Coolibah floodplains

Landform	Floodplain and river terraces. Extensive open low-lying, flood prone clay plains of the lower Macintyre and Weir rivers.
Woody vegetation	Open floodplains with coolibah, as the dominant tree, occurring as tall isolated trees or isolated clumps. Myall, boonaree, belalie, belah, swamp wilga and, occasionally, black box may also occur.
Expected pasture composition	** Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.*
Preferred	Curly Mitchell grass, Queensland bluegrass, coolibah grass, forest bluegrass, native millet, cupgrass.
Intermediate	Hoop Mitchell grass, shot grass, early spring grass, twirly windmill grass.
Non-preferred	Feathertop wiregrass, umbrella canegrass, white speargrass.
Annuals	Small Flinders grass, button grass.
Legumes	Darling peas, sesbania pea, cooper clover, burr medic (naturalised)*.
Common forbs	*Sclerolaena* (non-preferred).
Suitable sown pastures	Bambatsi panic, angleton bluegrass, purple pigeon grass. Snail, barrel and burr medics, Caatinga stylo, *Desmanthus*, leucaena where not frequently or severely flooded.
Introduced weeds	Lippia, prickly pear.
Soil	Self-mulching, dark or grey cracking clays (vertosols).
Description	***Surface*:** Periodic cracking, hard-setting or weakly to strongly self-mulching; ***Surface texture*:** medium to heavy clay; ***Subsoil texture*:** heavy clay.
Water availability	Medium; effective rooting depth 60–100 cm, PAWC 100–145 mm.

Fertility

Medium; low nitrogen and zinc, and low to very high phosphorus and potassium.

Salinity

Variable; low to highly saline below 80 cm.

Sodicity

Slightly sodic to sodic from 20–80 cm, occasionally strongly sodic below 80 cm.

pH

Surface neutral (pH 7.5–8), subsoil slightly alkaline (pH 8–9).

Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 534 – 583 mm				
Pasture type	Median tree cover (TBA m^2/ha) (FPC %)	Median annual pasture growth (DM kg/ha)	Safe annual utilisation pasture growth (%)	LTCC (ha/AE)
Native species	0 TBA/FPC	1670 - 2090	30%	4.7 – 5.8
	10 TBA 25 FPC	660 - 1170	30%	8.3 – 15

Enterprise

Cattle fattening and breeding, wool growing.

Land use and management recommendations

- Suitable for grazing of native and sown pastures; flood/irrigated cropping, forages and pastures; dryland forages and pastures.
- Rotate crops and legumes, or nitrogen fertiliser, to maximise production of high protein grain.
- Retain stubble on dryland crop fallows using minimum tillage.
- Avoid planting forage and legumes in areas prone to waterlogging and flooding.
- Manage grazing pressure to maximise ground cover to maintain pasture vigour, suppress wiregrasses, and limit woody weed growth.

Land use limitations

- Periodic, prolonged flooding.
- Soils are imperfectly drained, waterlogging and restricted trafficability in lower lying areas.
- Moderate dispersion below 50 cm.
- Woody weed invasion (e.g. lignum thickening) associated with flooding in lower lying areas.

Conservation features and related management

- These floodplain vegetation communities have been associated with high numbers of fauna species.
- Larger, older trees with hollows are important habitat for arboreal marsupials and provide nest sites for cockatoos and parrots. The branches provide roosting sites for waterbirds such as cormorants, ibis, spoonbills and egrets.
- Coolibah is one of the most important food trees for koalas, and the tree protects creeks and riverbanks from soil erosion.
- Other animals such as freshwater turtles, frogs, pygmy geese, whistling ducks and seasonal wetland plants are common in these communities.
- Localised stands of lignum provide good habitat and shelter for breeding ducks, and larger burrowing frogs.
- Coolibah regeneration is stimulated by flooding. Maturation of seedlings can be limited by overgrazing.

