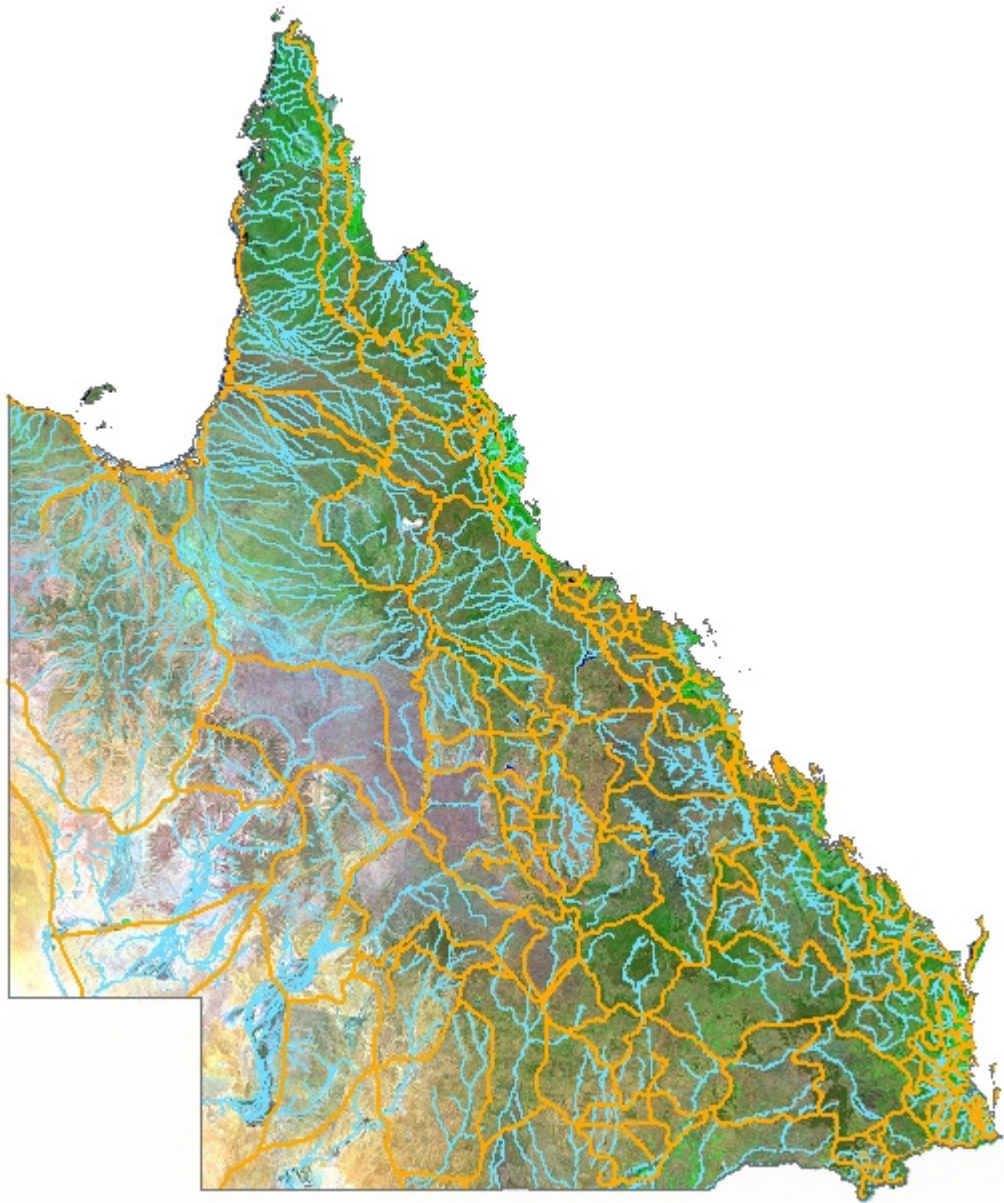


# Corridor identification through the Biodiversity Planning Assessments



24 October 2016

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Biodiversity Assessment

Ecosystem Outcomes Branch  
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Biodiversity Planning Assessments

A Biodiversity Planning Assessment (BPA) is an assessment of biodiversity significance of land in a bioregion based mainly on vegetation mapping from the Queensland Herbarium and a range of biodiversity related data. Biodiversity significance is assessed using diagnostic criteria (based on information in government spatial databases) and the opinion of expert panels (comprised of people from different disciplines with detailed knowledge of, for instance, the ecology, geomorphology or general biodiversity of a locality, subregion or region). The final product of the BPA process is a map showing the biodiversity significance of remnant vegetation in a bioregion and the location of terrestrial and riparian landscape corridors.

The BPAs are prepared by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) using the Biodiversity Assessment and Mapping Methodology (BAMM Version 2.2). The BAMM was developed to provide a consistent approach to assessing biodiversity values at the landscape scale in Queensland. It is based on RE mapping data generated or approved by the Queensland Herbarium. The BAMM is continually refined and is available on the Queensland Government library online catalogue at <http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/library/>.

The BPAs are used by EHP staff, other state government departments, local governments and natural resource management and community groups to inform a range of planning and/or decision making processes.

## 1.2 Landscape corridors and BPAs

An important role of the expert panel is to identify terrestrial and riparian landscape corridors under Criterion J of the BAMM. A corridor is mapped by delineating a corridor centre line and by applying a buffer to this centre line which either captures existing remnant vegetation or identifies an area within which ecological connectivity should be maintained or improved. Different approaches have been used in the various bioregions to identify the location of corridor centre lines and the width of corridor buffers. Approaches inevitably vary between highly fragmented areas (e.g. heavily populated coastal bioregions) and the relatively intact western and northern areas of Queensland.

The terrestrial and riparian corridors identified in the BPAs form the basis of combined habitat connection networks for the entire BPA area. This document details the methods employed to date to identify terrestrial and riparian corridors.

The combined terrestrial corridor network (Figure 1) was produced by incorporating all BPA terrestrial corridors into a single GIS layer and adding fine scale connections at bioregion boundaries across appropriate remnant vegetation areas. This combined BPA corridor network is the basis of future statewide environmental planning processes.

Similarly, the combined riparian layer (Figure 2) incorporates all BPA riparian corridors including fine scale connectors along waterways crossing bioregion boundaries. In addition, in those bioregions where no BPA has been carried out (North West Highlands and Wet Tropics) major rivers (extracted from the Drainage Network – Creeks – (Qld) layer using HEIRARCHY = 1 ) were added to produce a statewide map of riparian corridors. This selection was chosen because of its accuracy, its statewide standard, and the predetermined and standardised hierarchy.

Figure 1 Combined BPA derived terrestrial corridors

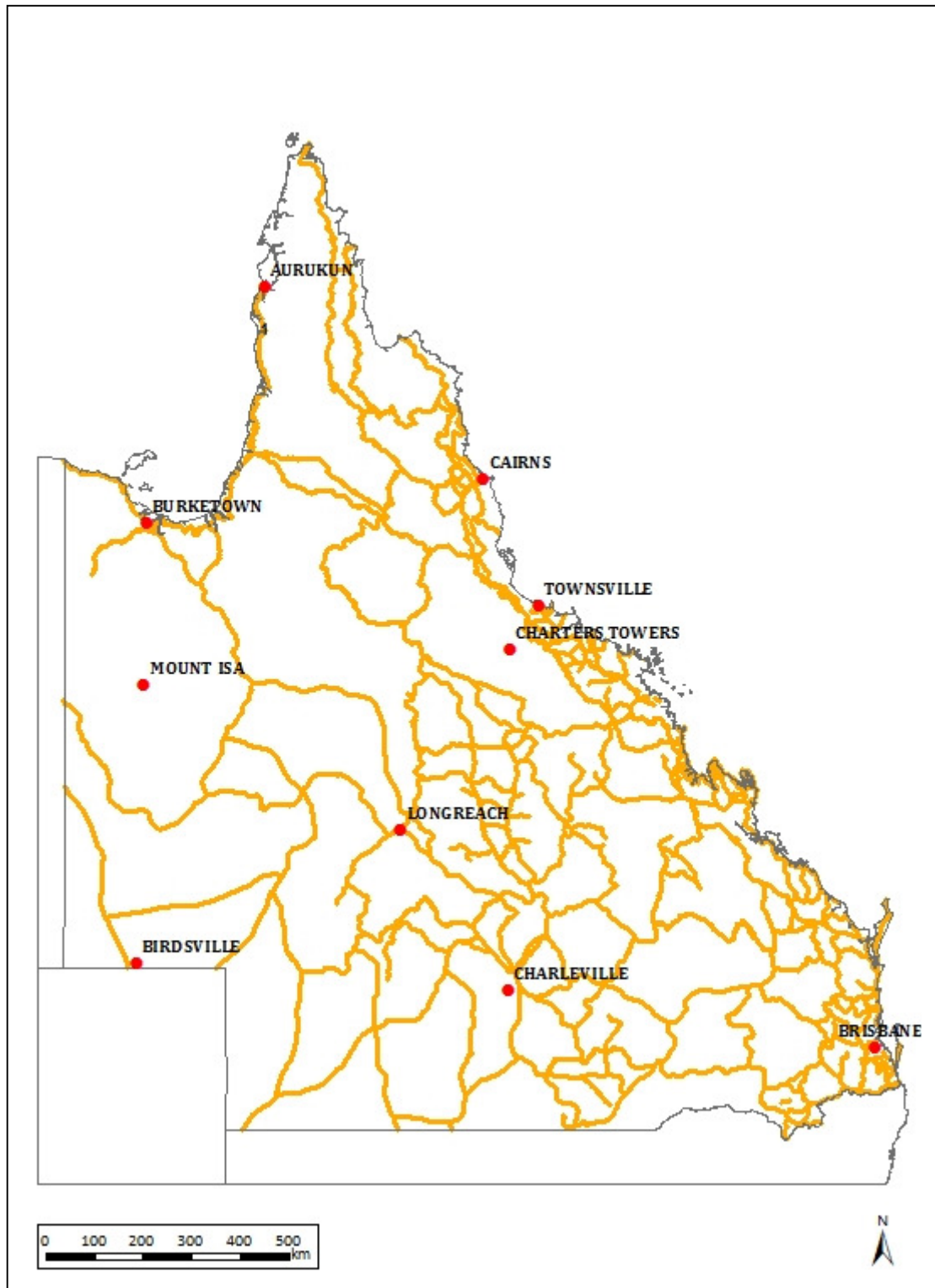


Figure 2 Combined riparian corridors

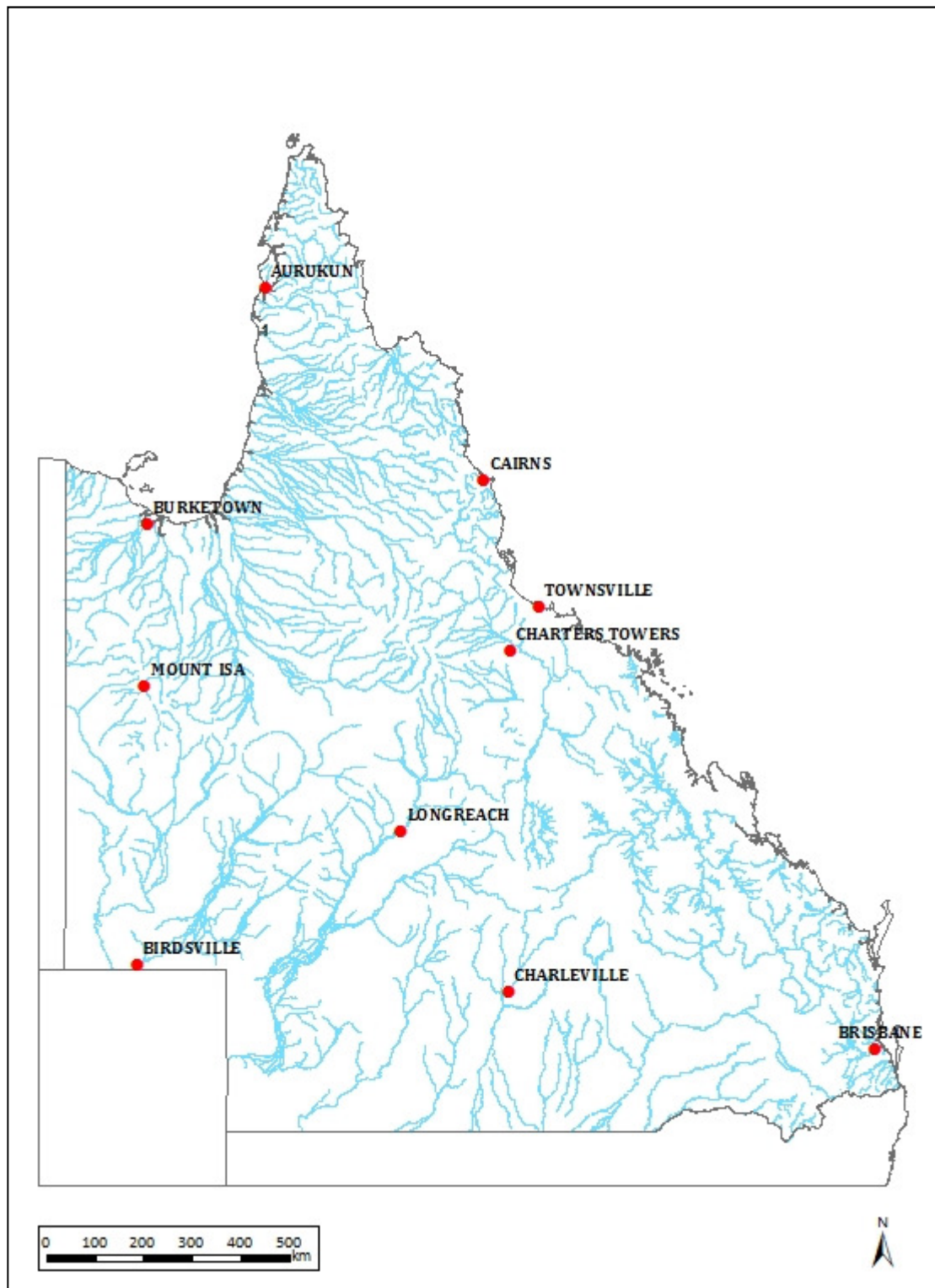
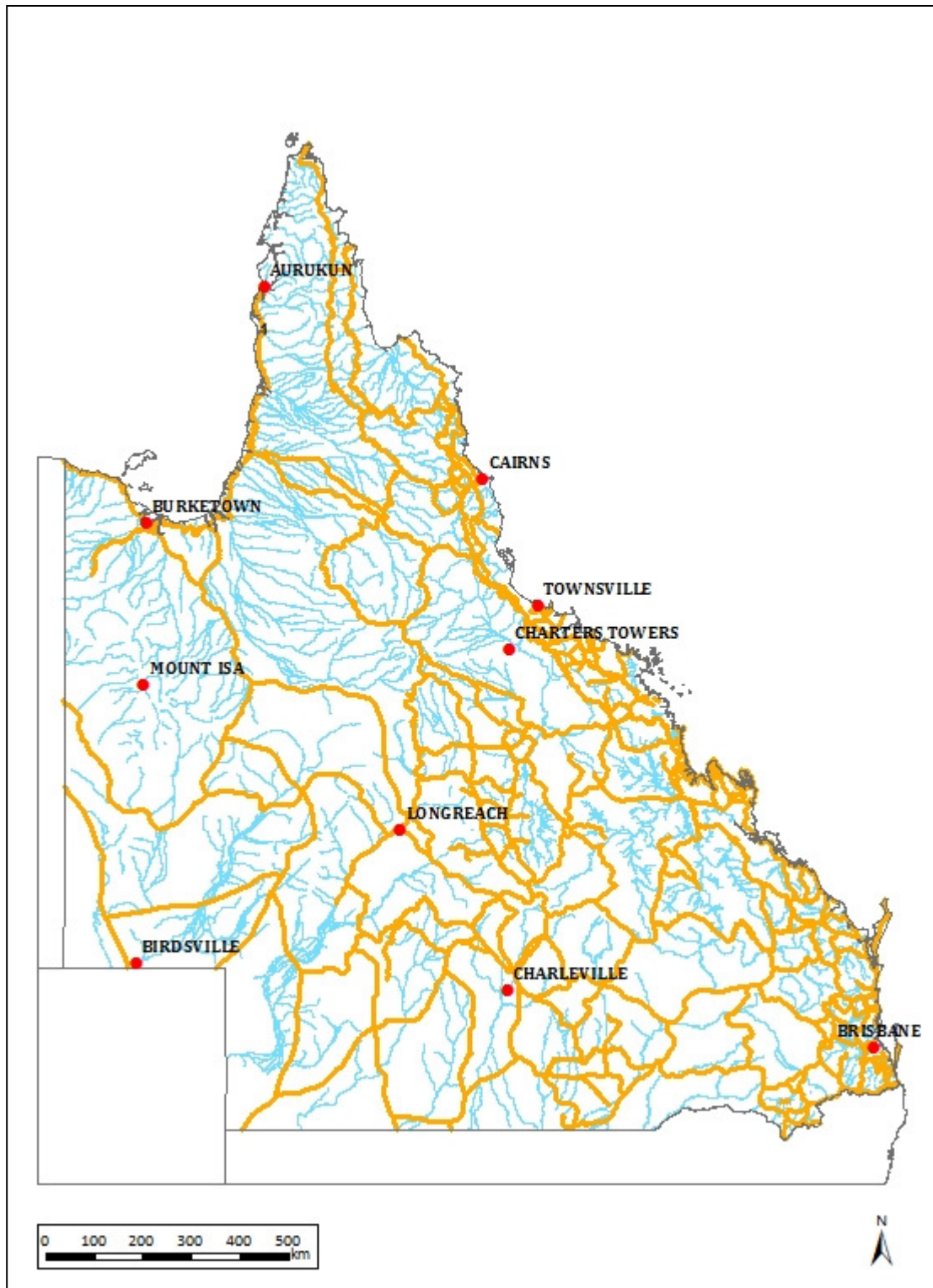


Figure 3 shows the combined terrestrial and riparian corridors.



Figure 3 Combined terrestrial and riparian corridors





## 1.3 Principles and background to the use of corridors

### 1.3.1 Functions of bioregional landscape corridors

Landscape corridors provide habitat connectivity and limit the effects of habitat fragmentation (Lindenmayer and Burgman 2005) resulting from land clearing (a key threatening process under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*) and land degradation.

Corridors may:

- facilitate seasonal movement (migration)
- facilitate movement through suboptimal habitat (e.g. agricultural or periurban areas) and access to unexploited habitat
- improve dispersal success
- increase the effective size of meta-populations by allowing for the exchange of genes between subpopulations
- allow colonisation of empty patches and prevent and reverse local extinction
- provide habitat for resident populations.

Corridors can help maintain these landscape scale ecological and evolutionary processes along geological, hydrological, altitudinal and climatic gradients and provide for ecological responses to climate change.

A strategic corridor network should function effectively for a large range of species, particularly threatened species. Corridor selection should address issues of dimensionality (length/width), habitat type, quality and diversity, habitat patchiness within the corridor and consider potential edge effects when prescribing corridor widths (Soulé and Gilpin 1991).

### 1.3.2 Principles of corridor selection in Biodiversity Planning Assessments

The location of bioregional corridors in BPAs is determined by the following principles.

#### Terrestrial corridors

- complement riparian bioregional corridors (i.e. minimise overlap and maximise connectivity)
- follow major watershed, catchment and/or coastal boundaries
- incorporate major altitudinal, geological and/or climatic gradients
- include and maximise connectivity between large tracts of remnant vegetation and/or areas of high habitat value
- include and maximise connectivity between remnant vegetation in good condition and regrowth vegetation of high conservation value.

#### Riparian corridors

- complement terrestrial bioregional corridors (i.e. minimise overlap and maximise connectivity)
- follow major waterways
- include and maximise connectivity between remnant vegetation in good condition, regrowth vegetation of high conservation value and/or areas of high habitat value.

