Frequently flooded alluvial plains (C1 floodplains)

General description

Open grassland (which can be dominated by annual grasses when in good condition) and ephemeral forbland with bluebush / lignum low open shrubland and low open woodland along channel banks.

Flooding is frequent, generally with deep and fast moving waters in major channels. Often referred to as 'current swept' because of the closeness to main channels.

Landform

Floodplains with major and braided channels.

Woody vegetation

Queensland bluebush[#], lignum, belalie, gooramurra, coolibah, river red gum.

Expected pasture composition

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

[#] Denotes non-grass species that are important to grazing and land condition values in annually dominated land types.

Preferred

Queensland bluebush[#], Queensland bluegrass (patchy occurrences), Cooper clover[#], cow vine[#]. Preferred annuals include Flinders grass, native sorghum.

Intermediate

Rat's tail couch, swamp canegrass, spiny flat sedge[#], nutgrass[#]. Intermediate annuals include pepper grass, button grass, delicate lovegrass.

Non-preferred

Unpalatable forbs such as black roly poly, caustic bush and boggabri.

Annual grasses

See preferred, intermediate and non-preferred species lists.

Common forbs

Verbine, pea bush, bogan flea, daisy burrs, nardoo, saltbush, budda pea, cudweed, goodenia[#], pigweed, jerry-jerry, joyweed, mint bush, nutheads, wandering jew.

Suitable sown pastures

Not suitable for sown pastures.

Introduced weeds

Noogoora burr, parkinsonia, mesquite.

Soil

Very deep grey cracking clays.

Description

Surface: Self-mulching with some crusting; ***Surface texture***: heavy clay; ***Subsoil texture***: heavy clay.

Features

Recent alluvial sediments, weak gilgai micro-relief may be present, soils crack widely on drying.

Water availability

Moderate to high.

Rooting depth

Can be in excess of 1 m if not limited by sodicity.

Infiltration

High initially on a dry soil profile, slowing to moderate levels after 75 mm of rain as cracks close and to low levels after 100 mm of rain. Estimates based on low to moderate intensity storm rain.

Fertility

High

Salinity

Very low at the surface increasing to very high at depth.

Sodicity

Strongly sodic at depth.

pH

Neutral to 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 151 – 335 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	100 - 1150	Generally low, <15%	20 - 200
	4 TBA 10 FPC	40 - 400	Generally low, <15%	49 – 488

Enterprise

Breeding, backgrounding and finishing.

Land use and management recommendations

- Allow natural spelling of annual plants to occur, to promote seed for future pastures.

Land use limitations

- Limited perennial pasture standover.
- Salinity and sodicity at depth can limit water penetration and access to water by plants.
- Scalding in some areas.

Conservation features and related management

- High fauna diversity especially birds
- Provides important seasonal water bird habitat
- Open lignum swamps are potential habitat for rare and threatened fauna species including freckled duck and grey grass wren.
- Herb fields are potential habitat for rare and threatened fauna species including plains-wanderer and fierce snake (western taipan).
- Habitat for feral pigs and feral cats.
- Weeds in disturbed sandy areas.
- Heavily impacted by total grazing pressure around waterholes.

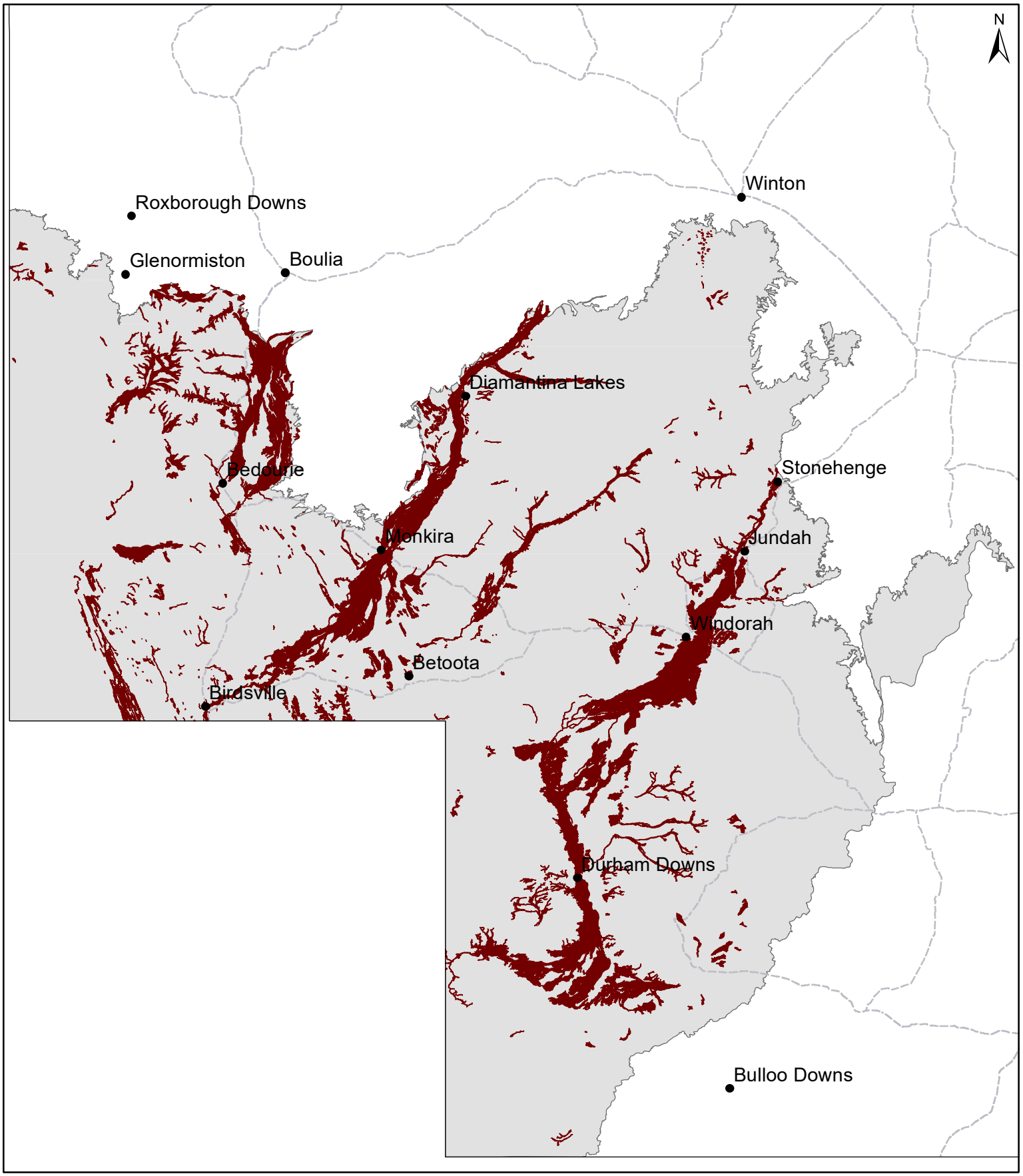
Regional Ecosystems

5.3.18a-b, 5.3.7, 5.3.8a, 5.3.8ax1, 5.3.8b

WARLUS Part Land systems

I	II	III	IV	V	VI
C1 (*Cooper*)	C1 (*Cooper*)				C1 (*Cooper*)

CC01 Frequently flooded alluvial plains (C1 floodplains)



Area of land type in region: 8%
Median rainfall (region): 151 – 390 mm
Average rainfall (region): 187 – 429 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 18%
Median FPC: 9%
Median TBA: 4 m2/ha

Queensland Government