



The Gold Coast Transformed: From Wilderness to Urban Ecosystem

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The Gold Coast is Australia's premier tourism destination, a city cut out of coastal vegetation, including paperbark swamps, mangroves and rainforests of worldwide significance. *The Gold Coast Transformed* is a collection of integrated chapters identifying and assessing the environmental impacts of the building of Australia's sixth largest city. It traces the cumulative impacts from the day the first timber-getter entered what is now World Heritage-listed rainforest through to the present.

The city's natural and engineered environments are both fascinating and vulnerable. The construction of massive highrise apartment blocks, on what were frontal beach dunes, is one of the fundamental mistakes not to be repeated. The book illustrates how and why major environmentally destructive development took place and discusses the impacts of such development on the Gold Coast's beaches, wildlife, and terrestrial and marine environments, such as the destruction of riparian mangrove forest.

The Gold Coast Transformed also shows the possibility of sustaining natural populations and reducing the city's ecological footprint. It will be of interest to ecologists, environmental scientists and managers, town planners, economists, policy-makers and the general public.

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