

# Yelarbon desert



## Landform

Elevated, eroded level silty plains.  
Isolated to areas around Yelarbon near the State border.

## Woody vegetation

Grassland with scattered shrubs and trees of bullock, tea tree, belah, mallee box and poplar box.  
Much of the land type consists of eroded, bare areas with vegetation occurring on areas where topsoil remains.

## Expected pasture composition

*\* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species*  
*Ground cover is generally very sparse.*

### Preferred

Pitted bluegrass, spinifex.

### Intermediate

Slender chloris, windmill grass.

### Non-preferred

### Annuals

### Common forbs

Non-preferred species include soft roly poly, streaked poverty-bush.

## Suitable sown pastures

Not suitable for sown pastures.

## Introduced weeds

Mother-of-millions, African boxthorn, harrisia cactus.

## Soil

### Description

Eroded, silty, impermeable texture-contrast soil with thick or very thick conspicuously bleached surface or subsurface layer to 30 cm (sodosols).

### Water availability

**Surface:** Hard-setting; **Surface texture:** silty clay loam; **Subsoil texture:** sandy loam to light clay.

### Fertility

Very low; effective root depth 30 cm, PAWC 60 mm.

### Salinity

Very low; low to very low N, P, Zn, medium K.

### Sodicity

High to very high salinity at 70–100 cm.

### pH

Strongly to very strongly sodic throughout.

Strongly alkaline.

## Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day

Median annual rainfall 579 – 678 mm

| Pasture type   | Median tree cover<br>(TBA m <sup>2</sup> /ha)<br>(FPC %) | Median annual pasture growth<br>(DM kg/ha) | Safe annual utilisation pasture growth (%) | LTCC<br>(ha/AE) |
|----------------|--|--|--|-----------------|
| Native species | 0 TBA/FPC  | 1240 - 1570                                | 15%  | 12 – 16         |
|                | 9 TBA<br>23 FPC  | 200 - 370                                  | 15%  | 53 – 97         |

## Enterprise

Light grazing, predominately sheep.

## Land use and management recommendations

- Graze very lightly.
- Do not remove any large trees or thickets of trees.

## Land use limitations

- Very low plant available water.
- Low fertility.
- Soil surface impermeability.
- Highly erodible soil, susceptible to wind erosion.
- Minimal agricultural or pastoral use.

## Conservation features and related management

- This land type is a natural saline discharge area.
- Some cleared areas have suffered topsoil loss and require rehabilitation.
- Much of the area presents with a scalded clay pan like appearance due to erosion mainly by wind.

## Regional Ecosystems

11.5.14, 11.5.14a.

## Land Resource Areas; Land types; Soil associations

Land Resource Area (Thwaites and Macnish 1991) Desert. Soils associations (Lloyd 1977, 1980) H15, Si 2 Yelarbon desert.

# BR13 Yelarbon desert



Area of land type in region: 1%  
Median rainfall (region): 469 – 748 mm  
Average rainfall (region): 516 – 758 mm  
Area of land type with FPC: 40%  
Median FPC: 23%  
Median TBA: 9 m<sup>2</sup>/ha



**Queensland**  
Government