### 1.3.3 Other corridor selection methods

#### Terrestrial corridors

In relatively undisturbed bioregions and where biodiversity significance has not been assessed, the corridor selection process involves:

- using existing corridors identified through other planning processes as a starting point e.g statewide conservation corridors
- identifying habitat type and connectivity using contour lines, digital elevation, waterways and catchment boundaries where useful (expert panel)
- delineating corridor centrelines based primarily on habitat continuity within and between broad suites of similar or associated habitats. Where corridors need to be delineated across extensive areas of habitat, the centreline should be in the middle of the habitat type, or follow ridges, watersheds, scarps or other features;
- identifying north-south corridors using centrelines that follow broad habitat types or habitat complexes and east-west corridors using centrelines that follow habitat continuity between major north-south corridors
- delineating centrelines across cleared or disturbed areas that generally follow a line of best fit between larger neighbouring areas of intact habitat
- establishing corridor widths, up to a distance of 5km, based on factors such as patch size, distance between patches, corridor length, vegetation quality, context and relevant fauna and flora studies. Rules for establishing corridor widths are recommended by expert panels and may depend on, for instance, the amount of vegetation clearing and fragmentation in the bioregion.

A statewide conservation corridor network (Figure 4) has been described for Queensland which does not identify corridor locations in the same detail as the BPAs. It indicates broad landscape links that can help planning for voluntary collaboration of government, NRM groups and landholders. This corridor network consists of seven longitudinal corridors and a series of shorter linking corridors. These are described briefly in the following section.

**Great Eastern Ranges** – extends from the Border Ranges in SEQ to near Cooktown, generally following the coastal ranges. It is primarily characterised by dry and wet sclerophyll forests, with smaller areas of rainforest and woodland in wetter and dryer areas respectively.

**Great Artesian Basin (GAB) Rim** – extends from the NSW border to the tip of Cape York Peninsula, following the Great Dividing Range for most of its length. It is an almost continuous series of sandstone ranges and sandy plateaux vegetated mostly with eucalypt woodlands.

**Inland Stony Ranges** – extends across a series of sandy plateaux, stony escarpments and low ridges connecting the GAB Rim corridor in the Brigalow Belt via the Mulga Lands to the southwest Channel Country.

**Cooper Creek to Desert Uplands** – connects the vast seasonally flooded rivers of Channel Country across the Mitchell Grass Downs to the GAB Rim corridor in the Desert Uplands.

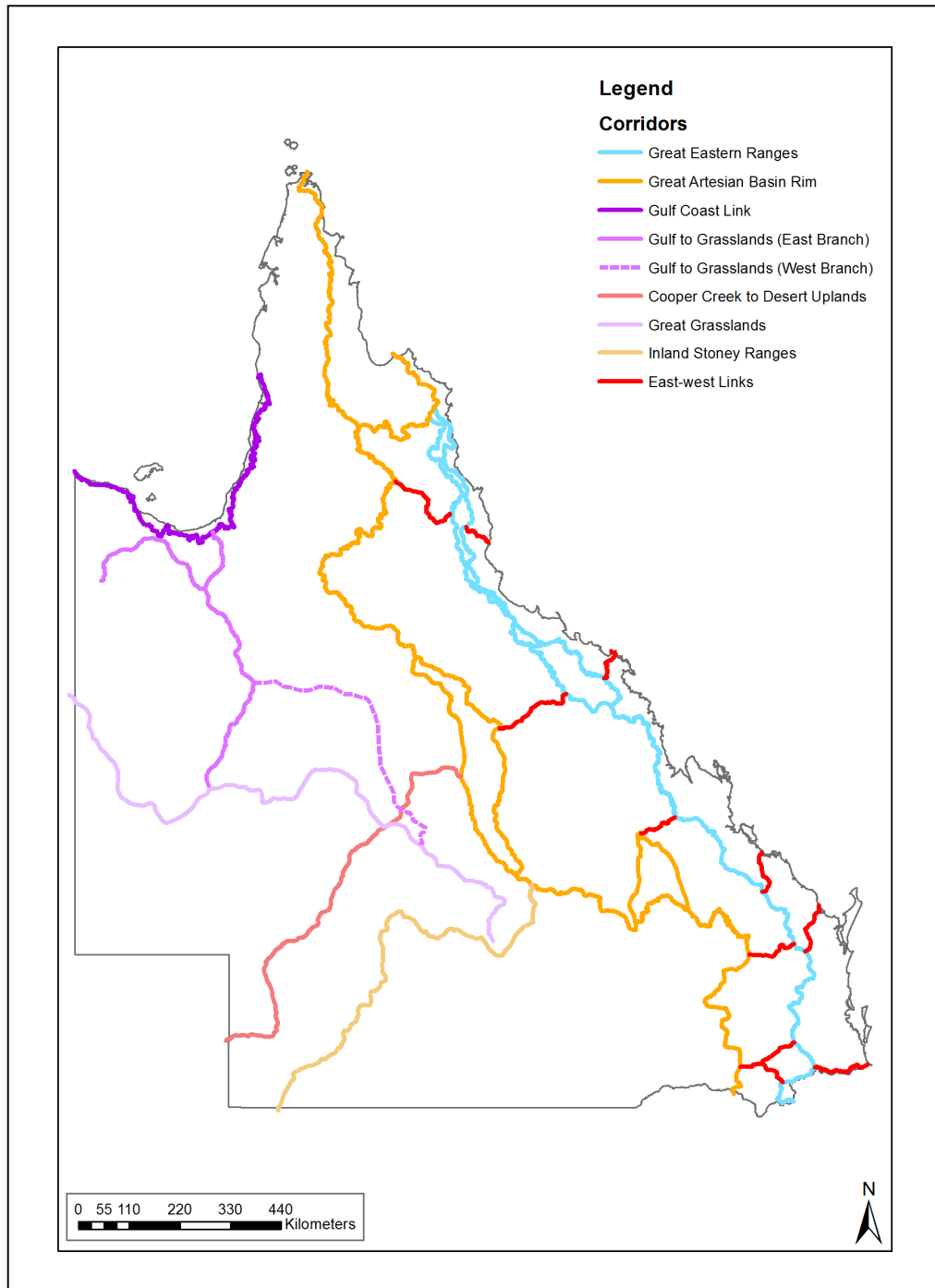
**Gulf Coast Link** – extends across the intertidal areas and associated coastal plains of the Gulf of Carpentaria, from the NT border to the Aurukun area on Cape York Peninsula.

**Great Grasslands** – extending the length of the Mitchell Grass Downs bioregion from the NT border to north of Charleville and including extensive grasslands as well as wooded refugia along watercourses.

**Gulf to Grasslands** – links the Gulf Plains and Mitchell Grass Downs corridors along two branches following the Flinders and Leichhardt Rivers. The grasslands grade from Mitchell grass in the south to bluegrass in the north.

**East-west links** – a series of small corridors linking the coastal areas with the Great Eastern Ranges and GAB Rim corridors.

Figure 4 Statewide conservation corridors



### Riparian corridors

Riparian corridors were included if they have significant biodiversity values. Buffer widths are determined based on stream order. Stream orders 3 and 4 generally have a buffer either side of the high bank of 25 m in coastal subregions or 100 m in inland bioregions. Stream orders 5 and above have a 50 m buffer in coastal regions and 200 m in inland regions.

## 2 Biodiversity Planning Assessment corridor identification

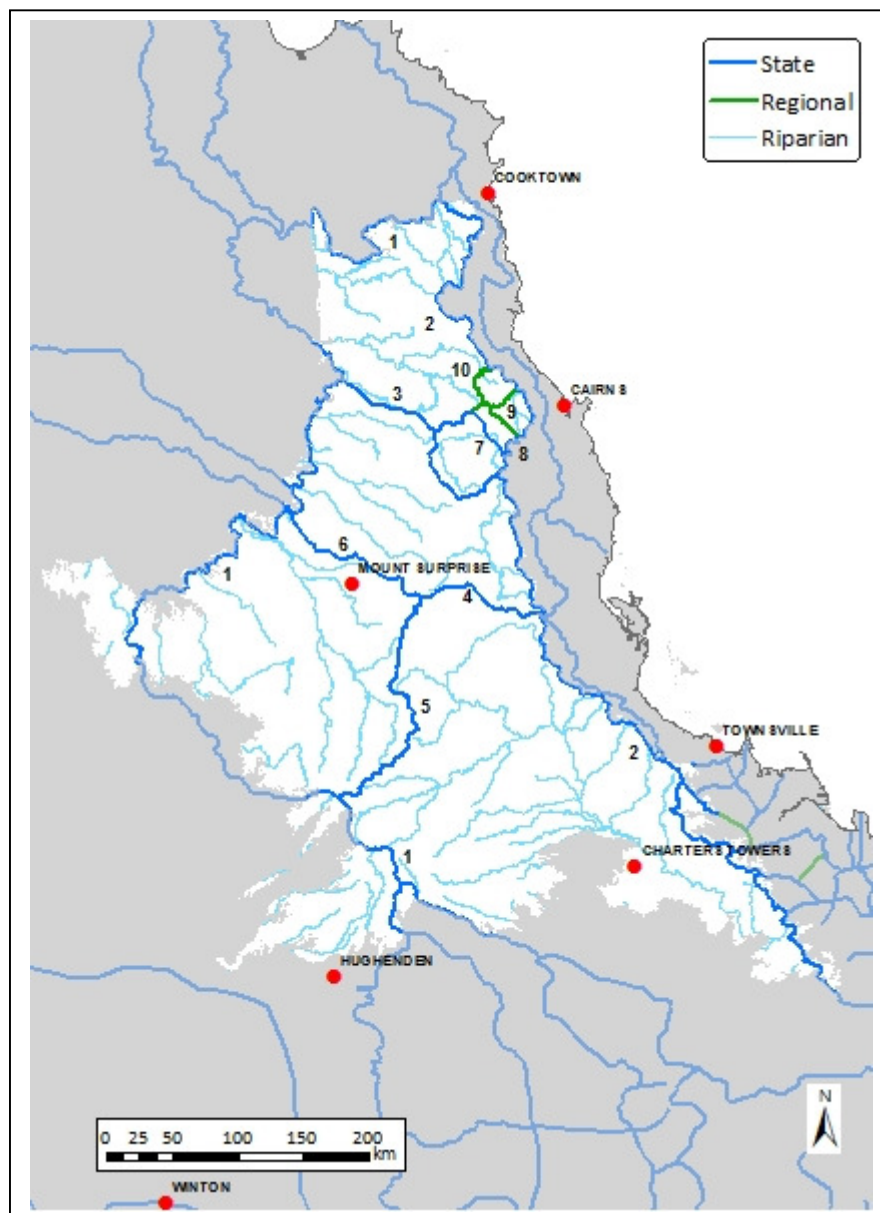
### 2.1 Einasleigh Uplands

The Einasleigh Uplands is dominated by the Great Dividing Range, ranging in altitude from 200 m to over 1000 m in the central and south-west areas. The main land uses in the bioregion are grazing of native ecosystems and cropping along major rivers and in eastern areas. Habitat continuity is high because almost 90% of the area has native tree cover (DNRW 2008), due largely to the rugged nature of the landscapes. As the bioregion is relatively intact, corridor delineation by the expert panel focussed on habitat connectivity in riparian areas and across gaps and critical weaknesses of the Wet Tropics-Einasleigh Uplands ecotone and the Dimbulah agricultural area. The Einasleigh Uplands BPA (version 1.1) was released on 30 September 2009.

#### 2.1.1 Terrestrial corridors

Terrestrial corridors (established by expert panel decision eiu\_1\_32) are shown in Figure 5 and described in detail in Table 1.

Figure 5 Einasleigh Uplands landscape corridors



Terrestrial corridors were based on the existing statewide conservation corridor network (Figure 4) and on corridors identified in the Einasleigh Uplands as part of the biodiversity layer for the *Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031* (DIP 2009). Additional corridor centrelines were created where corridor special management areas were not part of the existing statewide framework. State and Regional significance corridors were assigned widths of 10 km and 5 km respectively.

Table 1 Einasleigh Uplands terrestrial corridors

Corridor no.	Corridor description	Significance (width)
1	<b>Great Artesian Basin Rim:</b> section of the GAB Rim corridor along the boundary between the Einasleigh Uplands and the Gulf Plains and Cape York bioregions. Associated with this rugged stretch of Jurassic sandstones and associated sand plains are cliffs, springs, sheltered gorges and many endemic species of plants and animals. Although the sandstones are part of the Gulf Plains bioregion the buffer includes adjacent habitat in the Einasleigh Uplands. These adjacent and connected habitats add considerably to its ecological diversity and ecological values, and provide further avenues for ecological adaptation to climate change.	State (10km)
2	<b>Wet Tropics – Einasleigh Uplands Ecotone:</b> northern section of the Great Eastern Ranges corridor following the narrow band of wet and dry sclerophyll forest and woodland between the Wet Tropics and Einasleigh Uplands. Adjacent and connected habitats on either side of this corridor add considerably to its ecological diversity and ecological values, and provide further avenues for ecological adaptation to climate change. Southern extensions of this corridor are also shown in Figure 1	State (10km)
3	<b>Featherbed:</b> links the Ecotone corridor with the GAB Rim corridor. It predominantly follows ranges and hills associated with the watershed between the Walsh and Mitchell rivers.	State (10km)
4	<b>Wairuna – Undara:</b> follows the watershed between the Herbert and Burdekin rivers between the Ecotone corridor and Undara National Park.	State (10km)
5	<b>Undara – Chudleigh Plateau:</b> follows the watershed between the Einasleigh and Burdekin rivers between Undara National Park and Black Braes National Park on the Great Artesian Basin Rim corridor.	State (10km)
6	<b>Undara – Bulleringa:</b> follows the watershed between the Einasleigh and Lynd rivers between Undara National Park and Bulleringa National Park on the Great Artesian Basin Rim corridor, and continues to Staaten River National Park.	State (10km)
7	<b>McLeod Hills:</b> follows remnant vegetation associated with ranges running between the Ecotone corridor near Atherton to high country north of the Walsh River, and then to the Featherbed corridor along the watershed between the Walsh and Hodgkinson rivers. Clearing along the Walsh River has reduced the width of habitat connectivity to the extent that only a 2.5km buffer is required to include all associated remnant vegetation in that area.	State (5km)
8	<b>Walkamin – Hann Tableland:</b> follows remnant vegetation associated with hills running between the Ecotone corridor near Walkamin to the Hann Tableland. It then continues along the watershed between the Walsh and Hodgkinson rivers, and then to the Featherbed Ranges corridor via the McLeod Hills corridor	Regional (5km)
9	<b>Bilwon – Hann Tableland:</b> follows remnant vegetation and mainly state-owned lands across the upper Mitchell River plains between the Ecotone corridor and Hann Tableland.	Regional (5km)
10	<b>Rifle Creek – Bakers Blue:</b> connects the Ecotone corridor to Bakers Blue via Rifle Creek and other riparian vegetation, and then to Hann Tableland along the watershed between the Hodgkinson and Mitchell rivers.	Regional (5km)



### **2.1.2 Corridor Special Management Areas**

Corridor special management areas were identified for critical weaknesses of the Wet Tropics – Einasleigh Uplands ecotone and the Dimbulah agricultural area (expert panel decisions eiu\_1\_22 and eiu\_1\_34). Focussed planning, management and vegetation rehabilitation can play a significant role in consolidating or improving the special ecological values associated with these areas.

### **2.1.3 Riparian corridors**

Alluvial areas and riparian vegetation in the Einasleigh Uplands are usually confined by bedrock hills. Riparian vegetation was selected using RE riparian polygons. It was buffered by 200m to include adjacent habitat that can be important shelter and food resources for species using the riparian areas as corridors. Only RE riparian polygons associated with the highest category of the 1:250,000 state watercourse hierarchies were used. The corridor values associated with major watercourses in the bioregion are covered by expert panel decision eiu\_1\_33, while the refuge and other significant biodiversity values of riparian areas are covered by decision eiu\_1\_3.

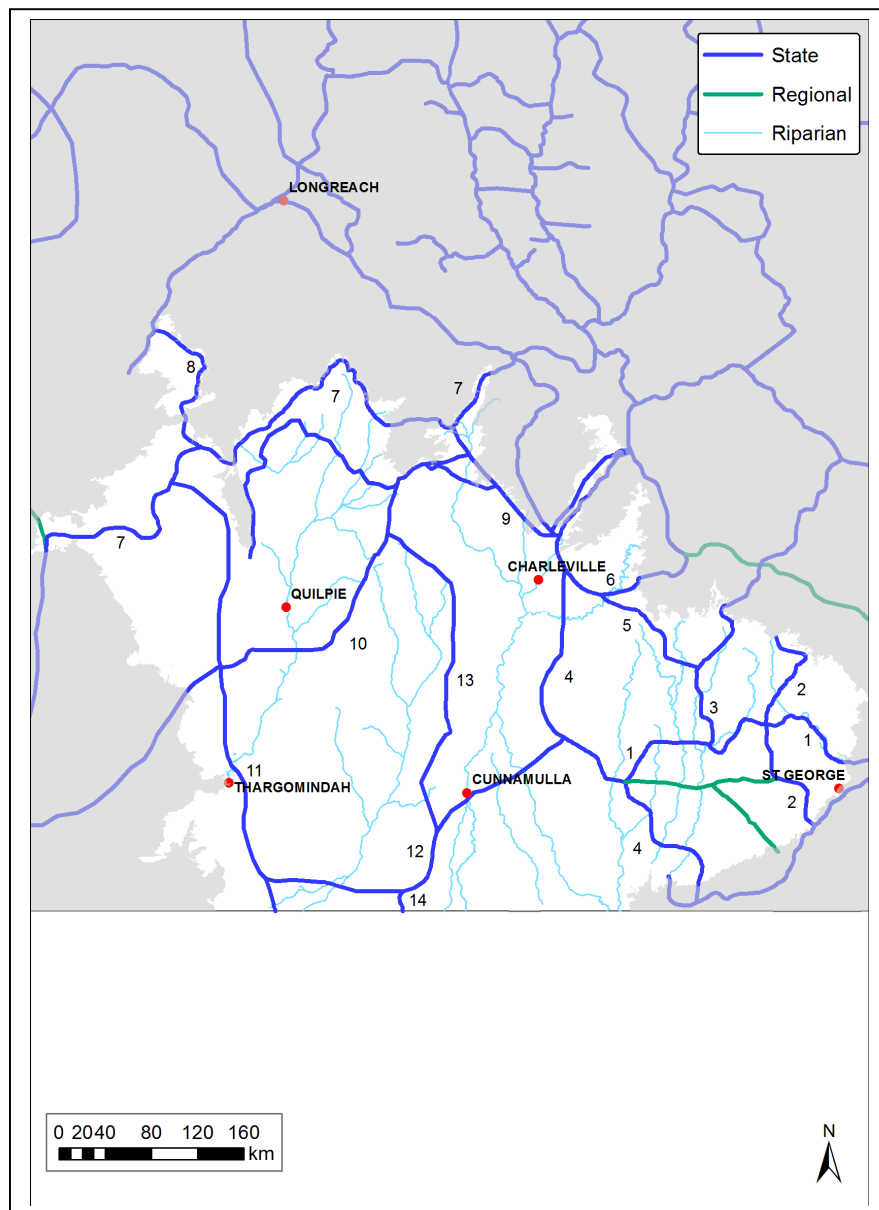
## 2.2 Mulga Lands

The Mulga Lands bioregion is dominated by flat to undulating plains and low ranges supporting mulga (*Acacia aneura*) and woodland communities. Cattle and sheep production are dominant land uses in the region. It is recognised as one of the most extensively degraded landscapes in Queensland and only 2.4% of the bioregion is reserved in protected areas. The Mulga Lands BPA (version 1.4) was released on 15 June 2009.

### 2.2.1 Terrestrial corridors

The expert panel established bioregional terrestrial corridors (special area decision mul\_1\_31) using existing corridors in the eastern, fragmented landscapes and the northern margins of the bioregion and identified new corridors in the west of the bioregion (Figure 6). Numbered corridors are described in Table 2.

Figure 6 Mulga Lands landscape corridors



In the eastern and northern areas the choice of corridor alignment was strongly influenced by the location of remnant vegetation. In the west of the bioregion, which has largely intact vegetation cover, the following criteria were used to select additional terrestrial corridors:

1. temperature, rainfall and altitude gradients
2. areas identified in the BPA as significant wildlife refugia (Criterion Ib). These are areas to which species retreat in response to environmental pressures (e.g. fire, drought, clearing, weed and pest invasion) and from which species recolonise the landscape
3. areas identified as having high RE diversity (Criterion F - Simpson's Index approach) and therefore higher genetic diversity than other areas
4. relatively large areas of REs (Criterion D). Data from Criterion D2 allows analysis at a subregional level and is preferred for corridor selection
5. 'Endangered' and 'Of Concern' REs.

