



SAVANNA LANDS

The savanna lands of North East Queensland cover around 310, 000 square kilometres and incorporate three main bio-geographic regions: The Einasleigh Uplands, the Desert Uplands and the Brigalow Belt North. Mostly the land is dominated by the pastoral farming of beef cattle although there are small areas that are protected as nature reserves.

Climate

In 'normal' conditions the tropical savannas have high rainfall summers and drier winters. Temperature in the summer can average 33°C while the summer rainfall is often accompanied by cyclones. However, as many of you will know, there is high annual variation in the climate and drought is a common feature of life in the savannas.

Life in the savannas

Townsville-Thuringowa is the largest city in the tropical savannas with almost 120,000 people counted in the 2001 census.

Important Flora and Fauna

The black throated finch is an endangered savanna seed eating bird that has had its habitat reduced to a mere 'hot-spot' within the Townsville-Thuringowa region. Wallabies, kangaroos and euros can also be seen as well as the occasional echidna and goanna.

Fire in the savanna

Fire has been an important tool in shaping the Australian landscape. There is a comprehensive program of burning that has been implemented by Parks and Wildlife and is aimed at maintaining or improving biodiversity levels. Much is still to be learnt in the use of fire as a management tool however we do know that it is very important.