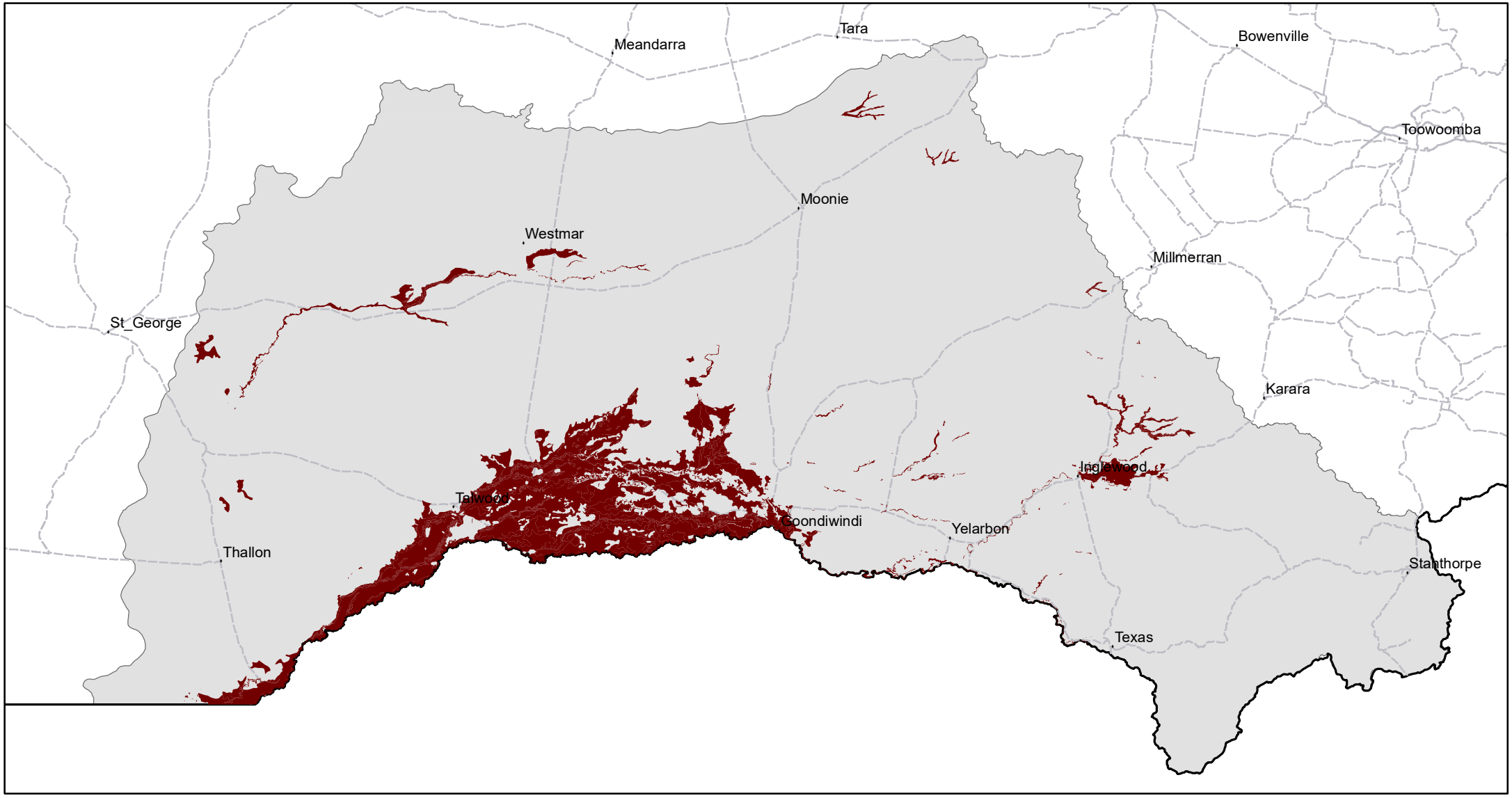
Regional Ecosystems

11.3.15, 11.3.16, 11.3.25, 11.3.27f, 11.3.27g, 11.3.27i, 11.3.28, 11.3.3, 11.3.37, 11.3.4

Land Resource Areas; Land types; Soil associations

Land Resource Area (Thwaites and Macnish 1991) Macintyre, minor occurrences of Lundavra. Soils associations (Lloyd 1980) CC17 Flooded country, Lm1 river flats.

BR04 Coolibah floodplains



Area of land type in region: 7%
Median rainfall (region): 469 – 748 mm
Average rainfall (region): 516 – 758 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 22%
Median FPC: 25%
Median TBA: 10 m2/ha

Queensland Government