Additional corridors were selected for the central and western Mulga Lands and endorsed by panel members out-of-session.

Table 2 Mulga Lands terrestrial corridors

Corridor no.	Corridor description	Significance (width)
1	<b>6001:</b> major link from the Thomby Ranges to eastern Mulga Lands intact vegetation through Tregole National Park; links a bioregional corridor in the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion (Weribone High sub-region), across the upper catchments of the Maranoa River, and the Nebal, Wallam, Mungallala, Patterson and Nebine Creeks, finishing on the Nebine Plains.	State (10km)
2	<b>6002:</b> links the Brigalow Belt through the eastern Mulga Lands remnant vegetation to Southern Brigalow Belt.	State (10km)
3	<b>6003:</b> links the Brigalow Belt corridor to the eastern Mulga Lands corridors 6001 and 6005, finishing at Thrushton National Park	State (10km)
4	<b>6004:</b> links the Mitchell Grass Downs across the eastern Mulga Lands along Glenbar Ridge, south to the Culgoa River in the Brigalow Belt; links areas of wildlife refugia value (Criterion Ib = H or VH) along N-S rainfall gradient (550-400mm)	State (10km)
5	<b>6005:</b> extends from the north-eastern Mulga Lands remnant vegetation; provides linkage between Mitchell Grass Downs and eastern Mulga Lands.	State (10km)
6	<b>6006:</b> short connecting corridor from east-west Brigalow Belt Corridor linking through Tregole National Park to Mulga Lands Corridor 6005.	State (10km)
7	<b>6007:</b> northern Mulga Lands component of major east-west corridor linking the Brigalow Belt through the Mitchell Grass Downs and Mulga Lands to Channel Country; connects remnant vegetation on ridge lines.	State (10km)
8	<b>6008:</b> links the Channel Country, Mitchell Grass Downs and Mulga Lands; connects remnant vegetation on ridge lines through Welford NP; links to east-west corridor 6007.	State (10km)
9	<b>6009:</b> follows a ridge to connect three terrestrial corridors. It incorporates several areas which are among the largest representatives of regional ecosystems in the subregion (Criterion D2 is High or Very High). The corridor also includes a high proportion of highly diverse areas (Criterion F is High or Very High). This corridor also intersects three riparian corridors.	State (10km)
10	<b>6010:</b> follows the rainfall gradient from a 450mm annual average in the north east to a 300mm annual average in the south west. It follows a ridge line, intersecting a large amount of highly diverse remnant (Criterion F is high). At its north eastern end the corridor incorporates a large section of remnant of significance as wildlife refugia (Criterion Ib is high).	State (10km)
11	<b>6011:</b> extends along several ridge lines and based largely on areas of high diversity (Criterion F is High or Very High) and large RE tract size (Criterion D2 is Very High). This corridor crosses three catchment boundaries and extends into NSW.	State (10km)
12	<b>6012:</b> links ridges with areas of claypans and other wetlands in the Paroo Sandsheets. This follows the rainfall gradient.	State (10km)
13	<b>6013:</b> follows a ridge line linking Corridors 6010 and 6012. This also connects the headwaters of several riparian corridors.	State (10km)
14	<b>6014:</b> short connector along ridgelines providing continuity with remnant vegetation in NSW.	State (10km)

## 2.2.2 Stockroutes

Major stockroutes act as corridors in fragmented subregions. The St George-Mungallala and Dirranbandi-Bollon stockroutes in the fragmented West Balonne Plains Sub-Region were designated as regional corridors (special area decision mul\_1\_32).

## 2.2.3 Riparian corridors

The riparian corridors, particularly river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) communities, provide migration routes and habitat for numerous species. Surrounding vegetation communities grade from mesic in the eastern parts of the Mulga Lands to semi-arid in the west, with a corresponding increase in the importance of riparian habitats. Bird species including the Silvereye (*Zosterops lateralis*), Yellow-faced Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus chrysops*) and Leaden Flycatcher (*Myiagra rubecula*) move down from catchment headwaters through these communities in winter and spring, returning to the higher, upper reaches in summer. Many species reach their western range limits in RE 6.3.1 (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis* woodland on alluvium within *Acacia aneura* associations). Both permanent waterholes and riparian river red gum communities provide foraging areas for bats. Gould's Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus gouldi*) reaches its western limit of distribution in the Mulga Lands and is restricted to the riparian communities of Idalia National Park. The Little Pied Bat (*Chalinolobus picatus*) uses a wide range of habitats but is more abundant in riparian habitats. A special area decision (mul\_1\_30) established riparian bioregional corridors in the Mulga Lands.

The expert panel recommended a corridor width of 5 km for riparian corridors or corridors clipped to Land Zone 3 (river and creek flats) REs. A width of 5 km was considered broad enough to capture the significant biodiversity values and buffering using Land Zone 3 effectively separates the headwaters and midland reaches from lowland floodplains and anabranches. Remnant vegetation intersecting this corridor buffer was assigned State significance.

Figure 6 shows the riparian corridors network that is based on watercourses and major tributaries of the following waterways.

Angellala Creek, Bulloo River, Langlo River, Maranoa River, Mungallala Creek, Nebine Creek, Paroo River, Paterson Creek, Powells Creek, Spencers Creek, Wallam Creek, Ward Creek, Warrego River and Wilson River

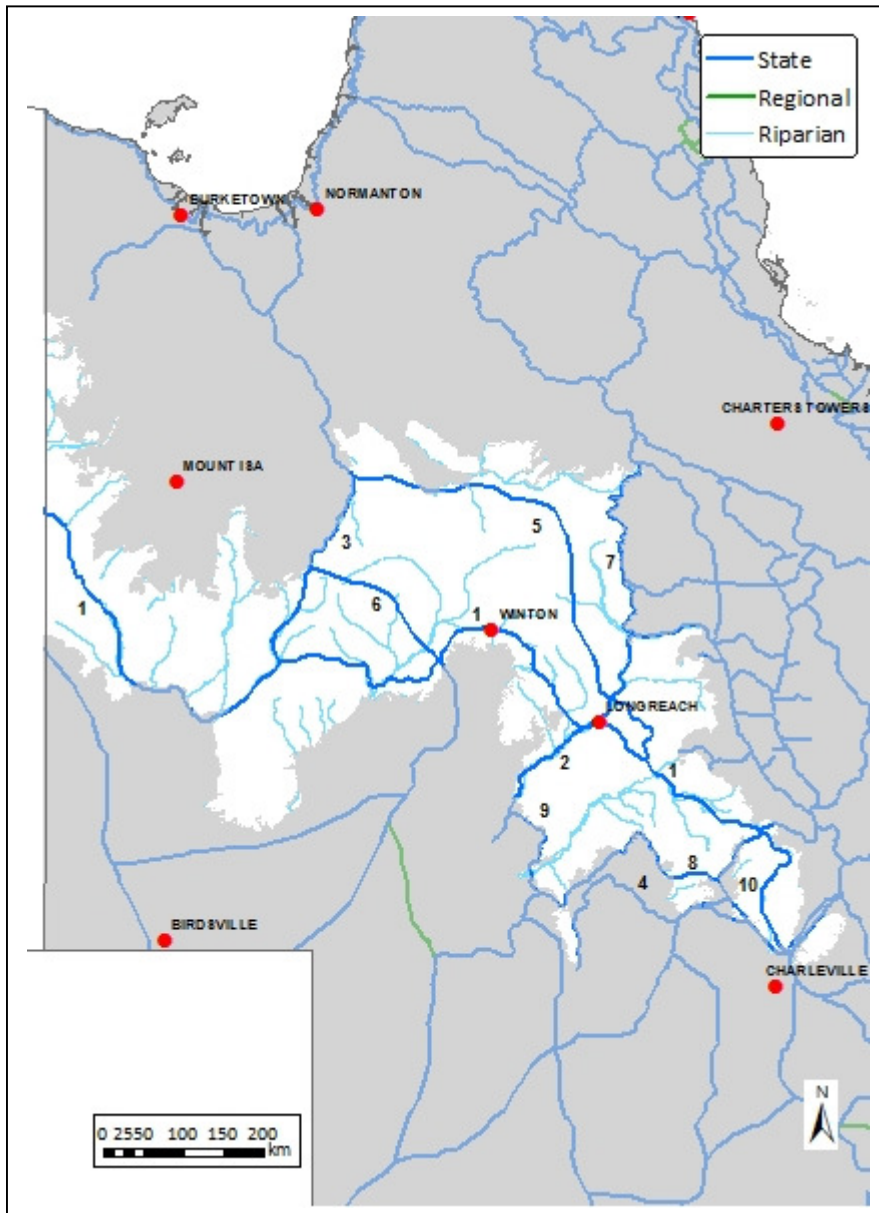
## 2.3 Mitchell Grass Downs

The Mitchell Grass Downs is a relatively intact bioregion characterised by undulating downs on shales and limestones. The dominant vegetation types are Mitchell Grass (*Astrelba* spp.) grasslands and Acacia woodlands (Gidgee or Mulga). The dominant land use is grazing by cattle and sheep. The Mitchell Grass Downs BPA (version 1.1) was released on 9 September 2009.

### 2.3.1 Terrestrial corridors

Terrestrial corridor recommendations of the Mitchell Grass Downs expert panel are shown in Figure 7 and described in Table 3.

Figure 7 Mitchell Grass Downs landscape corridors



The existing statewide conservation corridor alignments were reviewed and it was recommended that the Channel Country to Carnarvon corridor (Corridor 4) be modified to follow the escarpment areas in the eastern areas of the Mitchell Grass Downs to link with the Brigalow Belt South bioregion. Additional corridors identified by the panel were Corridors 5, 6 and 7. The Ground Cover Disturbance Index was used by the panel to identify the East Branch of the Grasslands to Gulf Corridor (Corridor 5), following areas with low disturbance through the core

of the Mitchell Grass country. Out of session, further adjustments were made to the proposed corridors to complement the adjacent Mulga Lands corridor system (Corridors 8, 9, and 10).

Table 3 Mitchell Grass Downs terrestrial corridors

Corridor no.	Corridor Description	Significance (width)
1	<b>Great Grasslands:</b> statewide conservation corridor	State (10km)
2	<b>Cooper Creek to Desert Uplands:</b> – the northern component of this statewide conservation corridor crosses the entire MGD bioregion	State (10km)
3	<b>Gulf to Grasslands:</b> western MGD branch	State (10km)
4	<b>Inland Stony Ranges:</b> eastern section of the statewide conservation corridor crossing the Grey Range into the Warrego and Chesterton Ranges.	State (10km)
5	<b>Gulf to Grasslands:</b> eastern MGD branch and core of the Mitchell Grass Downs following areas with low disturbance. Higher rainfall area.	State (10km)
6	<b>Kynuna Plateau:</b> the corridor across this IBRA subregion is a band of rugged country linking the Channel Country to North West Highlands, landzone 7 within mgd_1_4 – link to landzone 7.	State (10km)
7	<b>Great Wall:</b> Starts with mgd_1_5, follows the Desert Uplands boundary between existing corridors. Continuity of gidgee ecosystems and scarps and associated caves.	Regional (10km)
8	<b>Corridor 6007:</b> (Mulga BPA v1.4) - northern Mulga Lands component of major E-W corridor, linking Brigalow Belt, through Mitchell Grass Downs and Mulga Lands to Channel Country; connects remnant vegetation on ridge lines.	State (10km)
9	<b>Corridor 6008:</b> (Mulga BPA v1.4) - north-south corridor, linking Channel Country, Mitchell Grass Downs and Mulga Lands; connects remnant vegetation on ridge lines through Welford NP; links to east-west corridor 6007.	State (10km)
10	<b>Corridor 6009:</b> (Mulga BPA v1.4) - follows a ridge to connect three terrestrial corridors. It incorporates several areas which are among the largest representatives of regional ecosystems in the subregion (Criteria D2 is High or Very High). The corridor also includes a high proportion of highly diverse areas (Criteria F is High or Very High). This corridor also intersects three riparian corridors.	State (10km)

### 2.3.2 Riparian corridors

In rangeland landscapes like the Mitchell Grass Downs riparian areas contain a disproportionately high number of species relative to the area they occupy. They can be considered the ecological arteries for wildlife in drier areas of Queensland. The expert panel special area decision (mgd\_1\_24) establishing riparian bioregional corridors was applied to the following rivers and creeks in all subregions:

Alice River, Alick Creek, Aramac Creek, Aubeg Creek, Barcoo River, Blackwater Creek, Boggy Creek, Buckley River, Bullock Creek, Burke River, Cadell Creek, Cloncurry River, Cornish Creek, Cottonbush Creek, Culloden Creek, Darr River, Diamantina River, Dismal Creek, Douglas Ponds Creek, Dutton River, Elizabeth Creek, Flinders River, Georgina River, Gilliat River, Hamilton River, Jessamine Creek, Katherine Creek, Kelly Creek, Kerr Creek, Landsborough Channel, Little Templeton River, Mackunda Creek, Mackunda West Creek, Malbon River, Maneroo Creek, Mckinlay River, Middleton Creek, Milperoo Creek, Mistake Creek, Moonah Creek, Mort River, Nine Mile Creek, Pituri Creek, Pot Jostler Creek, Powell Creek, Ravensbourne Creek, Reedy Creek, Sandy Creek, Spring Creek, Talundilly Creek, Templeton River, Thomson River, Thornleigh Creek, Torrens Creek, Towerhill Creek, Vergemont Creek, Warburton Creek, Ward River, Western River, Whistling Duck Creek, Wilgunya Creek, Wokingham Creek



Centrelines for these waterways were extracted from the Geodata Topo 250k Series 2 Topographic Data – Drainage Network. The extracted centrelines were filtered (Hierarchy = 1) to give a better representation of the concepts of refugia and habitat connectivity by tracing the major watercourses and their larger tributaries to their headwaters (see Figure 7). Networks disconnected due to this filter were reconnected manually.

The following criteria were used to establish the significance of vegetation intersecting the riparian corridor centrelines:

- State significance – Landzone 3 Mitchell Grass Downs REs clipped to a limit of 2.5 km from the centreline (Note: relictual polygons < 1 ha generated during the geoprocessing were eliminated);
- Regional significance – Landzone 3 non-Mitchell Grass Downs REs clipped to a limit of 2.5 km from the centreline;
- Local significance – REs that are not Landzone 3 (including non-remnant) clipped to a limit of 200 m from the centreline.

## 2.4 Southeast Queensland

Southeast Queensland is one of the most biologically diverse regions in Australia, rivalling the Wet Tropics bioregion in plant species richness. The bioregion contains a diversity of land types: mountain ranges, coastal lowlands and sand islands supporting a large diversity of vegetation communities and many endemic species. It is also the most populated area of Queensland. Urban, agricultural and grazing land uses dominate the region and have resulted in a high degree of vegetation clearing and fragmentation. The Southeast Queensland BPA (version 4.1) was released on 30 September 2016.

### 2.4.1 Terrestrial corridors

The terrestrial corridors identified and reviewed by the panels are shown in Figure 8 and Figure 9 and described in Table 4.

Figure 8 Southeast Queensland (northern) landscape corridors

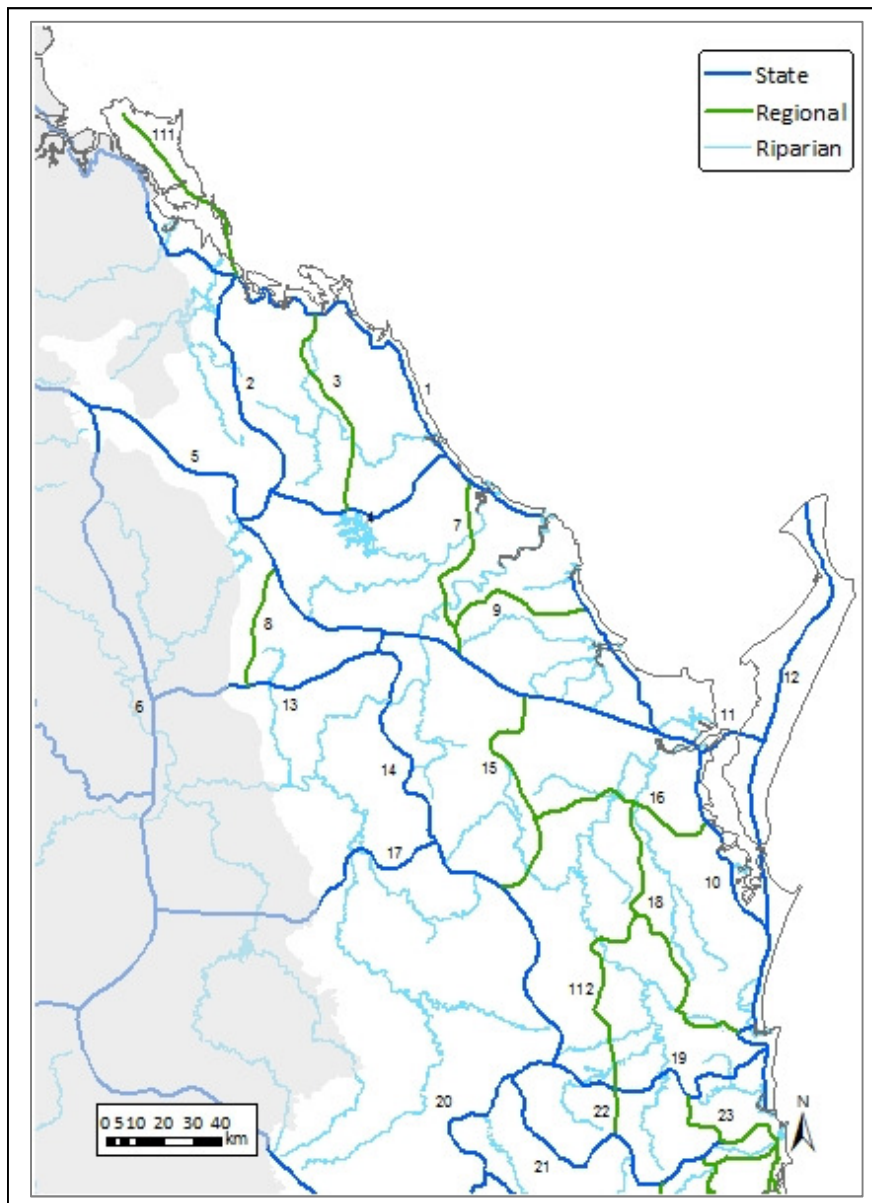
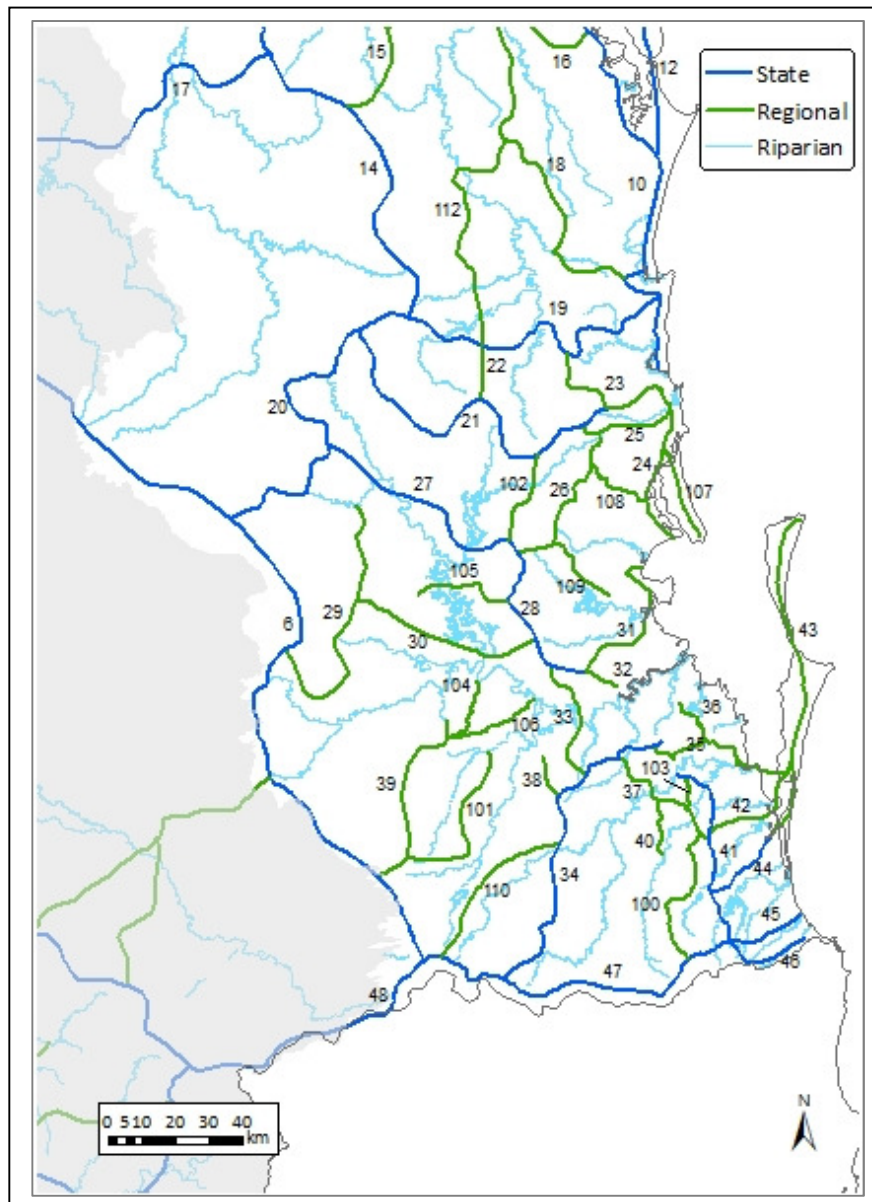


Figure 9 Southeast Queensland (southern) landscape corridors



An existing special area decision (seqn\_1\_1 – Bioregional Terrestrial Corridors) allowed for the creation of bioregional scale corridors in Southeast Queensland (SEQ). The landscape expert panels for SEQ north and south reviewed the existing corridors and corridor selection principles. An agreed level of significance was determined for each corridor and some were modified because of the introduction of riparian corridors, because they duplicated an existing corridor, or because there were changes in the extent of remnant vegetation.

