfall, at high elevations of 1220-1460 metres asl. It occurs most frequently on deep fertile soils derived from basalt or granodiorite and is the PCT in which <i>Nothofagus moorei</i> occurs most frequently. In similar environments, on more exposed sites, this community grades into wet eucalypt PCT 3287, which also includes <i>Nothofagus moorei</i> . On lower elevations, it grades into PCT 3031, which has a similar latitudinal range and also includes <i>Nothofagus moorei</i> .	No associated TEC	
3206	Northern Escarpment Corkwood-Brush Box Wet Forest	Northern Escarpment Wet Sclerophyll Forests	Wet Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	803.7	1398	13.73	Very tall to extremely tall, sclerophyll open forest with mid-dense to dense mesic tree sub-canopy or mid-stratum, or rarely very tall rainforest. This PCT occurs on the escarpment ranges from south-east of Tenterfield to north-west of Taree, with a disjunct southern occurrence on Barrington Tops. The canopy is typically dominated by one or more of three tree species with the highest cover, commonly <i>Eucalyptus microcorys</i> and <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> ; and occasionally <i>Eucalyptus saligna</i> . Other eucalypt species that rarely occur, however may be locally dominant, include <i>Eucalyptus campanulata</i> , <i>Eucalyptus laevopinea</i> and <i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i> . Other trees in the subcanopy, mid-stratum or occasionally the canopy which may be locally abundant, very frequently include <i>Caldcluvia paniculosa</i> , <i>Schizomeria ovata</i> , <i>Tasmannia insipida</i> , <i>Trochocarpa laurina</i> , <i>Cryptocarya rigida</i> and <i>Synoum glandulosum</i> . Other common species include <i>Callicoma serratifolia</i> , which is abundant in some areas, especially following disturbance and the vine <i>Palmeria scandens</i> . The very sparse to mid-dense ground layer very frequently includes the fern <i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i> which is sometimes locally abundant. This PCT occurs on sheltered slopes and in gullies, mainly in cool, wet locations receiving 1190-1730 mm mean annual rainfall, at mid to high elevations of 620-1000 metres asl. It has a similar range and occurs in similar environments to PCT 3207, which occurs on more exposed or drier upslope locations which are more frequently burnt.	No associated TEC	

3207	Northern Escarpment Layered Blackbutt Fern Forest	Northern Escarpment Wet Sclerophyll Forests	Wet Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	1016.6	1293	12.68	Very tall to extremely tall, sclerophyll open forest with variable, mixed small tree, shrub and grass components, which occurs on the escarpment ranges from south-east of Tenterfield to north-west of Taree, with a disjunct southern occurrence on Barrington Tops. The canopy has a high cover very frequently of <i>Eucalyptus campanulata</i> , and commonly <i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i> . Other species occasionally include <i>Eucalyptus saligna</i> and <i>Eucalyptus cameronii</i> , rarely with <i>Eucalyptus laevopinea</i> and <i>Eucalyptus nobilis</i> . The sparse to dense mid-stratum includes tree ferns, small trees and shrubs. Common species include <i>Cyathea australis</i> , which sometimes has high cover locally, <i>Persoonia media</i> and <i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i> , with occasionally <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> , <i>Caldcluvia paniculosa</i> , <i>Trochocarpa laurina</i> , <i>Banksia integrifolia</i> and <i>Acacia irrorata</i> , the latter especially in disturbed areas. Vines occur in both the mid-stratum and ground layer, and almost always include <i>Hibbertia scandens</i> and very frequently <i>Hibbertia dentata</i> and <i>Smilax australis</i> . A dense to sparse ground layer include grasses, graminoids and ferns. Species almost always include <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> , often with a high cover, and <i>Pteridium esculentum</i> , very frequently <i>Poa sieberiana</i> and <i>Dianella caerulea</i> , commonly <i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i> and occasionally <i>Calochlaena dubia</i> , which is often abundant in recently or frequently burnt areas. This PCT occurs mainly in very cool, wet locations receiving 1050-1500 mm mean annual rainfall, at high elevations of 900-1130 m. It occurs on a range of substrates, mainly metasediments, granite or granodiorite, occasionally on sediments. It occurs in a mosaic with a range of other PCTs, including grassy forest, dry sclerophyll forest, other wet sclerophyll forests or rainforest. For example, on coarse-grained granite it may replace dry sclerophyll PCT 3672 on the most sheltered slopes. On clay-rich metasediments or sediments, it may grade into wet sclerophyll PCT 3205 or rainforest PCT 3033 on sheltered slopes or in gullies.	No associated TEC	
