

Map Unit: 3A(i) *Salicornia* spp., *Suaeda australis*, *Suaeda arbusculoides* succulent-shrubland to open-succulent shrubland



Figure 1. *Salicornia* spp., *Suaeda australis*, *Suaeda arbusculoides* succulent shrubland to open-succulent shrubland

Description: A dwarf ground cover community with a cover that varies from very sparse to dense. It is usually patchy in nature, with areas of bare marine clay and patches of *Sporobolus virginicus*. Composition of species varies seasonally, with *Salicornia quinqueflora* subsp. *quinqueflora* and *Suaeda australis* being predominant during the time of sampling. The maximum community height is about 20 cm.

Structural Formation Range: succulent shrubland (66%), open-succulent shrubland (34%),

Basal Area Estimate m²ha⁻¹: 0.

Ground Layer

Height: mean 0.1 m; range: 0.1-0.2 m.

Crown Cover: mean 62.8%; range: 14.0-99.0.

Frequent species: *Salicornia quinqueflora* subsp. *quinqueflora* (83%), *Suaeda australis* (83%), *Sporobolus virginicus* (66%), *Avicennia marina* subsp. *australasica* (16%), *Fimbristylis polytrichoides* (16%), *Tecticornia pergranulata* subsp. *queenslandica* (16%), *Suaeda arbusculoides* (16%).

Total species recorded: 12. **Mean species per site:** 5 with a standard deviation of 3.

Ecological Notes:

The species composition of the samphire communities is seasonal in nature and varies over time. This variation over time is probably due to rainfall changes. Associations of claypan, samphire and marine couch form a mosaic commonly known as saltmarsh. The saltmarshes are commonly found behind the mangroves at the upper tidal limits though they may extend to river banks where the river has eroded into them. The soils in which the samphire communities occur are generally highly saline. The samphire communities commonly revert to areas of bare clay in extended periods of low rainfall or drought.

Map Unit: 3A(i) statistics and distribution maps

3A(i) *Salicornia* spp., *Suaeda australis*, *Suaeda arbusculoides* succulent shrubland to open-succulent shrubland

Table 1. *Salicornia* spp., *Suaeda australis*, *Suaeda arbusculoides* succulent shrubland, open-succulent shrubland (3A(i)).