A single corridor network was developed for the whole of the SEQ bioregion by combining the corridors identified by the expert panels. The method focussed on joining patches of remnant vegetation and identifying areas for rehabilitation. The combined network was assigned a decision number from both panels i.e.

- seqn\_1\_1 and seqs\_1\_22 for the terrestrial corridors
- seqn\_1\_13 and seqs\_1\_49 for the riparian corridors.

All State significant bioregional corridors were integrated with adjacent bioregions to incorporate SEQ into a statewide network. Some of the rules and principles used to identify corridors in SEQ by past panels were modified to enable integration across bioregions. Corridors that crossed

bioregions were assigned State significance. State significant corridors were complemented by riparian landscape corridors and Regional terrestrial corridors.

Implementation rules were also modified to achieve consistency between bioregions in application of corridors both within the SEQ bioregion and between bioregions. A buffer width of 2.5km from the centreline was applied to the majority of terrestrial corridors. However, corridors that linked the SEQ bioregion to the Brigalow Belt bioregion were assigned a width of 5km from the centre line (this is consistent with the ‘edge corridors’ identified in a previous panel meeting).

With respect to the assignment of remnant vegetation as “corridor triggered vegetation”, as per the previous SEQ BPA implementation (version 3.5), remnant vegetation polygons with greater than or equal to 30% of their area inside the buffer were initially selected as part of the corridor and assigned the appropriate level of significance (State or Regional). In addition to this, the panels (conducted as part of the SEQ BPA version 4.1) recommended the inclusion of the entirety of large tracts which form part of the terrestrial corridor network as corridor ‘nodes’, with linear linkages between nodes. The panel felt that this would provide a more accurate ecological representation of the key landscape-scale linkages within the bioregion.

Table 4 Southeast Queensland terrestrial corridors

Corridor no.	Corridor Description	Significance (width)
1	<b>Burnett Heads to Flat Top Range:</b> Corridor running southeast - northwest along the coast from Burnett Heads to Gladstone and extending north into the Brigalow Belt ( <i>via Barubbra Island Conservation Park, Littabella National Park, Broadwater Conservation Park, Deepwater National Park, Eurimbula National Park, Calliope Conservation Park, Rundle Range National Park and Flat Top Range Resources Reserve</i> ).- links vegetation tracts along the coast - incorporates climatic gradient	State (5km)
2	<b>Tannum Sands to Yarrol:</b> Corridor running north - south from the coast near Tannum Sands to Yarrol State Forest ( <i>via Wild Cattle Island National Park, Castle Tower National Park, Bulburin National Park, Borilla State Forest and Yarrol State Forest</i> ).- incorporates altitudinal and climatic gradients; - captures major remnant tracts and maintains continuity; - provides coast to inland connectivity;	State (5km)
3	<b>Eurimbula to Monduran Lake:</b> Corridor running north – south from the coast at Eurimbula through Warro National Park to Monduran Lake ( <i>via Eurimbula National Park (&amp; Conservation Park) and Warro National Park</i> ).- incorporates altitudinal and climatic gradients - intersects major remnant tracts - provides coast to inland connectivity	Regional (5km)
4	<b>Bulburin to Littabella:</b> Corridor running east – west from the coast near Baffle Creek to Bulburin National Park ( <i>via Littabella National Park &amp; Conservation Park and Monduran State Forest 1</i> ). - incorporates altitudinal and climatic gradients - intersects major remnant tracts - provides coast to inland connectivity	State (5km)
5	<b>Kroombit to Maryborough:</b> Corridor running southeast – northwest from the mainland coast west of Fraser Island to Kroombit Tops National Park ( <i>via Wongi, Cordalba and Booyal State Forests, Bania National Park and Kalpowar State Forest</i> ). - incorporates major altitudinal and climatic gradients - connects major remnant tracts - provides coast to inland connectivity - width changes from 10 km to 5 km east of the intersection with corridor 13	State (10km)

Corridor no.	Corridor Description	Significance (width)
6	<p><b>Main Range National Park to Don River State Forest:</b>  <i>(via Main Range National Park, Flagstone Creek Conservation Park, Crows Nest National Park, Mount Binga and Bunya Mountains National Parks, Diamondy State Forest, Nudley State Forest, Barakula State Forest, Allies Creek State Forest, Auburn State Forest, Coomingleh State Forest and Kroombit Tops National Park).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- forms part of a major north/south corridor (State corridors) which extends from NSW, meanders back and forth between SEQ and the Brigalow Belt and into northern SEQ Bioregion</li> <li>- intersects with several riparian corridors</li> <li>- links large remnant tracts</li> <li>- incorporates climatic gradients</li> </ul>	State (10km)
7	<p><b>Kolan River to Cordalba State Forest:</b> Corridor running north – south from just north of the Kolan River through to Cordalba National Park and State Forest <i>(via Bullyard Conservation Park).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- intersects with the Kolan and Burnett River Riparian Corridors</li> <li>- links fragmented endangered and of concern remnant vegetation in the Burnett catchment</li> </ul>	Regional (5km)
8	<p><b>Bania to Nour Nour:</b> Corridor running north – south from Bania National Park to Nour Nour National Park <i>(via Mungy State Forest).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- intersects major remnant tracts</li> </ul>	Regional (5km)
9	<p><b>Burrum to Cordalba:</b> Corridor running east – west from Burrum Coast National Park to Cordalba State Forest <i>(via Bingera National Park and Elliott River State Forest).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- intersects major remnant tracts</li> <li>- provides coast to inland connectivity</li> </ul>	Regional (5km)
10	<p><b>Maroochy River to Elliott Heads:</b> Extends north along the coast from the Maroochy River mouth to Elliot Heads <i>(via Maroochy River Conservation Park, Mount Coolum National Park, Noosa National Park, the Great Sandy National Park, Tuan State Forest, Poona National Park, Vernon State Forest and the Burrum Coast National Park).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- links vegetation tracts along the coast</li> <li>- incorporates climatic gradient</li> <li>- intersect several riparian landscape corridors</li> </ul>	State (5km)
11	<p><b>Fraser Island to Maryborough:</b> Extends southwest from central Fraser Island, across Hervey Bay, to the mainland coastal zone <i>(via the Great Sandy National and Conservation Parks).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- indicates an important island to mainland coastal linkage for fauna</li> </ul>	State (5km)
12	<p><b>Fraser Island to Rainbow Beach:</b> Corridor running north - south from the northern end of Fraser Island to Rainbow Beach <i>(via the Great Sandy National Park).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- incorporates geological and coastal gradients</li> <li>- indicates an important island to mainland coastal linkage for fauna</li> </ul>	State (5km)
13	<p><b>Barker Gully to Eidsvold:</b> Extends east to west from Barker Gully (approx. 10km north - north - west of Goodnight Scrub National Park) to Eidsvold in the Brigalow Belt <i>(via Grosvenor Timber Reserve, Mungy State Forest, Nour Nour National Park and Dalgangal State Forest).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- incorporates altitudinal and climatic gradients</li> <li>- connects major remnant tracts</li> </ul>	State (10km)
14	<p><b>Chin Chin to Yabba State Forest:</b> North - south corridor from Chin Chin south to Yabba State Forest <i>(via Good Night Scrub, Mount Walsh, Grongah, Oakview and Wrattens National Parks).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- incorporates altitudinal and climatic gradients</li> <li>- connects major remnant tracts</li> </ul>	State (5km)
15	<p><b>Wongi State Forest to Grongah National Park:</b> North - south corridor <i>(via Wongi National park, Glenbar State Forest 1 and Glenbar National Park).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- connects major remnant tracts</li> </ul>	Regional (5km)

Corridor no.	Corridor Description	Significance (width)
16	<b>Tuan State Forest to Glenbar:</b> Corridor running east - west ( <i>via St Mary State Forest 1 and Glenbar State Forest 1</i> ). - connects major remnant tracts - provides coast to inland connectivity - incorporates altitudinal gradient	Regional (5km)
17	<b>Coast Range to Allies Creek State Forest:</b> Corridor running east - west from Grongah National Park to Allies Creek State Forest in the Brigalow Belt ( <i>via Ban Ban National Park, Beninbi National Park, Woroon State Forest 2 and Wigton State Forest</i> ). - incorporates altitudinal and climatic gradients - connects major remnant tracts	State (10km)
18	<b>Tewantin to Mary River:</b> Corridor running southeast - northwest from the Tewantin National Park to the Mary River Riparian bioregional corridor ( <i>via Tewantin, Woondum, Goomboorian and Gympie National Parks and then through Bauple, Tiaro and Young State Forests</i> ). - connects remnant tracts - provides coast to inland connectivity - intersects with Riparian corridors	Regional (5km)
19	<b>Elgin Vale State Forest to Peregian:</b> Corridor extending inland from the coast at Peregian through to Elgin Vale State Forest ( <i>via Mapleton National Park, Imbil State Forest, Conondale National Park and Yabba State Forest</i> ). - intersects with riparian corridor - incorporates altitudinal and climatic gradients - connects remnant tracts - provides coast to inland connectivity	State (5km)
20	<b>Elgin Vale State Forest to Blackbutt Range:</b> ( <i>via Mount Stanley State Forest 1, East Nanango State Forest, Benarkin State Forest, Googa State Forest to Mt Binga National Park</i> ). - intersects with riparian corridors - connects remnant tracts	State (10km)
21	<b>Mooloolah to Elgin Vale State Forest:</b> ( <i>via Glasshouse Mountains, Bellthorpe and Conondale National Parks, Squirrel Creek State Forest and Diaper State Forest</i> ). - intersects with riparian corridors - incorporates altitudinal and climatic gradients - connects remnant tracts - provides coast to inland connectivity	State (5km)
22	<b>Imbil State Forest to Conondale National Park:</b> - links two State corridors - connects remnant tracts - links areas of conservation estate	Regional (5km)
23	<b>Mapleton National Park to Mooloolah River National Park:</b> ( <i>via Mapleton Falls and Kondalilla National Parks</i> ). - connects patches of remnant vegetation in a fragmented landscape	Regional (5km)
24	<b>Mooloolah River National Park/Caloundra, South to Sandstone Point:</b> ( <i>connects to Bribie Island National Park and Beerburum (East) and Beerwah State Forests</i> ). - provide coastal habitat/wetlands connectivity - intersects with Mooloolah River riparian corridor - connects patches of remnant vegetation in a fragmented landscape	Regional (5km)
25	<b>Maleny to Kawana:</b> Glass House Mountains National Park through to Mooloolah River National Park ( <i>via Crohamhurst Conservation Park, Dularcha National Park and Beerwah State Forest</i> ). - incorporates altitudinal and climatic gradients - intersects with Mooloolah River riparian corridor - connects patches of remnant vegetation in a fragmented landscape	Regional (5km)



Corridor no.	Corridor Description	Significance (width)
26	<p><b>Peachester to D'Aguilar:</b> Extends from D'Aguilar National Park northeast to Peachester (via <i>Delaneys Creek State Forest, Beerburrum West State Forest, Glass House Mountains National Park and Luttons State Forest</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- intersects with the headwaters of three riparian corridors</li> <li>- connects remnant tracts</li> </ul>	Regional (5km)
27	<p><b>Blackbutt to D'Aguilar:</b> Extends from Benarkin State Forest to Mt Byron (via <i>Deer Reserve State Forest, Deer Reserve National Park and Mount Mee State Forest</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- intersects with riparian corridors</li> <li>- incorporates altitudinal and climatic gradients</li> <li>- connects fragmented lowland remnant; vegetation to larger remnants at higher elevations</li> </ul>	State (5km)
28	<p><b>D'Aguilar Range</b> – Follows the approximate ridge line of the D'Aguilar Range.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the corridor contains continuous large tracts of habitat associated with the D'Aguilar Range</li> <li>- provides a significant central linkage for a number of corridors extending north, east south, and west</li> </ul>	State (5km)
29	<p><b>Emu Creek to Mount Lawson:</b> - Extends south from Emu Creek to Mount Lawson (via <i>Deongwar State Forest, Ravensbourne National Park and Lockyer National Park</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- intersects with riparian corridors</li> <li>- intersects and maintains the connectivity of large remnant tracts in its southern extent and fragmented patches of remnant vegetation in its northern extent</li> <li>- significant fauna values, particularly in the south</li> <li>- incorporates altitudinal gradients</li> </ul>	Regional (5km)
30	<p><b>Deongwar to D'Aguilar:</b> Extends from Deongwar State Forest through Esk State Forest and National Park to the D'Aguilar Range National Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- intersects with the Brisbane River riparian corridor</li> <li>- incorporates altitudinal gradients</li> <li>- connects fragmented lowland remnant vegetation to larger remnants at higher elevations</li> </ul>	Regional (5km)
31	<p><b>Deception Bay to D'Aguilar:</b> Extends northeast from D'Aguilar National Park to near the mouth of the Caboolture River (via <i>Samford, Bunyaville, Hays Inlet and Deception bay Conservation Parks Conservation Parks</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- incorporates altitudinal gradients</li> <li>- provides coastal connectivity in a highly fragmented landscape</li> <li>- connects fragmented lowland remnant vegetation to larger remnants at higher elevations</li> <li>- an identified regionally important corridor for raptors (altitudinal migration - reference: <i>Queensland Museum report to Brisbane City Council Feb 2000</i>)</li> </ul>	Regional (5km)
32	<p><b>South D'Aguilar Range:</b> Extends from the D'Aguilar Range National Park through to Mount Coot-tha.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- links the Southern extent of the D'Aguilar range State terrestrial corridor through to the foothills of Mount Coot-tha</li> <li>- intersects continuous remnant tracts</li> </ul>	Regional (5km)
33	<p><b>Spring Mountain to D'Aguilar:</b> Extends from Spring Mountain (slightly southeast of White Rock Conservation Park) through to the D'Aguilar Range (via <i>Moggill Conservation Park</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- intersects with Brisbane River riparian corridor</li> <li>- incorporates altitudinal gradients</li> <li>- connects fragmented lowland remnant vegetation to larger remnants at higher elevations</li> </ul>	Regional (5km)

Corridor no.	Corridor Description	Significance (width)
34	<b>Mt Barney to Karawatha:</b> Extends from Mount Barney National Park to Flinders Peak to Karawatha ( <i>via Knapp Creek, Flinders Peak and Mount Perry Conservation Parks</i> ). - intersects with riparian corridors - incorporates altitudinal and climatic gradients - connects large fragmented patches of lowland remnant vegetation to remnant at higher elevations at the Southern end point of the corridor	State (5km)
35	<b>Karawatha to Stradbroke:</b> Extends from the eastern extent of Karawatha to just west of the Mouth of the Logan River at Carbrook ( <i>via Daisy Hill Conservation Park, Venman Bushland National Park and Carbrook Wetlands Conservation Parks</i> ), and then through to Stradbroke Island. - connects large fragmented patches of remnant vegetation, providing habitat for EVR taxa - provides a coastal connection	Regional (5km)
36	<b>Mount Petrie to Venman Bushland National Park:</b> Corridor running north - south. - links the Regional terrestrial corridor, 35, to the Tingalpa Creek riparian corridors - connects remnant vegetation from Venmans to the Leslie Harrison Dam/ Tingalpa Reservoir - forms part of a larger coastal lowland linkage - connects large fragmented patches of koala habitat	Regional (5km)
37	<b>Greenbank to Tamborine:</b> The corridor starts just east of Mount Tamborine National Park, extends through to the Logan River and heads north through the Greenbank Military Training Area where it intersects with a State terrestrial corridor ( <i>via Tamborine National Park, Wickham National Park and Plunkett Conservation Park</i> ). - intersects with Logan and Albert Riparian corridors - connects fragmented lowland remnant vegetation to larger remnant tracts	Regional (5km)
38	<b>Mount Perry to Yamanto:</b> Extends from Mount Perry to the intersection of Warrill Ck and the Bremer River, Yamanto. - links the State terrestrial corridor, 34, to the Bremer River riparian corridor - connects fragmented lowland remnant vegetation to large tracts at the corridor's eastern extent	Regional (5km)
39	<b>Little Liverpool Range:</b> Extends from Main Range National Park through Mount Beau Brummell Conservation Park and north to the Hatton Vale area. - links the State terrestrial corridor, 6, to the riparian corridor, Woolshed Creek; - intersects with three other riparian corridors; - connects large fragmented patches of lowland remnant vegetation to remnant at higher elevations at the corridor's Southern extent - incorporates altitudinal gradients	Regional (5km)
40	<b>Logan Village to Birnham Range:</b> Extends south from Logan Village / northern Jimboomba through Mundoolan to Birnham Range. - connects remnant vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape	Regional (5km)
41	<b>Beenleigh to Springbrook:</b> extends south from Beenleigh to Springbrook National Park ( <i>via Tamborine National Park</i> ). ( <i>note: Northern limit is Logan River. Captures climatic gradient, outlier of basalt system</i> ). - intersects with riparian corridors - incorporates climatic gradients - captures outlier of basalt system - captures and maintains a relatively high level of remnant continuity throughout most of the corridor	State (5km)

Corridor no.	Corridor Description	Significance (width)
42	<p><b>Moreton Bay to Tamborine National Park:</b> The corridor extends inland from the Southern Moreton Bay Islands National Park and runs parallel to McCoys Creek to Tamborine National Park (West of Mount Wongawallen).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- links the State terrestrial corridor, 41, to the Regional terrestrial corridor, 43</li> <li>- provides a coastal connection</li> <li>- intersects with the Pimpama and Coomera Riparian corridors</li> <li>- incorporates altitudinal gradients</li> <li>- contains and links significant Koala habitat</li> <li>- captures and maintains a relatively high level of remnant continuity throughout most of the corridor</li> </ul>	Regional and Rehabilitation  (5km)
43	<p><b>Moreton to Stradbroke Island:</b> Extends south from the Northern tip of Moreton Island branching into the Southern Moreton Bay Islands National Park and South Stradbroke Island Conservation Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- links the Regional terrestrial corridor, 42, through to the northern tip of Moreton Island</li> <li>- intersects with the Pimpama and Coomera riparian corridors</li> <li>- maintains an important island to mainland coastal linkage for shorebirds</li> <li>- the corridor captures and maintains continuous large tracts of habitat associated with Stradbroke Island</li> </ul>	Regional (5km)
44	<p><b>Moreton Bay to Lower Beechmont:</b> Extends from just north of Lower Beechmont through to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands National Park (<i>via Nerang Conservation Park, Nerang National Park and Coombabah Lake Conservation Park</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- links State terrestrial corridor, 41, to the Coomera River riparian corridor</li> <li>- provides a coastal connection</li> <li>- incorporates altitudinal gradients</li> <li>- connects fragmented lowland coastal remnant vegetation to remnants at higher elevations</li> </ul>	State (5km)
45	<p><b>Burleigh Heads/Springbrook National Park:</b> East - west corridor extending from Burleigh Heads National Park through to Springbrook National Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- part of a major east/west corridor along the NSW boarder which provides coast to inland connectivity</li> <li>- links heavily fragmented coastal remnant to more continuous inland remnant vegetation</li> <li>- incorporates climatic gradients</li> <li>- links areas of conservation estate</li> </ul>	State (5km)
46	<p><b>Tugun/Springbrook N:</b> East - west corridor extending from Tugun through to Springbrook National Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- part of a major east/west corridor along the NSW boarder which provides coast to inland connectivity</li> <li>- links heavily fragmented coastal remnant to more continuous inland remnant vegetation</li> <li>- incorporates climatic gradients</li> </ul>	State (5km)
47	<p><b>Springbrook National Park to the Great Dividing Range:</b> Extends from just east of Killarney through to Springbrook National Park (<i>via Main Range National Park, Mount Barney National Park, Mount Chinghee National Park, Lamington National Park and Springbrook National Park</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- part of a major east/west corridor along the NSW boarder which provides coast to inland connectivity</li> <li>- links five State and one Regional terrestrial corridor</li> <li>- intersects with several riparian corridors</li> <li>- incorporates climatic gradients</li> <li>- captures and maintains a relatively high level of remnant continuity throughout most of the corridor</li> </ul>	State (10km)
48	<p><b>Main Range to South Killarney:</b> Extends from Main Range National Park through to South Killarney in the Brigalow Belt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a potential revegetation area to link into the Southern Brigalow Bioregion</li> <li>- captures and maintains fragmented remnant tracts</li> </ul>	Regional & Rehabilitation (5km)

