

Downs



Landform	Level to gently undulating plains.
Woody vegetation	Treeless plains fringed by coolibah, Reid river box, blackwood, brigalow and gidgee.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Hoop and curly Mitchell grass, curly bluegrass, king bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass, native millet, buffel grass*.
Intermediate	Yabila grass, silky browntop, bull Mitchell grass.
Non-preferred	Feathertop wiregrass, white speargrass, fairy grass.
Annuals	Flinders grass, button grass, native/spider couch.
Suitable sown pastures	Angleton bluegrass, Bambatsi panic, Desmanthus, leucaena, butterfly pea, Caatinga stylo.
Introduced weeds	Parthenium, parkinsonia, mimosa, prickly acacia, rubbervine, mother-of-millions.
Soil	Black or brown cracking clay (black or brown vertosol).
Description	Surface: Strong and fine self-mulching; Surface texture: medium to heavy clay; Subsoil texture: medium to heavy clay.

Water availability	High
Fertility	Moderate
Salinity	Moderate
Sodicity	Slightly sodic at surface, moderate to high in subsoil.
pH	Neutral at surface, increasing alkalinity with depth.
Utilisation	25%
Enterprise	Finishing
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotational wet seasons spelling to maintain perennial pasture composition. • Maintain vigorous pasture to prevent parthenium invasion. • Use fire to suppress feathertop wiregrass and encroachment of woody species.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment problems with improved pastures due to cracking or coarse self-mulching surface. • Limited soil erosion hazard. Prone to rill and gully erosion along tracks and fence lines and on sloping lands.
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These grasslands communities support a diverse range of plants and provide habitat for many animals including reptiles (grassland earless dragon <i>Tympanocryptis pinguicolla</i>, five-clawed worm skink <i>Anomalopus mackayi</i> and grey snake <i>Hemiaspis damelii</i>), macropods and arboreal mammals. • These grasslands are readily infested with parthenium, especially when ground cover becomes too low. • Manage grazing pressure and use rotational grazing practices to ensure healthy vigorous pastures and minimise the risk of weed invasion.
Regional ecosystems	11.12.1c, 11.3.31, 11.4.11, 11.4.4, 11.8.11, 11.9.3, 2.9.3x1a, 2.9.3x1b.
Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations	Land units (Gunn <i>et al</i> 1967) Avon 1 & 3; AMU (DPI 1993) Dooruna; Soil Associations Victoria Downs, Powlathanga, Wambiana, Yarraman, Egera.