

Hard stands, soft falls

Rock hardness decides the shape of the land: the hard rock stands up high, the soft rock wears down low.

← west · ranges

coast · east →

hard rock STANDS

BASALT-CAPPED RANGE

a hard lava lid — flat top, steep rim
Blackall Range, Buderim

VOLCANIC PLUG

rhyolite & trachyte — the hard core
of a volcano whose soft outside has gone
Glass House Mtns, Coolumb, Cooroora

soft rock, spared by the cap

river takes the soft ground

SOFT FOUNDATION ROCK

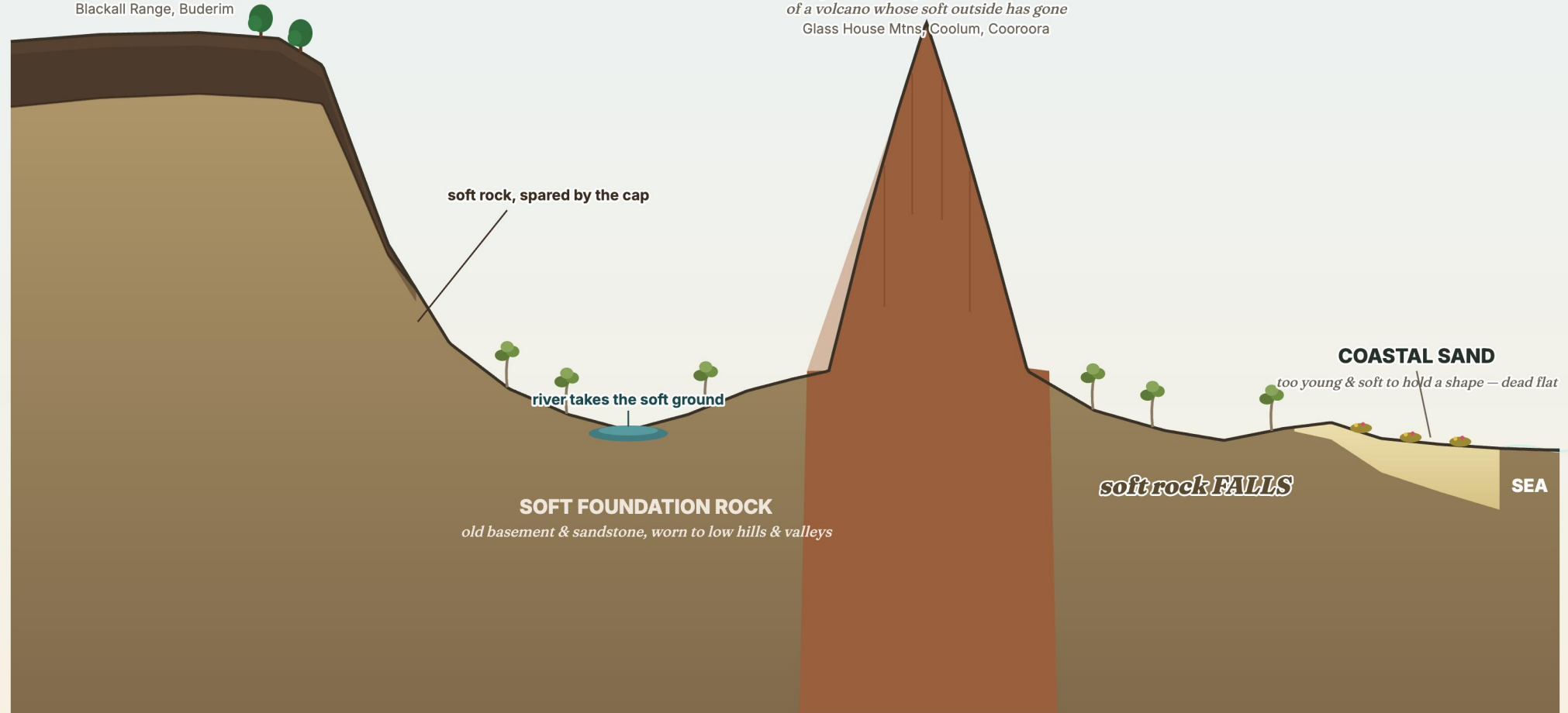
old basement & sandstone, worn to low hills & valleys

COASTAL SAND

too young & soft to hold a shape — dead flat

soft rock FALLS

SEA



Read the shape and you have read the rock: the hard plug and the basalt cap stand tall as high ground, while the soft foundation and the sand are worn away to valleys and flats.

Schematic west-to-east cross-section; heights, spacing and depths not to scale.