Corridor no.	Corridor Description	Significance (width)
100	<b>Lamington NP to Tamborine NP Corridor:</b> Extends from Lamington National Park through Canungra and Mt Tamborine to Tamborine National Park. - falls completely within the Great Eastern Ranges corridor.	Regional & Rehabilitation (5km)
101	<b>Kangaroo Mountain to Rosewood Corridor:</b> Extends from Kangaroo Mountain (Main Range National Park) through to Mt Walker and Rosewood. - comprised of fragmented remnant patches - stepping stone corridor - falls partially within the Great Eastern Ranges corridor	Regional (5km)
102	<b>D'Aguilar National Park to Bellthorpe National Park Corridor:</b> Extends from Mount Byron in D'Aguilar National Park through Mt Delaney to Bellthorpe National Park. - contributes to D'Aguilar – Conondale linkage - falls partially within the Great Eastern Ranges corridor	Regional (5km)
103	<b>Plunkett Regional Park to Buccan Regional Park Corridor.</b> Extends from Wickham National Park along the Cooingee Hills over Bahrs Hill to Buccan Regional Park. - falls completely within the Great Eastern Ranges corridor	Regional (5km)
104	<b>Extends from Mt Grandchester to Mt Hancock Corridor.</b> Extends from Mt Grandchester to Mt Hancock. - stepping stone corridor	Regional (5km)
105	<b>Esk to D'Aguilar National Park Corridor.</b> Extends from Esk to D'Aguilar National Park. - links Esk across northern Wivenhoe - stepping stone corridor - falls partially within the Great Eastern Ranges corridor	Regional (5km)
106	<b>Mt Grandchester to Pine Mountain Corridor.</b> Extends from Mt Grandchester to Pine Mountain. - stepping stone corridor through Pine Mountain/Sapling Pocket and following high country northeast to Lowood	Regional (5km)
107	<b>Bribie Island Corridor.</b> Extends from Bribie Island to the mainland on the northern end of Bribie. +	Regional (5km)
108	<b>Beerwah Glass House Mountain to Pumicestone National Park Corridor.</b> Extends from Beerwah Glass House Mountain to Pumicestone National Park.	Regional (5km)
109	<b>Mount Mee to Lake Kurwongbah Corridor.</b> Extends from Mount Mee to Lake Kurwongbah. - falls partially within the Great Eastern Ranges corridor	Regional (5km)
110	<b>Mt Bell to Wyaralong Dam Corridor.</b> Extends from Mt Bell in Main Range National Park through Mt French to Wyaralong Dam. - Scenic Rim riparian corridor of regional significance - stepping stone corridor - small vine scrub units present - falls partially within the Great Eastern Ranges corridor	Regional (5km)
111	<b>Tannum Sands to Curtis Island Corridor.</b> Extends from Tannum Sands to Curtis Island.	Regional (5km)
112	<b>Imbil State Forest to Curra State Forest Corridor.</b> Extends from Imbil State Forest through Marys Creek State Forest and Brooyar State Forest to Curra State Forest. - falls partially within the Great Eastern Ranges corridor	Regional (5km)

## 2.4.2 Riparian corridors

Riparian corridors were located on the major river and creek systems in the bioregion to provide connectivity through lowland areas. Riparian corridors follow waterways with stream orders 4 or greater, mapped at a scale of 1:100,000, and include the following waterways:

Albert River, Albert River (Left Branch), Albert River (Right Branch), Baffle Creek, Barambah Creek, Barker Creek, Boonara Creek, Boyne River, Bremer River, Brisbane River, Brisbane River (West Branch), Buaraba Creek, Bulimba Creek, Bunya Creek, Burnett River, Burrum River, Caboolture River, Calliope River, Cherwell River, Clifton Creek, Clifton Creek (Right Branch), Colosseum Creek, Coomera River, Coomera River (North Branch), Coondoo Creek, Currumbin Creek, Degilbo Creek, Diglum Creek, East Nerang Creeks, Eastern Boyne River, Elliot River, Emu Creek, Eprapah Creek, Futter Creek, Gin Gin Creek, Granite Creek, Gregory River, Gutchy Creek, Horse Creek, Isis River, Kandanga Creek, Kingaham Creek, Kolan River, Lockyer Creek, Loders Creek, Logan River, Ma Ma Creek, Maroochy River, Mary River, Mooloolah River, Mt Eaton Creek, Mt Hastings Creek, Mudgeeraba Creek, Mungore Creek, Munna Creek, Murphys Creek, Myrtle Creek, Nangur Creek, Nerang River, Noosa River, North Maroochy River, North pine River, Oxley Creek, Pig Creek, Pimpama River, Reid Creek, Reynolds Creek, Sandy Creek, Six Mile Creek, South Maroochy River, South Pine River, Stanley River, Stuart River, Susan River, Tallebudgera Creek, Teebar Creek, Teviot Brook, Three Moon Creek, Tinana Creek, Tingalpa Creek, Warrill Creek, Waterfall Creek, West Burnett River, West Nerang Creek, Western Creek, Woogaroo Creek, Woolshed Creek, Woowoonga Creek and Yabba Creek.

Smaller tributaries and branches were adopted when nominated by the expert panel or when a linkage to a corridor's desired end point (e.g. a national park) was required. All remnant vegetation polygons that had 30% or more of their area within 200 m from the watercourse bank were assigned State significance. Areas of overlap between terrestrial and riparian corridors were assigned the highest level of significance.

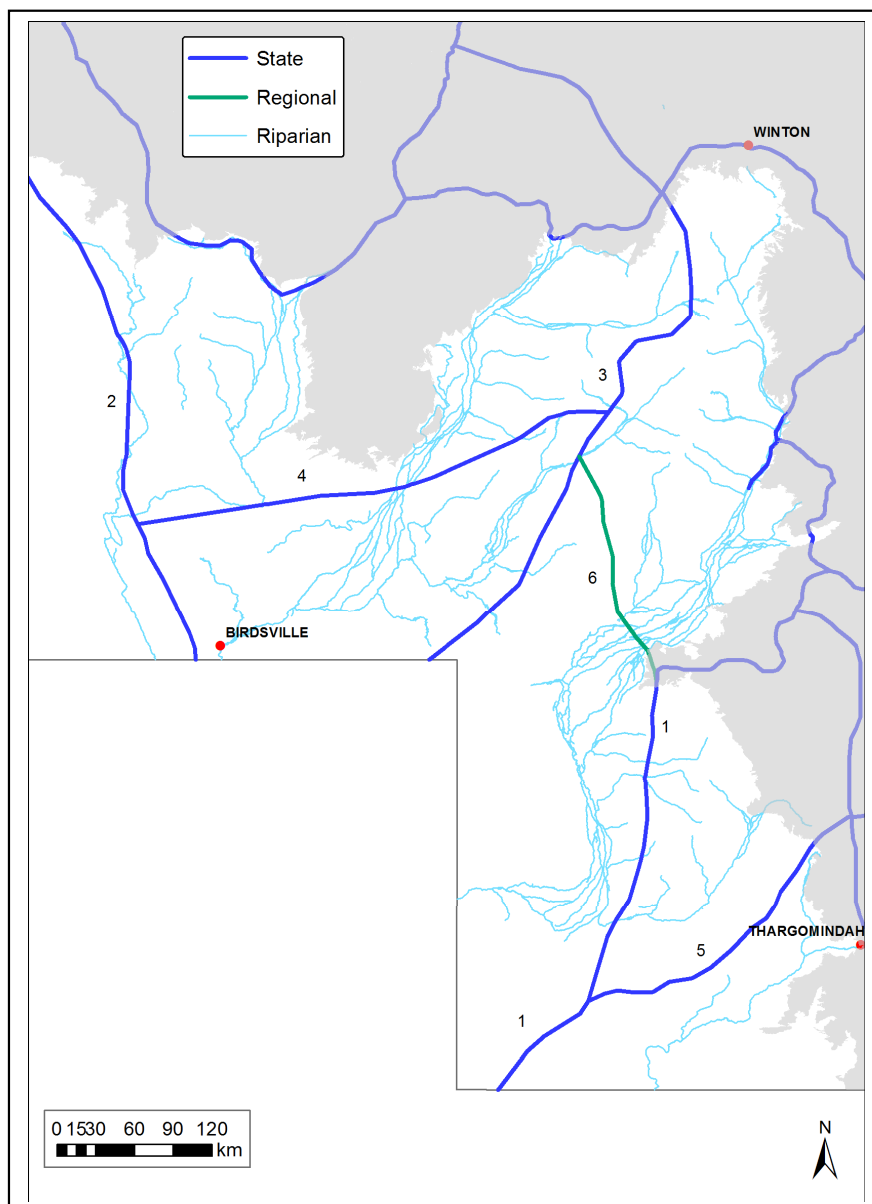
## 2.5 Channel Country

The Channel Country bioregion is a relatively intact landscape, largely unaffected by vegetation clearing, agricultural development, mining and water extraction. The area is characterised by the vast, braided flood and alluvial plains of the Bulloo, Diamantina and Georgina Rivers and Eyre and Cooper Creek. The bioregion in Queensland includes small sections of the Simpson Strzelecki Dunefields bioregion (IBRA v7). The Channel Country BPA (version 1.1) was released on 30 September 2009.

### 2.5.1 Terrestrial corridors

Maximising connectivity between tracts of remnant vegetation is one of the main aims of terrestrial corridors. Because the Channel Country bioregion is largely intact and habitats are well connected, the expert panel focused on maintaining broad linkages between differing landscapes and ecosystems and maximising connectivity across bioregion boundaries. Corridors identified by the expert panel (special area decision chc\_1\_18) are shown in Figure 10 and described in Table 5.

Figure 10 Channel Country landscape corridors



Landscape corridors were based on existing statewide conservation corridors; Great Grasslands, Cooper Creek to Desert Uplands and the Channel Country to Carnarvon corridors.

State significant corridors were assigned a corridor width of 20 km and Regional corridors 40 km.

Table 5 Channel Country terrestrial corridors

Corridor no.	Corridor Description	Significance (width)
1	<b>5001 - Omicron to Marama:</b> links the Mulga Lands and Channel Country bioregions through into North-western New South Wales. Captures some of the interface between the Noccundra Slopes subregion and floodplains of Cooper Creek.	State (20km)
2	<b>5002 - Birdsville to Glenormiston:</b> links the Mitchell Grass Downs bioregion and the Northern Territory to the Channel Country bioregion through to South Australia. Captures much of the interface between Simpson-Strezlecki Dunefields and Diamantina Plains subregions as well as linking to the Toko Range. Also captures salt lakes such as Lake Torquinie and Mumbleberry Lake.	State (20km)
3	<b>5003 - Mount Leonard - Goneaway Tableland – Kynuna Plateau:</b> links the Mitchell Grass Downs bioregion from the Kynuna Plateau to the Channel Country bioregion through to South Australia. Also links into Channel Country corridors 5004 and 5006. Connects much of the Goneaway Tablelands including Goneaway National Park through to the Cooper Plains subregion. This corridor will also link into the PAFF - Bilby Track.	State (20km)
4	<b>5004 - Adria Downs to Tonkoro:</b> links bioregional corridors 5002 and 5003. In connecting the Diamantina Plains subregion to Goneway Tablelands it also captures the interface environs of a number of special features including Lake Machattie and Bilpa Morea Claypan.	State (20km)
5	<b>5005 - Naryilco to Tobermory:</b> linkage between the Mulga Lands bioregion and Channel Country bioregional corridor 5001. Primarily follows the Grey Range which forms the watershed between the Wilson and Bulloo Rivers. This corridor is largely analogous to the Channel Country to Carnarvon Statewide Conservation Corridor.	State (20km)
6	<b>5006 - Marama to Connemara:</b> links Mulga Lands corridor 6007 and Channel Country corridor 5001 through to Channel Country corridor 5003. Connects Channel Country subregions; Goneaway Tableland, Cooper Plains and Noccundra Slopes and links to the adjacent Mulga Lands bioregion.	Regional (40km)

## 2.5.2 Riparian corridors

Riparian bioregional corridors in the Channel Country (Figure 10) were established (special area decision chc\_l\_19) with the intention of connecting permanent waterholes. The decision was applied to the following rivers and creeks:

Acheron Creek, Ashby Creek, Barcoo River, Bengeacca Creek, Billaboaroo Creek, Bluebush Creek, Bostock Creek, Bulloo River, Bungle Creek, Cameron Creek, Carbine Creek, Carella Creek, Central Creek, Coonaberry Creek, Cooper Creek, Cooramarina Creek, Cooratoula Creek, Cooyrie Creek, Corriekie Creek, Cungbulla Creek, Cunnavalla Creek, Curalle Creek, Curica Creek, Davenport Creek, Dewalla Creek, Diamantina River, Dingera Creek, Eden Creek, Edkins Creek, Eight Mile Creek, Elizabeth Creek, Eyre Creek, Farrars Creek, Fifteen Mile Creek, Georgina River, Gilmour Creek, Ginniapapa Creek, Gnallan a-gea Creek, Gooaghooheny Billabong, Grasstree Creek, Gum Creek, Hamilton River, Horse Creek, Jackson Creek, Katherine Creek, Kells Creek, Kewarra Creek, King Creek, Kyabra Creek, Listore Creek, Maneroo Creek, Mayne River, McBride Creek, Merabooka Creek, Milpero Creek, Mirintu Creek, Mistake Creek, Morney Creek, Mount Coley Creek, Mulligan River, Murraturley Creek, Nails, Creek, North Creek, Okena Creek, Palliou Creek, Paragoona Creek, Pigeongah Creek, Pindiary Creek, Pitteroo Creek, Policeman Creek, Pot Jostler Creek, Pourtia Creek, Sandy Creek, Spring Creek, Surprise Creek, Sylvester Creek, Thargamara Creek, Thomson River, Titheroo Creek, Tralee Creek, Umpadiboo Creek, Vergemont Creek, Warbreccan Creek, Wareena Creek, Warri Warri Creek,

Whistling Duck Creek, Whitewood Creek, Whitula Creek, Whitulania Creek, Wilson River, Windula Creek, Wombunderry Channel, Woomanooka Creek, Wuringle Creek

Centrelines for these waterways were extracted from the Geodata Topographic 1:250k Series 2 Topographic Data – Drainage Network, (Hierarchy = 1). Some additional centrelines (Hierarchy = 2 & 3) were selected in order to capture permanent waterbodies: any that were not captured using centrelines from the drainage network were added manually. Centrelines were buffered by 1 km and restricted to Land Zone 3 REs. Where Land Zone 3 was discontinuous the 1km buffer either side of the centreline was maintained. The Cooper Creek to Desert Uplands statewide conservation corridor was incorporated into the Channel Country riparian corridors.

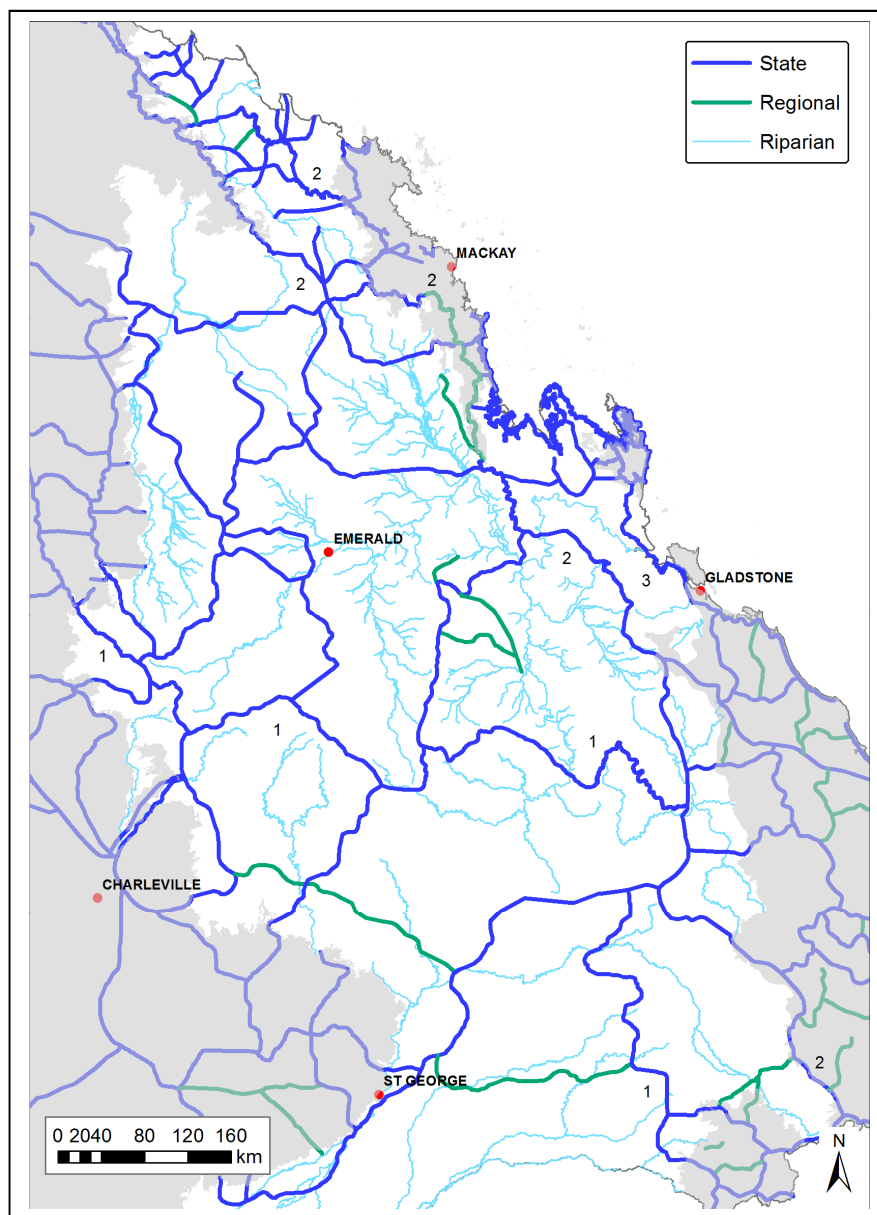


## 2.6 Brigalow Belt

The Brigalow Belt bioregion is the largest bioregion in Queensland. It is characterised by the brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla*) vegetation community but also contains a range of forest, woodland, grassland and riparian communities. The bioregion includes the northern extent of the Darling Riverine Plains bioregion (IBRA v7). The brigalow vegetation community has been extensively cleared for grazing and is listed as a nationally threatened ecological community.

The Brigalow Belt BPA (version 1.3) was released on 22 September 2008. The mapping of wildlife corridors in the Brigalow Belt focused on major corridors that linked with adjacent bioregions or connected wildlife refugia within subregions. The extensive network of landscape corridors is shown in Figure 11.