Vegetation Type, ha	1955	1997	2012	2016	2020	2021
3A(i)	1406	579	423	408	375	374

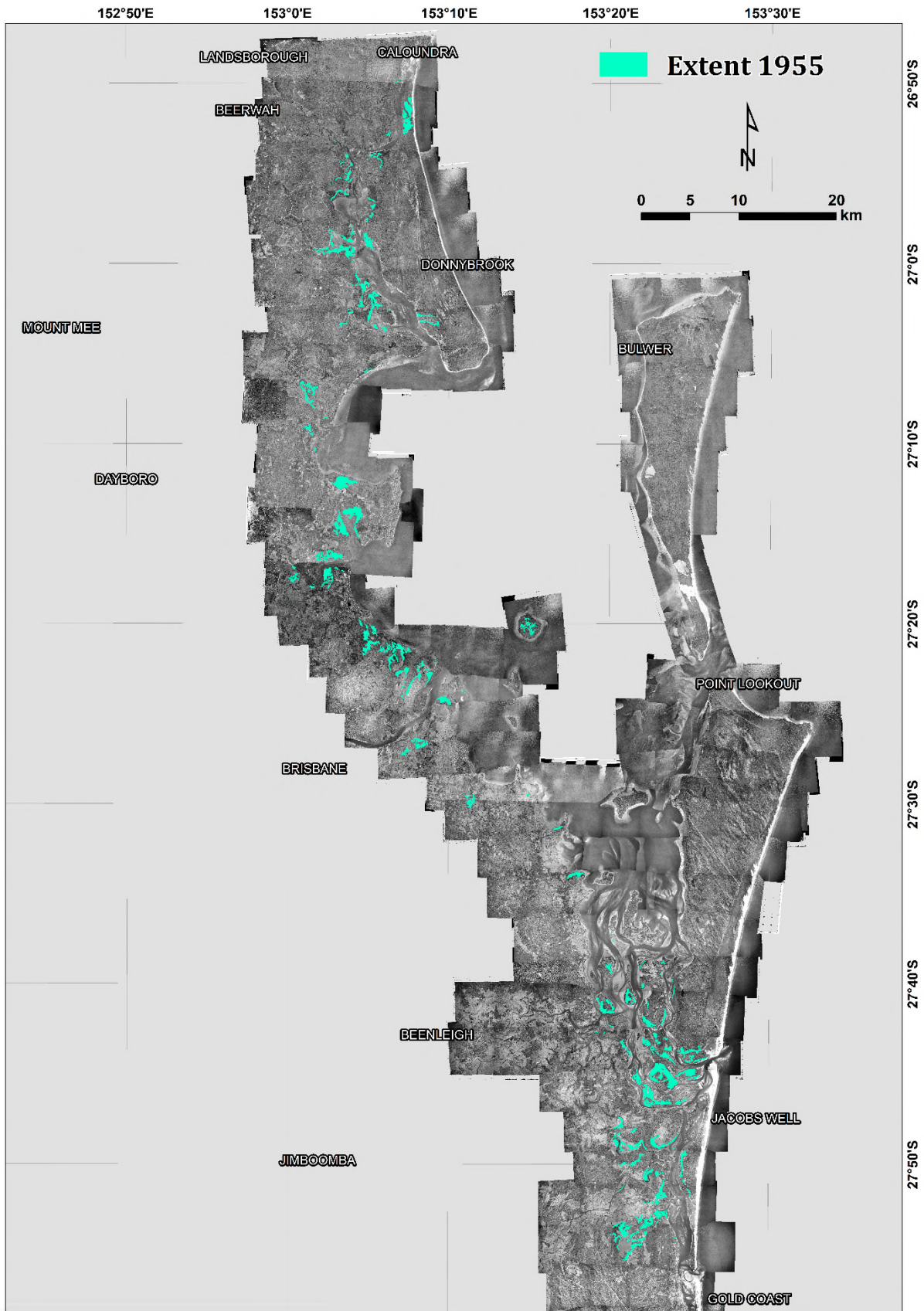


Figure 2. Extent 1955 of *Salicornia* spp., *Suaeda australis*, *Suaeda arbusculoides* succulent shrubland, open-succulent shrubland (3A(i)).



Figure 3. Remnant 2021 extent of *Salicornia* spp., *Suaeda australis*, *Suaeda arbusculoides* succulent shrubland, open-succulent shrubland (3A(i)).

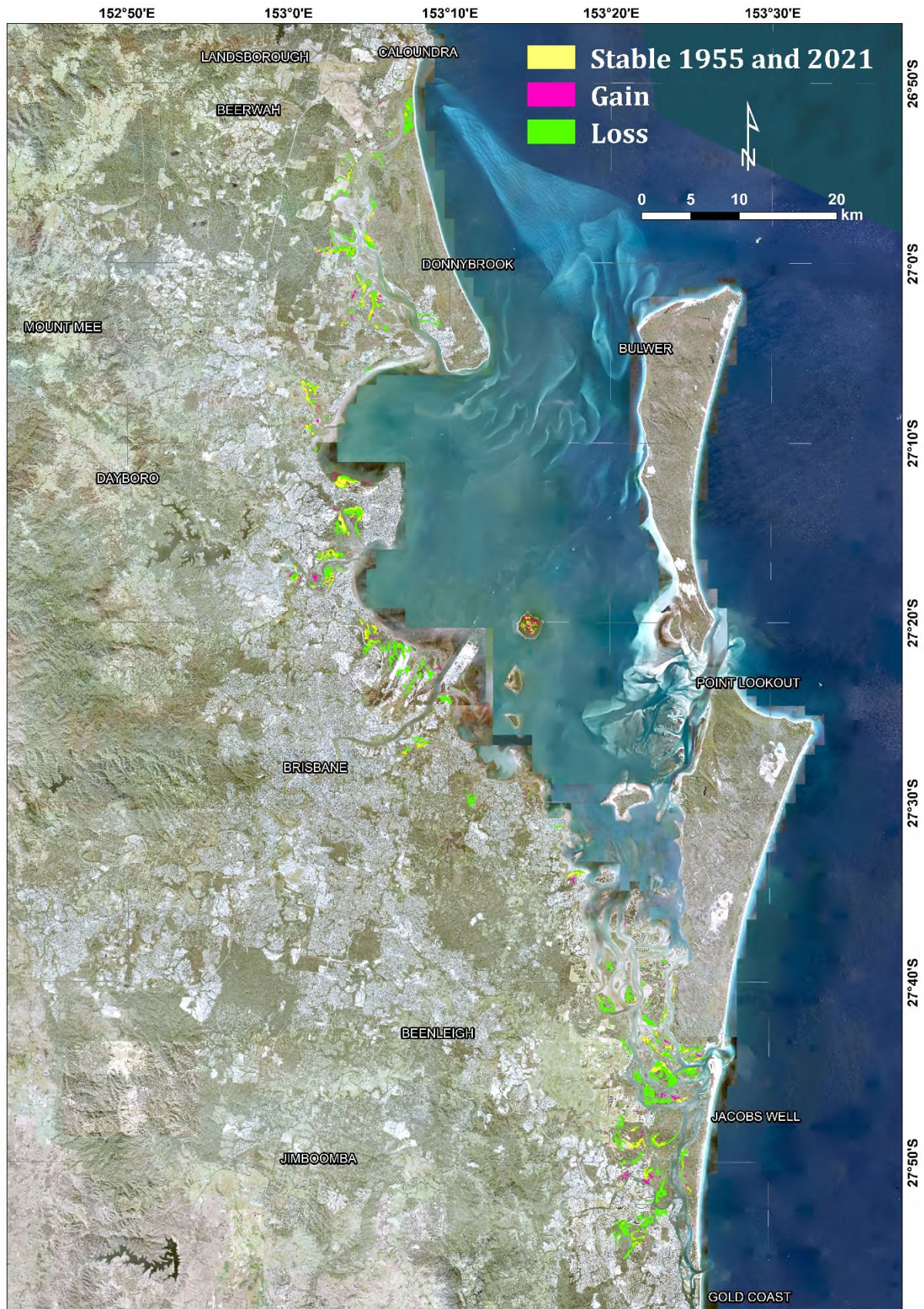


Figure 4. Change in extent between 1955 and 2021 of *Salicornia* spp., *Suaeda australis*, *Suaeda arbusculoides* succulent shrubland, open-succulent shrubland (3A(i)).