3287	Northern Escarpment Messmate Cool Wet Forest	Northern Tableland Wet Sclerophyll Forests	Wet Sclerophyll Forests (Grassy sub-formation)	1287.9	1233	10.79	A tall to very tall moist shrub/grass sclerophyll open forest restricted to high, cold wet ranges along the south-east rim of the New England Tableland from Barren Mountain south to Ben Halls Gap, and on Barrington Tops. This PCT occurs at elevations of 1000-1400 metres asl where mean annual rainfall is 900-1900 mm, primarily on basalts however also adjacent sedimentary, acid volcanic and granitoid geologies. The tree canopy is very frequently dominated by <i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i> , or occasionally <i>Eucalyptus fastigata</i> or <i>Eucalyptus nobilis</i> . A diverse multilayered midstratum includes small trees such as <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> , <i>Banksia integrifolia</i> , <i>Trochocarpa montana</i> and <i>Lomatia arborescens</i> , and moisture-loving shrubs including <i>Coprosma quadrifida</i> , <i>Leucopogon lanceolatus</i> , <i>Tasmannia stipitata</i> , <i>Polyscias sambucifolia</i> and the tree fern <i>Dicksonia antarctica</i> . The ground layer is very frequently dominated by tussocks of <i>Poa sieberiana</i> and tall clumps of <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> , commonly with ferns <i>Pteridium esculentum</i> and <i>Blechnum nudum</i> . Other common ground layer components include sprawling vines <i>Smilax australis</i> and <i>Clematis aristata</i> and other soft-leaved grasses and forbs including <i>Microlaena stipoides</i> , <i>Viola hederacea</i> and <i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i> , with occasional <i>Geranium solanderi</i> , <i>Dianella caerulea</i> , <i>Geranium potentilloides</i> , <i>Glycine clandestina</i> or <i>Lobelia pedunculata</i> . This community occurs on moist sheltered slopes and may be replaced by PCT 3288 on exposed upper slopes and plateau crests, or by PCT 3379 at higher elevations. In the most sheltered, fire-protected situations it may be replaced by PCT 3052.	No associated TEC	
3288	Northern Escarpment Messmate Moist Grassy Forest	Northern Tableland Wet Sclerophyll Forests	Wet Sclerophyll Forests (Grassy sub-formation)	1163.2	1145	11.62	A very tall moist grassy sclerophyll open forest of high, cool, fertile environments of the lower northern escarpment rim from Mount Royal north to Nowendoc, Mummel Gulf, Ebor and Mount Hyland. This PCT occurs on fertile soils derived from basalts and fine-grained sediments, at elevations of 850-1450 metres asl with mean annual precipitation of 850-1500 mm and may be subject to up to 30 frost days annually and occasional winter snowfall. The canopy very frequently includes <i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i> , commonly with <i>Eucalyptus nobilis</i> and occasionally <i>Eucalyptus campanulata</i> . The mid-stratum is commonly open, with an occasional sparse small tree layer including <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> . A layer of scattered smaller shrubs commonly includes <i>Leucopogon lanceolatus</i> and occasionally <i>Indigofera australis</i> , <i>Coprosma quadrifida</i> or <i>Cyathea australis</i> . There is often a component of trailing vines present, commonly including <i>Smilax australis</i> with occasional <i>Hibbertia scandens</i> or <i>Clematis aristata</i> . The ground layer is almost always dominated by <i>Poa sieberiana</i> , <i>Pteridium esculentum</i> and <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> , with a suite of moist forbs that commonly includes <i>Glycine clandestina</i> , <i>Viola betonicifolia</i> , <i>Rubus parvifolius</i> , <i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i> , <i>Geranium potentilloides</i> and <i>Dichondra repens</i> . This community commonly occurs on broad plateaux and crests, and grades down into PCT 3286 on adjacent steeper slopes or PCT 3285 on warmer sheltered aspects in the south of its range.	No associated TEC	
