

Clump Point Rainforests & the Threat from Garden Weeds

Rainforest at Clump Point

- Clump Point at Mission Beach is a priority location for two threatened rainforest types:
 - Lowland tropical rainforest
 - Littoral (coastal) rainforest
- Both lowland tropical rainforest and littoral rainforest are listed as Threatened Ecological Communities under the EPBC Act.
- Clump Point is the only place in the Wet Tropics where beachfront rainforests occur on volcanic soils.
- Volcanic soils in a high-rainfall, seaside climate provide ideal growing conditions – for both rainforest and weeds.

Djiru values

- Clump Point is universally seen by the Djiru people, both young and old, as a core place in their homeland and a hub of traditional life in pre-European times.
- Today, it is a place that they enjoy for its beauty, for its natural benefits and for the sense of connection to tradition and country that it brings to them.
- The fish traps on either side of Clump Point and the ceremony ground are very significant.



Lowland tropical rainforest

- Regional Ecosystem 7.8.1d is a unique lowland tropical rainforest type that only occurs on volcanic soils on the coast, i.e. Clump Point.
- Much has been cleared for farming and development; the largest remaining patches are in the National Park.
- Characteristic native trees: black bean, white bean, mahogany, candlenut, milky pine, nutmeg, slippery fig, green-fruited fig, pink-flowering guest tree.
- Shrubs and vines: urchin-fruited pandan on the forest floor, large vines in the canopy.
- Weeds include red firespike, costus, pothos, golden cane, mother-in-law's tongue, heliconia, morning glory, Singapore daisy and syngonium.



Littoral rainforest

- Rainforest dominated by the sea.
- On volcanic soils, found only at Clump Point and a small patch on Stephens Island – unique in the Wet Tropics.
- Characteristic trees: sea hearse, coral tree, pongamia, teak, Bingil Bay palm.
- Habitat for the rare peppermint stick insect.
- More elevated than nearby sand-based littoral rainforest, making it more resilient to erosion and sea level rise.
- Accessible via the Cutten Brothers walking track.
- Threats include weeds from gardens and exotic plants washed in by the sea (e.g. Singapore daisy, pond apple, coconut).



Weeds in our rainforest


- Many weeds that threaten local rainforests are exotic plants that have escaped from nearby gardens.
- Some garden plants survive tough conditions and spread easily from small fragments.
- The worst weeds:
 - Invade the shady rainforest floor and outcompete native seedlings
 - Smother rainforest canopies and edges and cause collapse
- Small forest patches like Clump Point are particularly vulnerable to garden escapees.





Clump Point National Park and littoral rainforest

Legend

-  Property Boundaries
-  National Park
-  Littoral Rainforest



Map Produced by Sharlene Blakeney
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What's being done about weeds?

With funding from the Australian Government's Saving Native Species program, Terrain NRM is supporting two projects to be completed by mid-2026:

- C4 – Weed control in Clump Point National Park
- Giringun/Djiru teams – Weed control in Council's dedicated bushland reserves on Clump Point foreshore

These projects are applying species-specific weed control methods while minimising impacts on native plants.

How you can help

- Be aware of garden plants that can become weeds in rainforest.
- Learn about effective methods to remove weeds without damaging natives.
- Please dispose of garden waste responsibly at the nearest waste facility. Dumping garden waste or weeds in rainforest is illegal and may result in fines.
- Avoid clearing native vegetation on public land.

For more information

- Australian Government [DCCEEW Littoral rainforests](#)
- [Australian Government DCCEEW Lowland tropical forest](#)
- [Business Queensland Invasive Plants & Weeds](#)
- [Cassowary Coast Biosecurity Plan](#)
- Or contact Terrain NRM:
 - Email - info@terrain.org.au
 - Tel: 07 4043 8000



Peppermint stick insect



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