Figure 11 Brigalow Belt landscape corridors  
(See text for description of numbered corridors)



The corridors generally involve continuous or nearly continuous remnant vegetation in combination with one or more of the following:

- major watershed/catchment and/or coastal boundaries
- intact river systems
- major altitudinal/geological/climatic gradients
- connectivity between large tracts of remnant vegetation
- connectivity between remnant vegetation in good condition
- opportunities for cross linking to riparian corridors in fragmented subregions to maintain connectivity between large remnant areas that have survived because of rugged terrain or tenure (e.g. state forest) and lowland areas that tend to be very fragmented by human activities.

The corridors were grouped into separate terrestrial (decision brbn\_1\_17 and brbs\_1\_17) and riparian (decision brbn\_1\_18 and brbs\_1\_18) networks to facilitate definition and mapping. Separate corridor decisions were made to address connectivity around Taunton National Park (Scientific) (brbn\_1\_62) and Wolfgang Peak (part of Peak Range National Park) (brbn\_1\_26).

### 2.6.1 Terrestrial corridors

Patterns of clearing of native vegetation are a major determinant of the location of effective wildlife corridors. In places a mapped corridor may not be continuous habitat but will consist of patches of remnant vegetation, or stepping-stones, linking larger areas of intact habitat that act as wildlife refugia, for example national parks and state forests.

The terrestrial corridor network in the Brigalow Belt is based on three main longitudinal corridors that extend through multiple bioregions:

1. Great Artesian Basin Rim
2. Great Eastern Ranges
3. Central Queensland Coastal corridor

In addition, there are major east-west aligned linking corridors:

- Links from the ranges to the coast and
- Links across the bioregion.

These corridors are described in the following paragraphs. Terrestrial corridors are mapped with a 5 km buffer. Tracts of remnant vegetation with 30% or more of their area in the corridor buffer

#### 1. *GAB Rim corridor*

In central Queensland, regional ecosystems along the Great Dividing Range function as a major terrestrial corridor. Here the GAB Rim corridor is a continuous band of remnant vegetation forming the southern boundary of the Arcadia and Buckland Basalt subregions. It runs for approximately 200km through Carnarvon National Park and then tracks to the northwest into the Desert Uplands bioregion. The corridor follows the watershed with an exception just to the west of Carnarvon National Park where the corridor briefly follows the Drummond Range to maximise connectivity.

In this central part of Brigalow Belt bioregion other corridors branch from the Great Dividing Range including:

- two linking across the Brigalow Belt bioregion to the Central Queensland Coast bioregion;

- a second corridor leading into the Desert Uplands bioregion from Carnarvon National Park by following the western escarpment of the range; and
- a corridor which includes the eastern sandstone National parks linking the Great Dividing Range with the northern part of SEQ bioregion and the Great Eastern Ranges corridor.

## 2. *Great Eastern Ranges*

In southern Queensland the Great Eastern Ranges corridor uses patchy remnant vegetation connecting numerous national parks and state forests along a number of coastal ranges. In the far south the corridor runs generally along the boundary between the SEQ and Brigalow Belt bioregions from Main Range National Park to south of Bunya Mountains National Park where it then tracks through the SEQ bioregion to the western escarpment of Kroombit Tops National Park.

It follows the Calliope Range (back into Brigalow Belt bioregion) to Bouldercombe Resources Reserve in the Dee Range east of Mt Morgan. From here the corridor leads northwest generally along the Native Cat Range, crosses the Fitzroy River and traverses Goodedulla National Park in the Boomer Range. Following the watershed between the Fitzroy and Mackenzie Rivers the corridor reaches the southern end of the Broadsound Range.

The almost continuous remnant vegetation along the Broadsound, Connors and Clarke Ranges is protected by extensive areas of national parks and state forests. These ranges form a spectacular section of the Great Eastern Ranges corridor. There is a marked climatic gradient associated with these coastal ranges and the relatively high rainfall on the eastern side of these ranges characterises the Central Queensland Coast bioregion. From the southern section of the Broadsound Range at the headwaters of Tooloombah Creek the corridor enters the Central Queensland Coast bioregion and follows the watershed northwards. West of Sarina the corridor tracks east of the watershed to link Spencer's Gap State Forest with Ben Mohr State Forest and Mia Mia State Forest before returning to the watershed at Homevale National Park. The coastal range corridor in the Central Queensland Coast bioregion terminates at Proserpine State Forest. From here the Great Eastern Ranges corridor continues along the Clarke Range to the northwest into the Brigalow Belt bioregion to Sonoma State Forest.

The Great Eastern Ranges corridor tracks north at Sonoma State Forest to run via Mt Aberdeen National Park and along the coastal watershed. It turns west to run through Louisa Mountain to Dalrymple Mountain by crossing the Burdekin River south of Claire and then follows the watershed through to the Einasleigh Uplands bioregion.

## 3. *Central Queensland Coast Corridor*

The coastal area of central Queensland is divided between the Brigalow Belt, SEQ and Central Queensland Coast bioregions. Native terrestrial vegetation and marine wetlands remain relatively intact along this coastline and it is considered important to retain these coastal links so that ecological and evolutionary processes can be maintained. To achieve this, the Central Queensland Coastal Corridor has been identified from the mouth of the Burnett River (SEQ bioregion) to Ince Bay (just south of Sarina) in the Central Queensland Coast bioregion.

The corridor includes remnant vegetation landward of mean high water spring tide and includes estuarine areas and near shore islands linked to the mainland by estuarine wetlands. In the Brigalow Belt the islands include Balaclava, MacKenzie, Casuarina, Townshend, Quail, Long and Rosewood islands.

The section of coast in the Brigalow Belt has only one major node of urban development, along the Capricorn Coast. To bypass this area the corridor is inland along the near coastal ranges

between the mouth of the Fitzroy River to Corio Bay. In these areas remnant vegetation on rural land is used to select the corridor centre line.

### **Linking corridors**

#### *Eastern Range to coast links*

In central Queensland there are direct links from the Great Eastern Ranges Corridor to the coastal corridor at St Lawrence, in the Shoalwater Bay-Byfield area (via a corridor that includes the serpentinite areas south of Marlborough) and along the Fitzroy River (Brigalow Belt bioregion) and between Marion and West Hill Creeks and just north of Clairview (Central Queensland Coast bioregion).

In the northern part of the bioregion the links to the coast use areas with highest connectivity and include a single corridor from Proserpine State Forest to Brisk Bay and three corridors from Mt Abbot to Abbot Point, Cape Upstart and Upstart Bay.

The Einasleigh Uplands bioregion is linked to the coast at Upstart Bay, Bowling Green Bay National Park (Barratta Creek and Cape Cleveland) and at Mt Matthew across the Townsville Plains subregion of Brigalow Belt bioregion.

#### *Links across the bioregional*

There are corridors crossing the bioregion associated with the Drummond, Denham, Carborough, Expedition and Leichhardt ranges as well as corridors linking these ranges and smaller corridors extending off the Clarke Range in the north. Smaller corridors radiate from these major range corridors that provide bioregional links.

## **2.6.2 Riparian corridors**

Riparian corridors were identified in both fragmented and intact subregions. All streams in fragmented subregions (where > 70% of native vegetation has been cleared or developed) with a stream order >3 were considered to have significant values for landscape connectivity. Four subregions were in this category in the Brigalow Belt North.

Riparian corridors are mapped in two parts using buffers of 200 metres and 1000 metres from the streamline as shown on the 1:100000 topographic map series. Regional ecosystem polygons with 30% or more of their area within the 200 m buffer were assigned State significance. Regional ecosystem polygons containing 30% or more of their area within the 1000 m buffer were assigned Regional significance.

Streams in the Callide Creek Downs, Isaac-Comet Downs and Dawson River Downs subregions (see below) ultimately feed the Fitzroy River which is considered a major riparian corridor from the junction of the Dawson and Mackenzie Rivers through to the start of its estuary at Rockhampton.

Major riparian corridors identified in the Fitzroy catchment are:

- Nogoia River above Lake Maraboon;
- Brown River, Clematis Creek and Arcadia Creek in the Arcadia sub-region;
- tributaries of the Don River where they flow west from the Great Eastern Ranges Corridor;
- tributaries of the Isaac and Connors Rivers where they flow west from the Great Eastern Ranges Corridor;

- Isaac River upstream to Moranbah.

The Upper Belyando Floodout is the only fragmented sub-region in the Burdekin catchment. The following major rivers and creeks were identified as significant riparian corridors in the Burdekin catchment:

- Logan and Diamond Creeks which flow from the northern and western slopes of the Drummond and Denham Ranges form a corridor down to the Suttor River;
- sections of the Belyando and Suttor Rivers above Lake Dalrymple;
- Burdekin River from Lake Dalrymple to Claire Weir; and
- Broken and Bowen Rivers and Rosella Creek which flow from the western side of the Clarke Range.

The expert panel riparian corridor decision was applied to the following waterways:

#### *Callide Creek Downs*

Abel Creek, Alma Creek, Bell Creek, Bottle-Tree Creek, Callide Creek, Camp Creek, Clinker Creek, Dee River, Don River, Gerard Creek, Gogango Creek, Grevillea Creek, Kariboe Creek, Kroombit Creek, Neville Creek, North Kariboe Creek, Oaky Creek, Pheasant Creek, Prospect Creek, Scoria Creek, Smoky Creek, South Kariboe Creek

#### *Dawson River Downs*

Angle Creek, Back Creek, Back Plains Creek, Banana Creek, Black Gin Creek, Boam Creek, Calvert Creek, Castle Creek, Cattle Creek, Clovernook Creek, Comely Creek, Conciliation Creek, Dawson River, Delusion Creek, Denby Creek, Don River, Expedition Creek, Fish Creek, Four Mile Creek, Gap Creek, Gorge Creek, Gunyah Creek, Herbert Creek, Little Roundstone Creek, Lonesome Creek, Mimosa Creek, Palmgrove Creek, Peach Creek, Police Camp Creek, Precipice Creek, Prospect Creek, Ramsay Creek, Repulse Creek, Roundstone Creek, Saline Creek, Six Mile Creek, Skull Creek, Wandoo Creek, Zamia Creek

#### *Isaac-Comet Downs*

10 Mile Creek, 2 Mile Creek, Abor Creek, Angle Creek, Apis Creek, Back Creek, Bee Creek, Billy Creek, Blackburn Creek, Blackwater Creek, Bone Creek, Bonnie Doon Creek, Boomerang Creek, Boothill Creek, Bora Creek, Bridgewater Creek, Bul Bul Creek, Bull Creek, Bundarra Creek, Burngrove Creek, Capella Creek, Carbine Creek, Cattle Creek, Centre Creek, Clarke Creek, Cockatoo Creek, Comet River, Connors River, Cooroora Creek, Coppermine Creek, Crinum Creek, Crystal Creek, Dawson River, Deep Creek, Denison Creek, Douglas Creek, Duck Creek, Duckworth Creek, Fifteen Mile Gully, Fitzroy River, Forest Creek, Funnel Creek, Grasstree Creek, Harrybrandt Creek, Humboldt Creek, Ironpot Creek, Isaac River, Junee Creek, Kaiuroo Creek, Kettle Creek, Lagoon Creek, Leura Creek, Lorraine Creek, Lotus Creek, Lucky Creek, Mackenzie River, Maria Creek, May Creek, May Downs Creek, Meteor Creek, Minerva Creek, Minnie Creek, Mosquito Creek, Nebo Creek, Nogoia River, North Creek, Oaky Creek, One Mile Creek, Orion Creek, Parker Creek, Phillips Creek, Pigeon Creek, Planet Creek, Plumtree Creek, Pomegranate Creek, Red Rock Creek, Retreat Creek, Retro Creek, Ripstone Creek, Rolf Creek, Roper Creek, Sandhurst Creek, Sandy Creek, Scott Creek, Scrubbers Gully, Scrubby Creek, Seven Mile Creek, Shotover Creek, Sirius Creek, Snake Creek, Spring Creek, Springsure Creek, Springton Creek, Stephens Creek, Stockyard Creek, Stony Creek, Strathconan Creek, Swampy Creek, Taurus Creek, Theresa Creek, Tolmie Creek, Triumph Creek, Turkey Creek, Walton Creek, Washpool Gully, Winton Creek, Yatton Creek

#### *Upper Belyando Floodout*

Alpha Creek, Bellefort Creek, Belyando River, Bottle Tree Creek, Breakaway Creek, Craven Creek, Emerald Creek, Four Mile Creek, Gippy Creek, Ironpot Creek, J D Creek, Jampot Creek,

May Creek, Middle Creek, Mount Chantrey Creek, Murphy Creek, Narrien Creek, Native Companion Creek, Norths Creek, Pebbly Creek, Pinehill Creek, Racecourse Creek, Ranges Creek, Rifle Creek, Rocky Creek, Sandy Creek, Schofield Creek, Sunny Hills Creek

*Other subregions*

Arcadia Creek, Belyando River, Bowen River, Broken River, Brown River, Burdekin River, Clematis Creek, Diamond Creek, Fitzroy River, Logan Creek, Rosella Creek, Suttor River

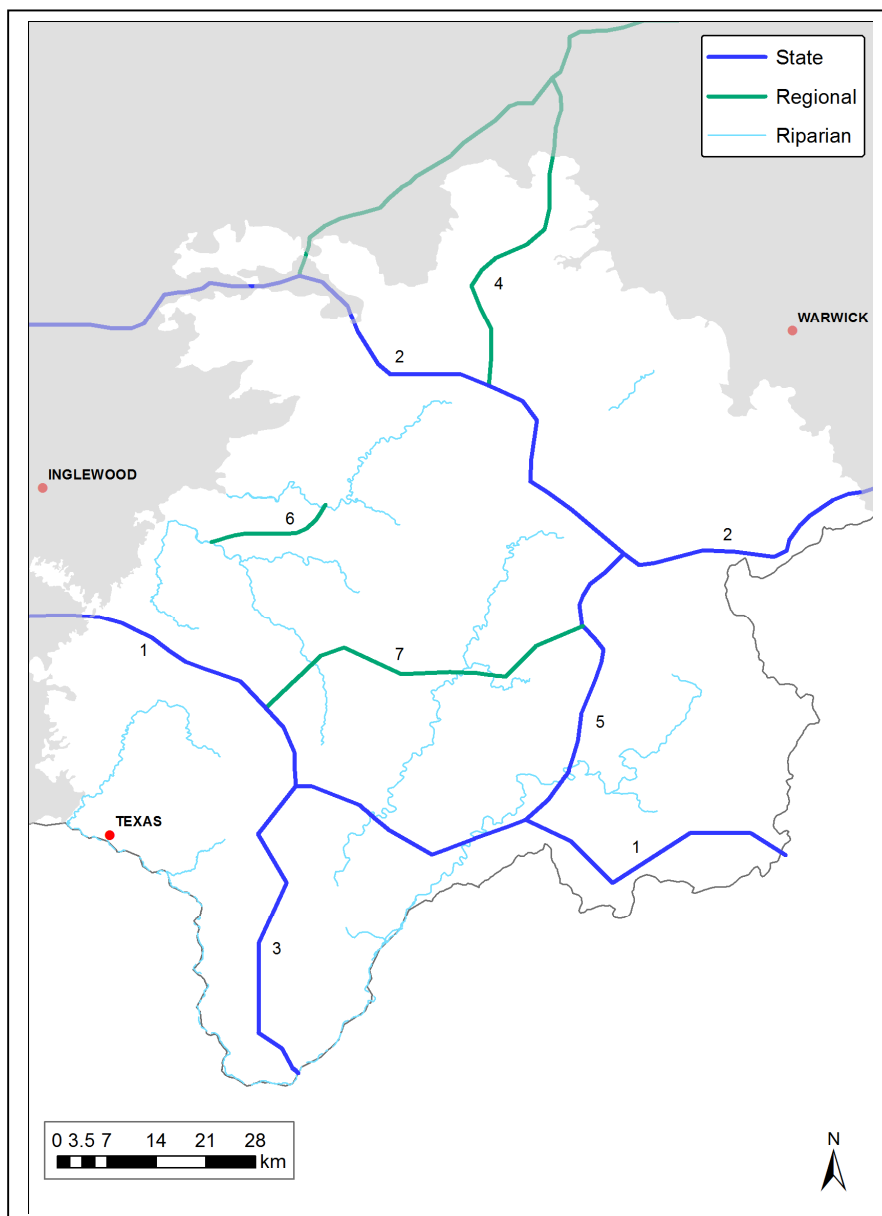
## 2.7 New England Tableland

The Queensland New England Tableland bioregion comprises the northern sections of the IBRA (v7) New England Tableland (Stanthorpe and Tenterfield Plateau subregions) and Nandewar bioregions. The bioregion is highly fragmented but there are large tracts of remnant vegetation, some in conservation estate. The Stanthorpe and Tenterfield Plateau subregions are characterised by high altitude granite geology and the Nandewar bioregion by metamorphic ‘traprock’ geology. The entire bioregion is characterised by granite flora and temperate woodland fauna communities. The New England Tableland BPA (version 2.3) was released on 18 May 2007.

### 2.7.1 Terrestrial corridors

The corridor network was established under expert panel decision net\_1\_7 (Figure 12 and Table 6). The panel adopted the principle that to be of State significance a corridor should provide a link to an adjacent bioregion.

Figure 12 New England Tableland landscape corridors



Most existing corridors of State significance were retained. Some were converted to Regional significance and some were removed because of the introduction of riparian corridors or because they duplicated an existing corridor.

Table 6 New England Tableland terrestrial corridors

Corridor no.	Corridor Description	Significance (width)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- crosses a significant rainfall gradient (higher in the east, grading to low in the west)</li> <li>- crosses a significant geological variation (granite in the east, changing to metamorphic geology in the west)</li> <li>- crosses a significant altitudinal gradient (higher in the east, grading to low in the west)</li> <li>- intersects with several riparian landscape corridors</li> <li>- intersects major remnant tracts</li> <li>- incorporates relatively short non-remnant 'gaps'</li> <li>- links through to major vegetation tracts in bioregions to the east and west.</li> </ul>	State (10 km)
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Main Range through Dalveen to Bringalily</li> <li>- crosses a significant rainfall gradient (higher in the east, grading to low in the west)</li> <li>- crosses a significant altitudinal gradient (higher in the east, grading to low in the west)</li> <li>- intersects with several riparian landscape corridors</li> <li>- provides a high degree of connectivity between remnant tracts.</li> </ul>	State (10 km)
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- links remnant tracts in NSW to mid-west of the NET</li> <li>- provides a high degree of connectivity between remnant tracts</li> <li>- intersects with the Macintyre River riparian landscape corridor.</li> </ul>	State (10 km)
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- provides a high degree of connectivity between remnant tracts within the NET</li> <li>- links Landscape Corridor 2 to remnant tracts in the north of the NET</li> <li>- intersects with the Condamine River riparian landscape corridor.</li> </ul>	Regional (5 km)
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- corridor along the western slopes of the Main Range</li> <li>- provides a high degree of connectivity between remnant tracts within the NET</li> <li>- links Landscape Corridors 1 and 2</li> <li>- links remnant vegetation tracts that are in very good condition</li> <li>- links remnant tracts in southern NET to NSW tracts</li> <li>- follows the sub-regional boundary between the Stanthorpe Plateau and Nandewar</li> </ul>	State (10 m)
6	-links riparian landscape corridors	Regional (5 km)
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- crosses a significant rainfall gradient (higher in the east, grading to low in the west)</li> <li>- crosses a significant altitudinal gradient (higher in the east, grading to low in the west)</li> <li>- intersects with riparian landscape corridors</li> </ul>	Regional (5 km)

The panel recommended a buffer of 2.5 km (i.e. 5km wide) from the centre line for both State and Regionally significant corridors. However, in order to ensure consistency with other terrestrial corridors in inland Queensland, the State significant corridors have been assigned a buffer of 5km (ie 10km wide). Factors considered in determining corridor widths included ability of components of biodiversity to respond to the threatening processes such as climate change, the proportion of the landscape 'captured' by corridors, the technical/scientific support for landscape scale corridors and the potential views of landholders who may be affected by corridors.



## 2.7.2 Riparian corridors

Riparian corridors were established under expert panel decision net\_1\_6 (see Figure 8) and based on waterways with a stream order of 4 or greater. Remnant vegetation with 30% or more of the polygon within 200 m of the waterway was classed as State significant. Remnant vegetation with 30% or more of the polygon within 1 km of the waterway was classed as Regional significance. Along these streams where riparian corridors are discontinuous, because remnant vegetation mapping does not show narrow strips of vegetation, the stream was buffered by 50 m and the buffer classed as 'Local or Other' significance.