3379	Barrington-Point Lookout Montane Grassy Forest	Subalpine Woodlands	Grassy Woodlands	1381.8	1362	10.3	A tall to very tall moist grassy sclerophyll open forest scattered along the high, cold and wet south-east rim of the northern tablelands. This PCT is known from Ben Halls Gap to Back River, Ngulin and Porters Mountain at the head of Mummel Gulf, with outliers on the escarpment rim east of Ebor at Point Lookout and large areas on northern Barrington Tops. It occurs at elevations of 1150-1550 metres asl with mean annual rainfall of 1050-2100 mm, generally on basaltic rocks. At Barrington Tops it also occurs on adjacent mapped granodiorite and mudstone geologies, possibly with some influence from basalts upslope. The canopy commonly includes <i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i> , <i>Eucalyptus dalrympleana</i> and <i>Eucalyptus fastigata</i> , with a sparse small tree layer that includes occasional <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> and a patchy shrub layer that commonly includes <i>Acacia dealbata</i> , <i>Leucopogon lanceolatus</i> and <i>Coprosma quadrifida</i> . The ground layer is commonly dense, with moist grasses, ferns, vines and other forbs, almost always including high cover of <i>Poa sieberiana</i> and very frequently including <i>Pteridium esculentum</i> , <i>Lobelia pedunculata</i> , <i>Dichondra repens</i> and <i>Viola betonicifolia</i> . Other common species include <i>Poranthera microphylla</i> , <i>Viola betonicifolia</i> , <i>Asperula conferta</i> , <i>Glycine clandestina</i> , <i>Clematis aristata</i> , <i>Oreomyrrhis eriopoda</i> and <i>Geranium potentilloides</i> . This PCT tends to be associated with the coldest parts of the landscapes it occurs in, occupying high crests and sometimes frosty saddles. With decreasing elevation it commonly grades into PCT 3288, and on sheltered aspects with some fire protection it may grade into PCT 3287.	No associated TEC	
4107	Mid North Escarpment Coachwood Warm Temperate Rainforest	Northern Warm Temperate Rainforests	Rainforests	423.4	1647	14.69	Very tall to extremely tall dense rainforest, or rarely extremely tall sclerophyll open forest with a dense rainforest sub-canopy, which occurs on the ranges and escarpment in the eastern Dorrigo district, North Coast. The canopy almost always includes a high cover of <i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i> , very frequently <i>Acmena smithii</i> and <i>Doryphora sassafras</i> , commonly <i>Schizomeria ovata</i> , with <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> occurring rarely. Emergent <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> is very frequently present and occasionally is common in the canopy. <i>Acradenia euodiiformis</i> is occasionally locally dominant in gullies. Sub-canopy or mid-stratum trees very frequently include <i>Sarcopteryx stipata</i> , commonly with <i>Callicoma serratifolia</i> , which may be very abundant in disturbed sites, <i>Wilkiea huegeliana</i> , <i>Tasmannia insipida</i> , <i>Cryptocarya meissneriana</i> and <i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i> . The vines <i>Calamus muelleri</i> and <i>Ripogonum elseyanum</i> occur very frequently. This PCT occurs on clay-rich sedimentary or metasedimentary substrates in temperate, very wet locations receiving 1520-1850 mm mean annual rainfall, at elevations of 420-650 metres asl. At lower elevations it occurs in sheltered creeks and gullies, however at higher elevations it may occur on more exposed slopes. This community is floristically similar to PCT 3035 which occurs further north, in much warmer sites and has higher species richness than this PCT and includes a range of uniquely northern species. PCT 4107 is unusual in having species normally associated with subtropical rainforest (such as <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> and <i>Calamus muelleri</i>) growing with predominantly warm temperate rainforest species. It also, rarely, includes the cool temperate species <i>Nothofagus moorei</i> , however in the Dorrigo area that species is more frequent in PCTs 3031 and 3052, which occur mainly west from Dorrigo and at generally higher elevations.	Has associated TEC	20073