

Blackwood scrubs on structured clays



Landform

Level to gently undulating plains.

Woody vegetation

Blackwood scrubs associated with Reid river box and blackbutt. Understorey, if present, of currant bush, false sandalwood, bauhinia, yellowwood and whitewood.

Expected pasture composition

** Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.*

Preferred

Desert bluegrass, buffel grass*, curly bluegrass, brigalow grass.

Intermediate

Bull Mitchell grass, silky browntop, windmill grasses.

Non-preferred

Feathertop wiregrass, wiregrasses, winged chloris, fairy grass, lovegrasses.

Annuals

Button grass, Flinders grass, native/spider couch.

Suitable sown pastures

Buffel grass, urochloa, Caatinga stylos, Desmanthus.

Introduced weeds

Rubbervine, parkinsonia, prickly acacia, harrisia cactus, parthenium, mother-of-millions.

Soil	Dark grey to black cracking clays (vertisol). Gilgais present.
Description	Surface: Self-mulching; Surface texture: light to medium clay; Subsoil texture: medium to heavy clay.
Water availability	Moderately high.
Fertility	Moderate
Salinity	Moderate salinity <30 cm.
Sodicity	Highly sodic subsoils.
pH	Slightly alkaline to neutral at surface, increasing acidity in subsoils.
Utilisation	25% (native); 30% (sown).
Enterprise	Growing, finishing on established sown pastures.
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotational wet seasons spelling to maintain perennial pasture composition. • Maintain ground cover of at least 50% at end of dry season to maximise infiltration. • Heavy grazing can lead to loss of preferred pasture species, increases of currant bush, parthenium and pastures dominated by undesirable forbs (e.g. soft roly poly, gidgee burr). • Use of fire (4–5 years) after storm rain to control currant bush and maintain desirable pasture composition.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salinity and highly dispersive subsoils. • Regrowth (blackbutt). • Limited soil erosion hazard. Prone to sheet, rill and gully erosion along tracks and fence lines and on sloping lands.
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This land type has been extensively cleared for pasture.
Regional ecosystems	11.4.5
Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations	Land units (Gunn <i>et al</i> 1967) Somerby 3, Blackwater 3; AMU (DPI 1993) Lonesome; Soil Associations (Rogers <i>et al</i> 1999) Scartwater, Wambiana, Powlathanga, Victoria Downs.