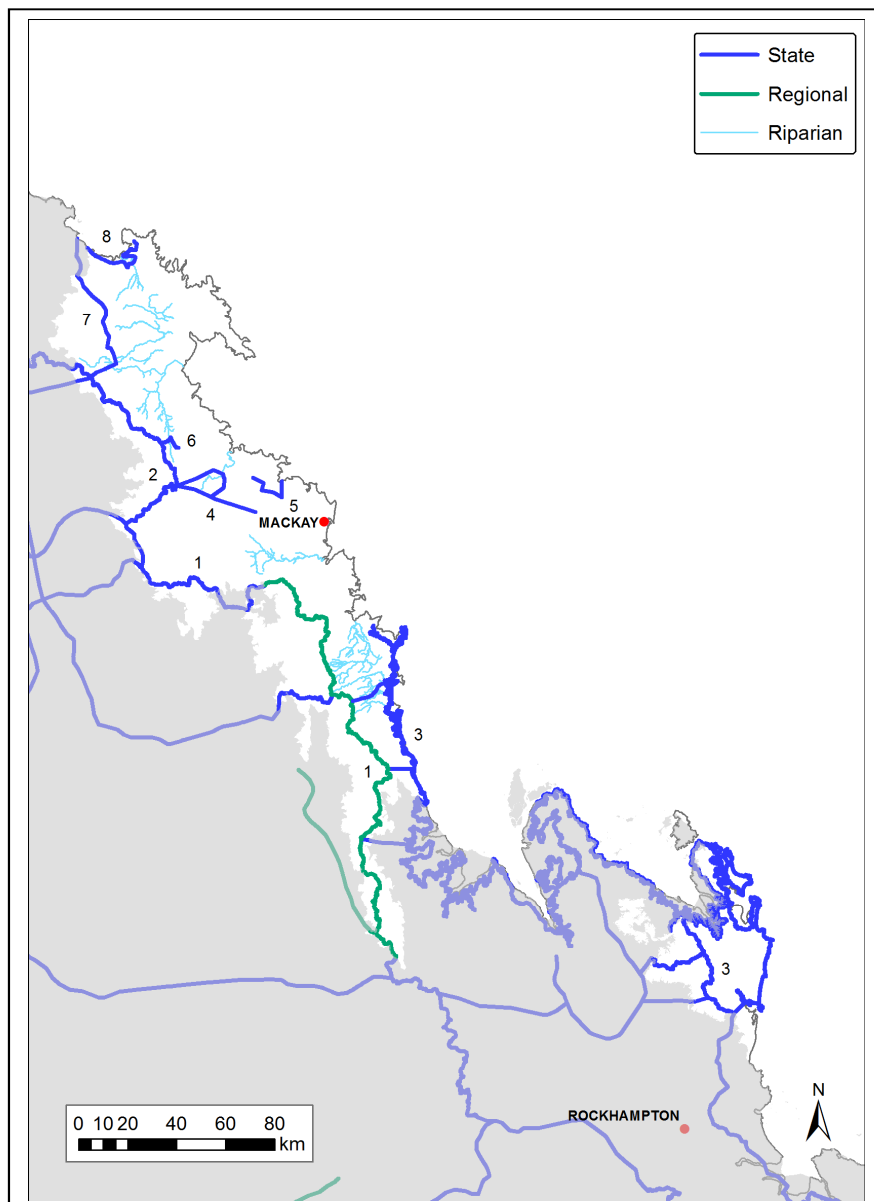
The panel identified corridors along the Dumaresq River (including Oaky Creek), the Severn River (including Accommodation Creek), Pike Creek (including Maryland Creek), Bracker Creek (including Nanny Creek and Treverton Creek), the Macintyre Brook (including Oaky Creek), and Sandy Creek. The panel adopted the same methods as those applied in the Southern Brigalow Belt BPA to assign significance to remnant vegetation. Where waterways passed through non-remnant areas the panel recommended a buffer of 50m to be assigned "Local or Other" significance in the NET BPA.

## 2.8 Central Queensland Coast

The Central Queensland Coast bioregion is a discontinuous area centred upon the high rainfall coastal lowlands, hills and ranges from Yeppoon to the Whitsunday Coast and includes some continental islands. Lowlands are characterised by savannah woodlands and semi-deciduous rainforests. The upland rainforests have close affinities with the Wet Tropics, whereas the eucalypt forests are more closely linked to southern Queensland. The lowlands are fragmented by agricultural and urban development.

The Central Queensland Coast BPA (version 1.3) was released on 29 January 2007. The expert panel identified significant corridors associated with the ranges, large remnant tracts and particularly riparian areas in the lowlands and links to the Brigalow Belt Bioregional corridors (Figure 13).

Figure 13 Central Queensland Coast landscape corridors



## 2.8.1 Terrestrial corridors

Major terrestrial corridors were based on mountain ranges, reserves and large tracts of remnant vegetation that may provide east-west, north-south and altitudinal movement of wildlife across the bioregion. Corridors centred on relatively large remnant tracts were defined and used as the basis for digitising boundaries after the workshop. The need to link with the corridors mapped in the adjacent Brigalow Belt (north) bioregion was an important consideration in locating corridors in the western edges of the bioregion. Terrestrial corridors are described under expert panel decision numbers in Table 7 and shown in Figure 13.

Mapping required agreement of a line of best fit through the area that represented the centre of the corridor or link. Where possible, corridors included endangered ecosystems, areas identified as having special biodiversity values and the diversity of ecosystems in the area. Linking known habitat for threatened species was also a consideration. The 1999 (v3) RE mapping was used as the base map.

Corridor width was based on the extent of remnant vegetation within the agreed corridor alignment and the length of that corridor between wildlife refugia. A width to length ratio of 1:5 was adopted. The centre lines were used to attribute corridors on the 2001(v4) RE mapping using the following rules endorsed by the panel. Where the width of remnant vegetation that could form part of an effective corridor was less than 10 kilometres wide the vegetation available was rated as state significant based on the 1:5 ratio. Where the width was greater than 10 kilometres the vegetation was rated as regionally significant for landscape connectivity.

The panel had an extensive knowledge of the entire area and were able to nominate and discuss areas in detail and accorded state and regional significance to the defined areas based on their value for landscape connectivity.

Table 7 Central Queensland Coast terrestrial corridors

Expert panel decision no.	Corridor Description	Significance
1	<p><b>Great Eastern Ranges:</b> the Connors Range including Sarina Range, from Eton south, is an important wildlife corridor. In some areas the remnant vegetation along this corridor narrows with a width of less than one kilometre. In other areas the remnants are extensive. The whole corridor should have High J rating and made Regionally Significant although where the corridor narrows the remnants are critical for landscape connectivity (cqc_1_66). Includes decision cqc_1_60 about remnant vegetation linking patches of 8.12.27b that are very important in the protection and connection of this endangered RE. Regional significance for landscape connectivity.</p> <p>Corridor between Mia Mia and Ben Mohr State Forests - the remnant vegetation linking wildlife refugia at Mia Mia State Forest and Ben Mohr State Forest (refer to decision 13) is important for landscape connectivity (cqc_1_65).</p>	Regional
2	<p><b>Great Eastern Ranges</b> (east branch): the northern end of Cathu State Forest has important landscape connectivity values along Clarke Range to the north, and is of regional significance. Includes some glossy black-cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>) habitat (cqc_1_35). Southern section of the corridor extends along the Clarke Range south of Cathu State Forest through Eungella National Park (cqc_1_45). State significant corridor extends south through Crediton State Forest to Ben Mohr State Forest.</p>	State

Expert panel decision no.	Corridor Description	Significance
3	<p><b>Central Queensland Coast:</b> northern section from Clairview to Sarina Beach – covers all connected remnant vegetation east of highway outside of the Cape Palmerston wildlife refuge previously defined (number 13). Significant coastal site as it is only relatively intact coastal strip that remains in the sub-region. Special values include: false water rat (<i>Xeromys myoides</i>) habitat, wader bird habitat, turtle nesting and dugong (<i>Dugong dugon</i>) habitat. A large portion of the area is listed in Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia. Opportunities to link coast to inland and highlands – West Hill Creek is fairly intact. Marion Creek catchment and Rocky Dam Creek both provide links (cqc_1_73). The corridor extends through the southern section of the Central Queensland Coast bioregion, through the Brigalow Belt north to Sarina. The corridor is a Brigalow Belt bioregion decision (see Brigalow Belt bioregion corridor descriptions).</p>	State
4	<p><b>Eungella - Mt Ossa - Mt Martin National Park link:</b> the tracts of remnant vegetation between these wildlife refugia have very high landscape connectivity value (cqc_1_42). Part of the corridor between Mt Martin National Park and Mt Toby State Forest is an area of known koala (<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>) habitat and nesting site for buff-breasted paradise kingfisher (<i>Tanysiptera sylvia</i>). The area has very high landscape connectivity values (cqc_1_55). Very high landscape connectivity linking wildlife refugia areas from Eungella National Park (Crazy Cat Mountain) to Whiptail Range and St Helens State Forest and Mt Charleton. Area supports flying fox colony roosting site (refer to number 64). Whiptail Range known northern quoll (<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>) habitat. State Significant wildlife corridor would protect the integrity of lowland rainforest. High (If: rating applies only to polygons north of St Helens Creek: known quoll habitat) (cqc_1_45).</p>	
5	<p><b>Pioneer Peaks National Park link:</b> Very High landscape connectivity value between isolated areas of Pioneer Peaks National Park - Mt Blackwood and Mt Mandurana (cqc_1_48). The remnant vegetation between Pioneer Peaks National Park and the coast have very high landscape connectivity value (cqc_1_50). The link between Mt Jukes/Mt Adder (Lot 6) and Mt Blackwood have high landscape connectivity through to Constant Creek (cqc_1_51)</p>	State
6	<p><b>Mt Beatrice link:</b> very high landscape connectivity - from Mt Beatrice to Cathu State Forest and Lacy Timber Reserve (TR394). Known northern quoll (<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>) habitat (cqc_1_47).</p>	State
7	<p><b>Proserpine State Forest link:</b> corridor through Proserpine State Forest to the coast at Port of Bowen. Clarke/Connors Ranges and foothills – includes the Clarke Range west of Proserpine Range State Forest, from Peter Faust Dam south to area west of Pine Mountain. The area is a significant north – south corridor (cqc_1_29).</p>	Regional
8	<p><b>Cape Gloucester to Brigalow Belt:</b> extends from Cape Gloucester, the mouth of the Gregory River and west to Proserpine State Forest corridor in the Brigalow Belt bioregion. Coastal corridor connecting Mt Ben Lomond to Cape Gloucester and Land Zone 5 remnants to mangroves. Area contains outliers from other bioregions such as <i>Pandanus geminata</i>. Very high landscape connectivity value. Rate the specified areas State Significant. Sinclair Bay is a key coastal site for Dugongs (<i>Dugong dugon</i>), wader birds, turtles - including flatbacks (<i>Natator depressus</i>) and greens (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>) and is a Dugong Protection Area “B” Zone (cqc_1_11).</p>	State

## 2.8.2 Riparian corridors

The panel considered the corridor value of riparian and associated vegetation on streams flowing east from the coastal ranges. Key riparian wildlife corridors identified were:

Andromache/O'Connell Rivers, Basin Creek, Funnel Creek, Gillinbin Creek, Goorganga Creek, Gregory River, Kelsey Creek, Lethebrook Creek, Louisa Creek, Marion Creek, Murray Creek, Myrtle Creek, Rock Dam Creek, Sandringham Creek, Sandy Creek, Thomson Creek, West Hill Creek (Oakly, Bluewater and Dry Creeks will be assessed in the next BPA review).

Riparian corridor expert panel decisions are described in Table 8 and corridors are shown in Figure 13.

Table 8 Central Queensland Coast riparian corridors

Expert panel decision no.	Corridor Description	Significance
Cqc_1_12	Gregory River riparian corridor. Relatively intact and important riparian corridor from Land Zone 5 RE's and alluvial flats to coast, also connecting to remnant vegetation on Mt Dryander. Very high landscape connectivity for fauna.	State
Cqc_1_22	Myrtle Creek. Myrtle Creek is an important riparian corridor.	Regional
Cqc_1_24	Kelsey Creek. Kelsey Creek headwaters in Proserpine Range. Riparian vegetation has high value for landscape connectivity. Attribute vegetation along creek as regionally significant.	Regional
Cqc_1_25	Lethebrook Creek. Gallery rainforest on banks of Lethebrook Creek links up with Kelsey Creek and Proserpine Range and has high landscape connectivity values. Threats to area include weeds ( <i>Sporobolus</i> sp.; <i>Mimosa pigra</i> (giant mimosa); <i>Hymenachne</i> sp.; <i>Brachiaria mutica</i> (para grass)), sugar cane expansion (agricultural runoff) and infrastructure, feral pigs	Regional
Cqc_1_26	Goorganga Creek. Goorganga Creek has very high value for connectivity to Goorganga plains. Banks north of airstrip support vine scrubs of State Significance.	State
Cqc_1_27	Thomson Creek. Thomson Creek melaleuca riparian vegetation is in better condition than that on Proserpine River where little remains. It as a significant wildlife corridor. Part of a corridor to Goorganga Plains.	State
Cqc_1_28	Andromache/O'Connell Rivers. Remnant vegetation along these waterways is important for connectivity.	State
Cqc_1_43	Murray Creek. Priority for further rehabilitation on Murray Creek, which is a linkage to the coast.	Regional
Cqc_1_63	Sandy Creek. All remnant and non remnant riparian vegetation has very high landscape connectivity value in connecting the coast with the hinterland. Includes some mangrove areas towards the mouth of Sandy Creek.	State
Cqc_1_75	Rocky Dam Creek. Very high landscape connectivity value, intact riparian vegetation. The saline area is crocodile ( <i>Crocodylus porosus</i> ) habitat.	State
Cqc_1_76	Marion/ West Hill / Basin / Gillinbin Creeks to Koumala Range. These creeks have very high landscape connectivity value. This area is the last relatively intact catchment to coast. Remnant ecosystems along these creeks should be state significant as a wildlife corridor.	State

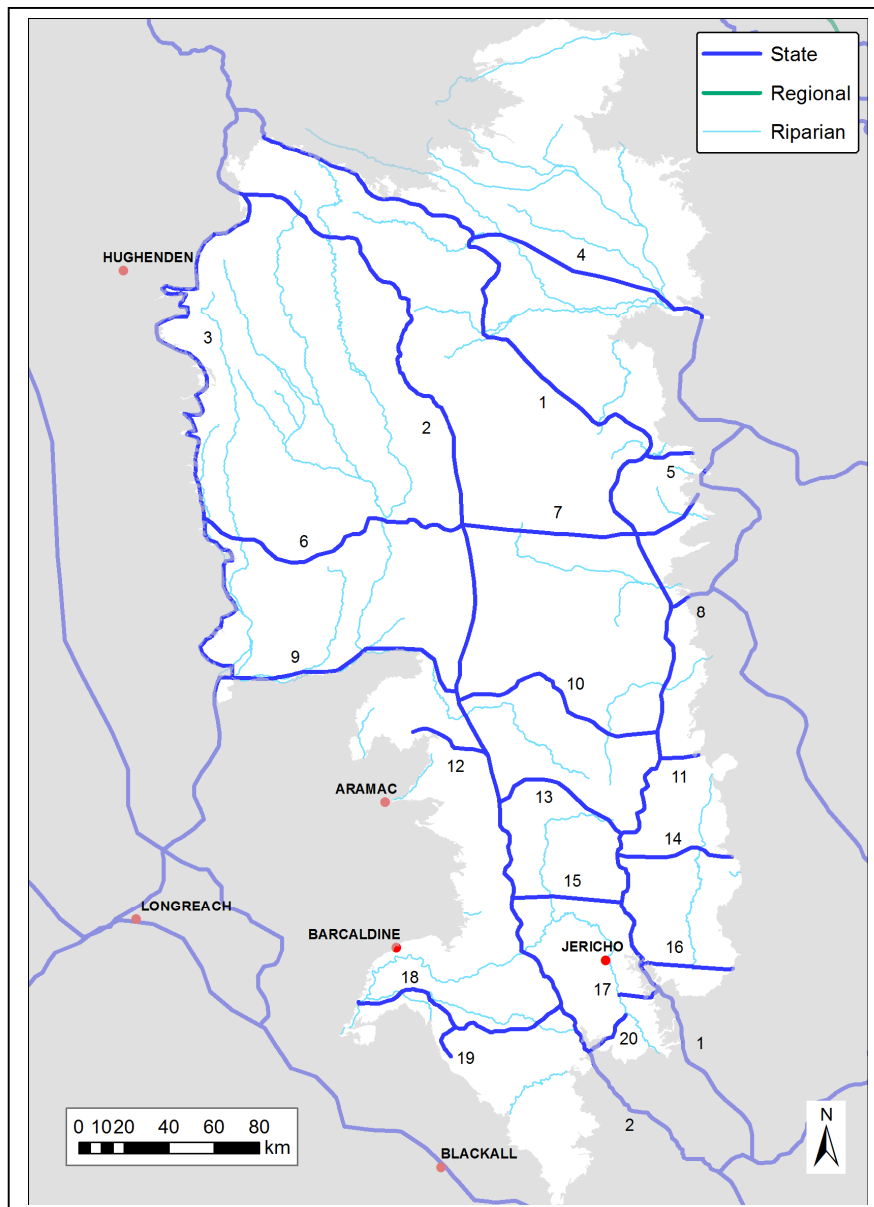
## 2.9 Desert Uplands

The Desert Uplands bioregion is a semi-arid area consisting of ancient, deeply weathered plateaus forming the sandstone ranges of the Great Dividing Range. It is characterised by large areas of deep infertile sand plains and much of the bioregion is in a relatively intact condition, particularly along the spines of old weathered range systems of the Great Dividing Range and in the north of the bioregion. Cattle grazing is the dominant land use which occurs mainly on the more productive soils that occur between the two spines of the Great Divide in the centre of the bioregion. The bioregion is at the eastern margin of the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) and parts of the bioregion are important recharge areas for GAB aquifers. The Desert Uplands BPA (version 1.3) was released on 29 June 2012.

### 2.9.1 Terrestrial corridors

The Great Dividing Range has two prominent ridge lines that run north and south over the full extent of the Desert Uplands and form woodland habitat corridors of State significance (**Figure 14**).

Figure 14 Desert Uplands landscape corridors



Where clearing has caused significant fragmentation in the south, vegetation corridors were identified (expert panel decision deu\_1\_11) as having very high value for landscape connectivity (see **Figure 14**). A corridor width of 2 km has been used and both remnant vegetation and cleared areas in these corridors have been attributed.

In the northern part of the bioregion clearing has also caused some local fragmentation of native woodlands. The expert panel identified some key linkages (expert panel decision deu\_1\_15) which are not threatened by clearing but in some cases could be improved by retaining regrowth to widen the corridor. Both remnant and cleared areas in the corridor buffer were attributed as having high value for landscape connectivity.

Important riparian vegetation associated with larger river systems was also identified in expert panel decision deu\_1\_9 (under criterion I: Special Biodiversity Values). This vegetation functions as important refuges for many species of flora and fauna.

Table 9 Desert Uplands terrestrial corridors

Corridor no.	Corridor Description	Significance (width)
1	<b>GAB Rim (east):</b> part of the Great Artesian Basin Rim statewide conservation corridor (non BPA). A north south oriented corridor running through the bioregion from the Einasleigh Uplands to the Brigalow Belt. The corridor is the eastern branch of the Great Dividing Range along the eastern side of the Alice Tableland. Captures the watershed of the watercourses flowing north and east flowing and those flowing south and west to the Channel Country.	State (5 km)
2	<b>GAB Rim (west):</b> part of the Great Artesian Basin Rim statewide conservation corridor (non BPA). A north south oriented corridor linking the Einasleigh Uplands and the Brigalow Belt. This corridor is the western branch of the Great Dividing Range along the western side of the Alice Tableland.	State (5 km)
3	<b>Great Wall:</b> Desert Uplands/ Mitchell Grass Downs boundary. A north south oriented corridor along the DEU/MGD boundary that joins the Cooper Creek to Desert Uplands statewide conservation corridor and the GAB Rim corridor (02) at the boundary with the Einasleigh Uplands bioregion.	State (5 km)
4	<b>Cape-Campaspe Plains:</b> An east-west link across the Cape-Campaspe Plains biogeographic subregion joining a Brigalow Belt linking corridor to one of the major East-West Link statewide conservation corridors (Suttor corridor).	State (5 km)
5	Non-BPA statewide conservation corridor named Suttor. Links with statewide GAB Rim corridor, exiting DEU bioregion in Bingeringo.	State (5 km)
6	<b>Great Wall–Corinda:</b> East–west link between the Great Artesian Basin Rim corridor (02) north of Corinda and the MGD boundary corridor (03) across the Prairie – Torrens Creeks Alluvials subregion. Corinda to Stenhouse and the western boundary with the MGD bioregion.	State (5 km)
7	<b>Doongmabulla:</b> Continuation of corridor 06 east to the Great Artesian Basin Rim corridor (01) across the Alice Tableland	State (5 km)
8	Extension from the GAB Rim/ Doongmabulla east-west link intersection to the Belyando River in the Brigalow Belt bioregion.	State (5 kilometres)
9	<b>Cooper Creek to Desert Uplands:</b> East-west oriented corridor along the DEU–MGD boundary. Consists of the most northern section of the Cooper Creek to Desert Uplands statewide conservation corridor (along Cornish Creek) joining the GAB Rim corridor (02) near Lake Galilee.	State (5 kilometres)
10	<b>Galilee link:</b> East-west oriented corridor across the Alice Tableland biogeographic subregion linking the two GAB Rim corridors (01 and 02) – from Lake Galilee area to the Lennox outstation area.	State (5 kilometres)
11	<b>Lennox link:</b> East-west oriented link across the Jericho biogeographic subregion from the Lennox outstation area to the Desert Uplands/Brigalow Belt boundary near Degulla.	State (5 kilometres)
12	<b>Pelican Creek link:</b> East–west link from GAB Rim corridor (02) - north of Lake Mueller and Pelican Creek - to the Prairie-Torrens Creeks subregion.	Regional (5 kilometres)
13	<b>Boongoondoo link:</b> East-west link between GAB Rim corridors 01 (near Blairgowrie) and 02 (near Boongoondoo) along the Jericho/Alice Tableland subregion boundary.	State (5 kilometres)
14	<b>Wendouree link:</b> East-west link from GAB Rim corridor (01) through Wendouree to the Brigalow Belt boundary near Burtle.	State (5 kilometres)

<b>Corridor no.</b>	<b>Corridor Description</b>	<b>Significance (width)</b>
15	<b>Garfield link:</b> East-west link across the Jericho subregion between GAB Rim corridors 01 and 02 through the Garfield area.	State (5 kilometres)
16	<b>Alpha–Beta link:</b> East-west link from the GAB Rim corridor 01 along the Great Dividing Range to the Desert Uplands/Brigalow Belt boundary - along the Capricorn Highway between Jericho and Alpha (through Beta township).	State (5 kilometres)
17	<b>Glencoe link:</b> East-west link between the Great Dividing Range in the Brigalow Belt and the Jericho subregion at Jordan Creek near Glencoe.	State (5 kilometres)
18	<b>Narbethong—The Patrick link:</b> East–west link between the GAB Rim corridor 02 – south of Narbethong - and the Desert Uplands/Mitchel Grass Downs bioregion boundary near The Patrick on the Landsborough Highway.	State (5 kilometres)
19	<b>Evora Creek spur link:</b> Short corridor branching south off the Narbethong—the Patrick link at Delta South and terminating at Evora Creek.	State (5 kilometres)
20	<b>Gum Creek spur:</b> Short corridor branching north-east off the GAB Rim corridor (02). Corridor crosses a wedge of the Brigalow Belt bioregion between sections of the Jericho subregion – runs from high country down along Gum Creek.	State (5 kilometres)

### 2.9.2 Riparian corridors

The expert panel did not identify riparian corridors. Key riparian REs associated with larger river systems were identified as important refuges for biota, especially as these areas have relatively high nutrient levels, mature vegetation and better moisture balance than elsewhere.



## 2.10 Cape York Peninsula

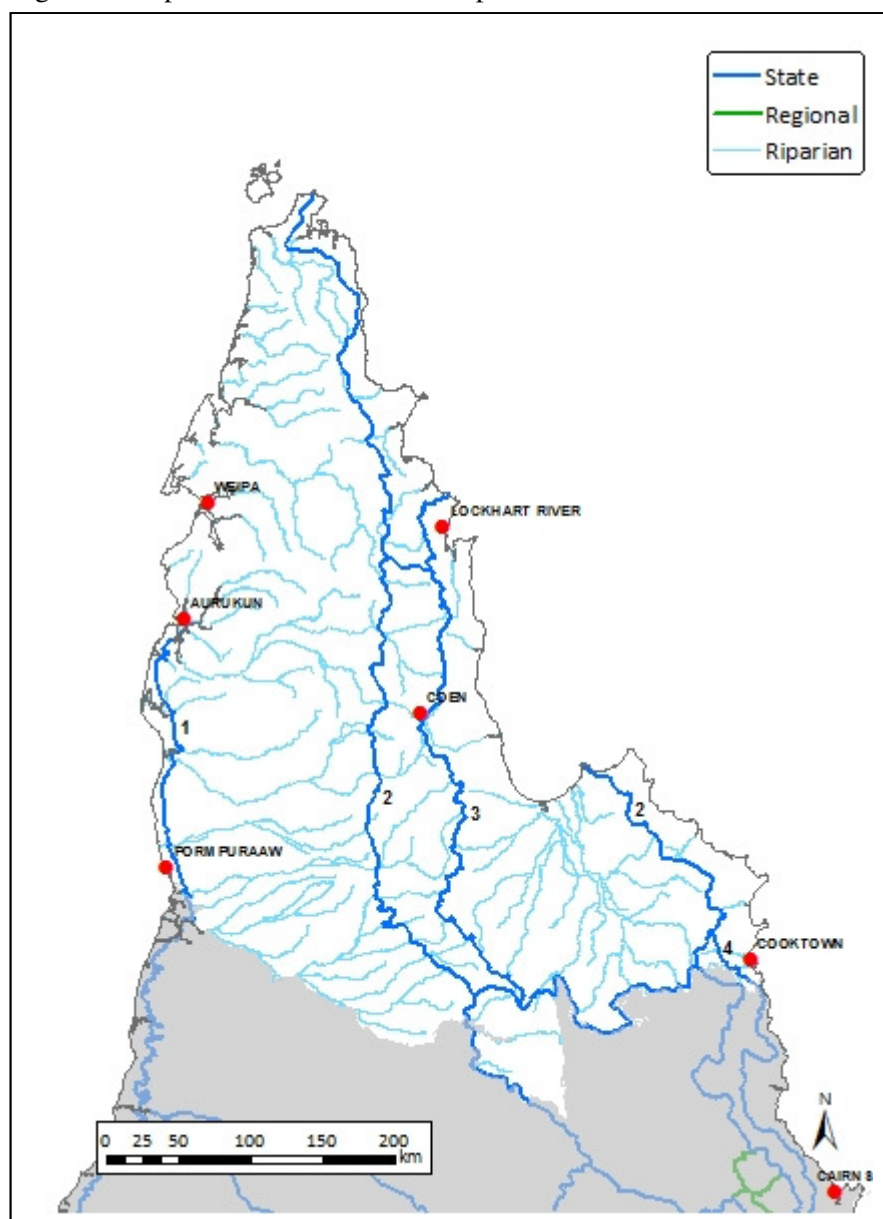
The Cape York Peninsula bioregion is a vast and relatively undisturbed landscape with extraordinary biological diversity. The bioregion consists of rainforests, woodlands, shrublands and heaths, sedgeland, grasslands and mangrove communities. All 9 subregions in the bioregion are relatively intact as there has been only limited vegetation clearing to date.

The BPA for the Cape York Heritage Area was released in December 2012. The boundary of the assessment area includes the Cape York Peninsula bioregion and the northern parts of the Wet Tropics Heritage Area and Gulf Plains and Einasleigh Uplands bioregions. This report contains details of the terrestrial and riparian corridors that only occur in the Cape York Peninsula bioregion.

### 2.10.1 Terrestrial corridors

The expert panel reviewed statewide conservation corridor networks identified in the bioregion and recommended new corridors (Figure 15 and Table 10).

Figure 15 Cape York Peninsula landscape corridors



Terrestrial corridors (Table 10) are mostly north-south oriented and located along the Great Dividing Range, Great Artesian Basin rim and through coastal lowland habitat along the Gulf of Carpentaria coast. Existing statewide corridors were assigned State significance.

Table 10 Cape York Peninsula terrestrial corridors

Corridor no.	Corridor Description	Significance (width)
1	<b>Gulf Coast link:</b> the northern extent of this cross regional corridor extending from the NT border across the Gulf of Carpentaria coastal plains.	State (5 km)
2	<b>Great Artesian Basin Rim:</b> consists of two north oriented branches connected across the south east part of the bioregion along the northern boundary with the Einasleigh Uplands. The western branch extends from the Gulf Plains to the northern most tip of Cape York Peninsula and the eastern branch from near Cooktown north along the coastal ranges to Lakefield National Park.	State (5 km)
3	<b>Great Dividing Range:</b> extends from a junction with the GAB Rim corridor in the south to Iron Range National Park in the Lockhart area on eastern Cape York Peninsula.	State (5 km)
4	<b>Great Eastern Ranges:</b> the northern extent of the corridor linking the Wet Tropics bioregion with the eastern branch of the GAB Rim corridor.	State (5 km)
East west links	The expert panel recommended creating a corridor incorporating the protected areas from east of Coen to Aurukun on the west coast. It was not possible to implement this during the BPA development. After the BPA was completed, as part of identifying Regional Nature Conservation Values for the region, connectivity of the corridor was consolidated using existing protected areas and the catchments of the Coen and Archer Rivers, which extend most of the distance across the bioregion.	

### 2.10.2 Riparian corridors

The expert panel identified riparian corridors along larger watercourses (cyp\_1\_34). The decision was applied to the following subregion waterways.

#### *Jardine-Pascoe Sandstones*

Archer River, Cockatoo Creek, Crystal Creek, Doughboy River, Ducie River, Dulhunty River, Eliot Creek, Glennie Creek, Harmer Creek, Heskett Creek, Jackson River, Jardine River, McHenry River, Olive River, Packsaddle Creek, Skardon River, Wenlock River

#### *Weipa Plateau*

Archer River, Cleanskin Creek, Coen River, Cox Creek, Ducie River, Dulhunty River, Edward River, Embley River, Heskett Creek, Holroyd River, Kendall River, Kokialah Creek, Merkunga Creek, Mistake Creek, Mountain View Creek, Myall Creek, Namaleta Creek, Norman Creek, North Alice Creek, Piccaninny Creek, Pine River, Pretender Creek, Running Creek, Schramm Creek, Scrubby Creek, Seary Creek, Tompaten Creek, Ward River, Watson River, Wenlock River, West Archer River, Williamson Creek

#### *Coen-Yambo Inlier*

Alice River, Archer River, Bourne Creek, Coen River, Coleman River, Crosbie Creek, Edward River, Eight Mile Creek, Ethel Creek, Falloch Creek, Geikie Creek, Holroyd River, Kendle River, Kennedy River, King River, Lockhart River, Lukin River, Morehead River, Nesbit River, One Mile Creek, Palmer River, Pascoe River, Peach Creek, Pretender Creek, Rocky King Creek, Station Creek, Stewart River, Wenlock River

#### *Northern Holroyd Plain*

Alice River, Bottle Creek, Coleman River, Crosbie Creek, Edward River, Eight Mile Creek, Ethel Creek, Holroyd River, Hoodoo Creek, Horse Creek, Kendall River, Kirke River, Love River, Maddigans Creek, Malaman Creek, Mistake Creek, Mottle Creek, Paradise Creek, Pretender Creek, Ten Mile Creek, The Overflow, Yanko Creek

*Laura Lowlands*

Annie River, Beattie Creek, Brown Creek, Deighton River, East Normanby River, Fifteen Mile Creek, Hann River, Healy Creek, Jack River, Jam Tin Creek, Kennedy River, Laura River, Little Laura River, Morehead River, Normanby River, North Kennedy River, North Kennedy River, Rocky King Creek, Saltwater Creek, Scrubby Creek, Stewart River

*Coastal Plains*

Annie River, Bizant River, Jam Tim Creek, Marrett River, Normanby River, North Kennedy River, Saltwater Creek

*Battle Camp Sandstones*

Beattie Creek, Deighton River, East Normanby River, Jack River, Laura River, Little Laura River

*Starke Coastal Lowlands*

Annan River, Deighton River, Endeavour River, Jeannie River, McIvor River, Oaky Creek, Wallace Creek

## 2.11 Gulf Plains

Stretching from the Northern Territory border east to the base of Cape York Peninsula, the Gulf Plains Bioregion encompasses approximately 211,000km<sup>2</sup> of low-lying country and offshore islands of north-west Queensland. Major river systems dissect the broad alluvial plains – the Nicholson, Gregory and Leichhardt drain from the North West Highlands; the Cloncurry, Flinders and Norman from the Mitchell Grass Downs; the Gilbert, Staaten, Nassau and Mitchell from the Einasleigh Uplands. The coastal edge is dominated by marine plains of clay, silt and sand with mangroves, saltpans and mudflats. Further inland, grasslands and woodlands of eucalypts, melaleuca and acacia cover the landscape of plains and river channels comprising clay and alluvial soils. Similar vegetation dominates the dissected plateau surfaces of sandstones and siltstones that abut the surrounding bioregions (Sattler & Williams 1999). The Gulf Plains BPA (version 1.1) was released on 25 September 2015.

### 2.11.1 Terrestrial corridors

In addition to the existing state-wide conservation corridor network in the Gulf Plains, the expert panel added an additional terrestrial linkage along the Staaten and Red Rivers, joining the Gulf Coast Link to the Great Artesian Basin Rim state-wide conservation corridors.

Figure 16 Gulf Plains landscape corridors

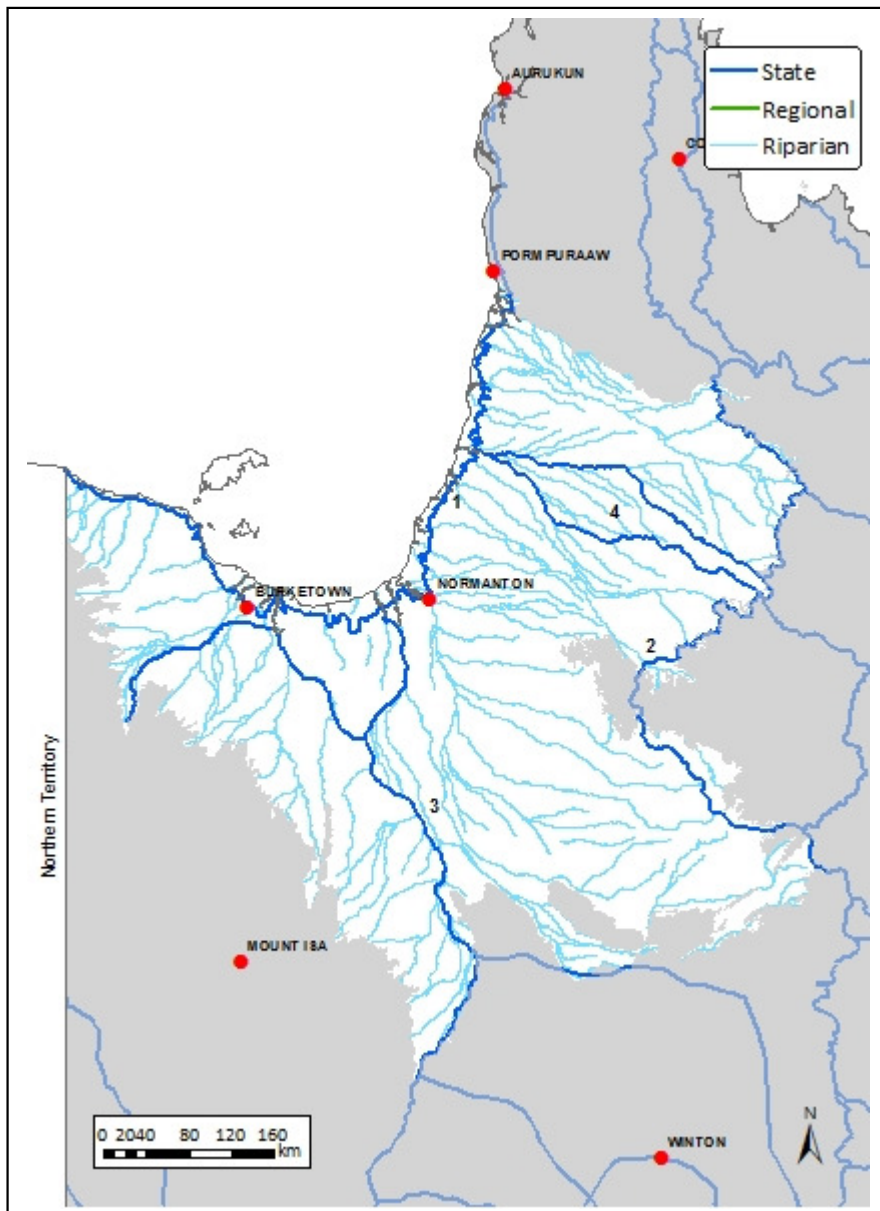


Table 11 Gulf Plains terrestrial corridors

Corridor no.	Corridor Description	Significance (width)
1	<b>Gulf Coast Link:</b> the western extent of the State-wide Conservation Corridor which extends across the intertidal areas and associated coastal plains of the Gulf of Carpentaria, from the NT border to the Aurukun area on Cape York Peninsula.	State (5 kilometres)
2	<b>Gulf to Grasslands:</b> State-wide Conservation Corridor linking the Gulf Plains and Mitchell Grass Downs corridors along two branches following the Flinders and Leichhardt Rivers.	State (5 kilometres)
3	<b>Great Artesian Basin Rim:</b> Gulf Plains component of the State-wide Conservation Corridor which extends from the NSW border to the tip of Cape York Peninsula, following the Great Dividing Range for most of its length.	State (5 kilometres)
4	<b>Eastern Gulf Plains Link:</b> Terrestrial linkage along the Staaten and Red River, joining the Gulf Coast Link to the Great Artesian Basin Rim state-wide conservation corridors.	State (5 kilometres)

### 2.11.2 Riparian corridors

Riparian corridors in the Gulf Plains are particularly significant for biodiversity, both as a climatic refuge and as a major element of habitat continuity. Watercourses provide extra cover in arid areas and major movement of fauna is along riparian corridors, however with some lateral movement into adjoining habitat. Riparian corridors were established under the expert panel decision *gup\_1\_47* (see Figure 16). Several larger watercourses identified by the panel as being of greater significance were recommended to be given a larger buffer of 500m, whilst all others were assigned a 200m buffer.

*The following watercourses were assigned a buffer of 200 metres and State significance:*

Yappar River, Magnificent Creek, Mailman Creek, Massie Creek, Maxwell Creek, Mckinlay River, Mentana Creek, Middle Creek, Millar Creek, Millers Creek, Mimosa Creek, Miranda Creek, Mistake Creek, Mitchell River North Arm, Mittigudi Creek, Moonlight Creek, Mottle Creek, Mundjuro Creek, Musselbrook Creek, Myally Creek, Nassau River, Nevertire Creek, Nicholson River, Norman River, O'connell Creek, One Mile Creek, Palmer River, Pandanus Creek, Patience Creek, Percy Creek, Pine Tree Creek, Poison Creek, Redbank Creek, Rocky Creek, Rosser Creek, Running Creek, Sandy Creek, Saxby River, Scrubby Creek, Scrutton River, Settlement Creek, Smithburne River, South Mitchell River, Spear Creek, Spring Creek, Staaten North Branch, Staaten River, Stawell (Cambridge Creek) River, Surprise Creek, Swan Creek, Tate River, Topsy Creek, Vanrook Creek, Walker Creek, Walsh River, Williams River, Williamstown Creek, Wills Creek, Wyaaba Creek, Yambore Creek, Yaningerry Creek, Yanko Creek, Yappar River.

*The following watercourses were assigned a buffer of 500 metres and State significance:*

Einisleigh River, Flinders River, Gilbert River, Gregory River, Lawn Hill Creek, Mitchell River, Pelican Creek, Red River, Widdallion Creek, Woolgar River.

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