

# Gidgee woodlands



## General description

Gently undulating plains and lower slopes and scarp retreat zones of dissected residuals. Low open woodland of gidgee communities with a ground layer of sparse grasses and ephemeral forbs.

## Landform

Gently undulating plains and lower slopes and scarps.

## Woody vegetation

Gidgee, false sandalwood, boree, mulga, Georgina gidgee.

## Expected pasture composition

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

### Preferred

Barley, curly and hoop Mitchell grasses, katoora, buffel grass\* (naturalised).

### Intermediate

Five-minute grass, bottlewasher grasses.

### Non-preferred

Wiregrasses and unpalatable forbs.

### Annual grasses

Button grass, fairy grass, pepper grass, comb windmill grass, downs couch.

### Common forbs

Bladder saltbush, copperburrs, gidgee burrs.

## Suitable sown pasture

Buffel useful in some areas.

## Introduced weeds

None

## Soil

Shallow to moderately deep stony brown, red and grey cracking clays. Some areas with ironstone gravel on the surface and/or weak to moderate gilgais.

### Description

**Surface:** Crusted to weakly self mulching often with scattered stone, **Surface texture:** medium to heavy clays, **Subsoil texture:** medium to heavy clays

### Features

Prevalent ironstone and gidgee stone cover. Gilgai depressions benefit from run-on. Gypsum is present at depth.

### Water availability

Moderate to low, limited by sodicity

### Rooting depth

Medium ~60 cm, limited by shallow soils and sodicity

### Infiltration

Moderate initially on a dry soil profile, slowing to low levels after 35 mm of rain as topsoil is saturated. High run-off following 50 mm of rain. Estimates based on low to moderate intensity storm rain.

Fertility	Low to moderate.
Salinity	Very low at the surface increasing to very high at depth.
Sodicity	Strongly sodic at depth.
pH	Neutral to moderately alkaline. Lime through profile and gypsum at depth.

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

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 197 – 390 mm				
Pasture type	Median tree cover (TBA m <sup>2</sup> /ha (FPC %))	Median annual pasture growth (DM kg/ha)	Safe annual utilisation pasture growth (%)	LTCC (ha/AE)
Native species	0 TBA/FPC	530 - 1970	18%	8 - 31
	1 TBA 3 FPC	280 - 1690	18%	10 – 58

**Enterprise Land use and management recommendations**

- Breeding
- Suitable for grazing of native pastures.
  - Opportunities for clearing, but generally unsuited.
  - Rotational wet season spelling to maintain perennial pastures.
  - Maintain adequate ground cover to minimise soil erosion.
  - Reduce erosion risk by preventing subsoils from being exposed.
  - Hard gidgee areas provide good run-off for adjacent country.
  - Provides shade and sparse top-feed.
  - Strategic burning to manage gidgee thickening with late dry season hot fires.

**Land use limitations**

- Responds well to soaking rain.
- Medium pasture bulk.
- Occasionally subject to scalding in areas without stone cover.
- Georgina gidgee poisoning can be an issue in dry times (within the Georgina basin).
- Woody regrowth.
- No issues listed.

**Conservation features and related management**

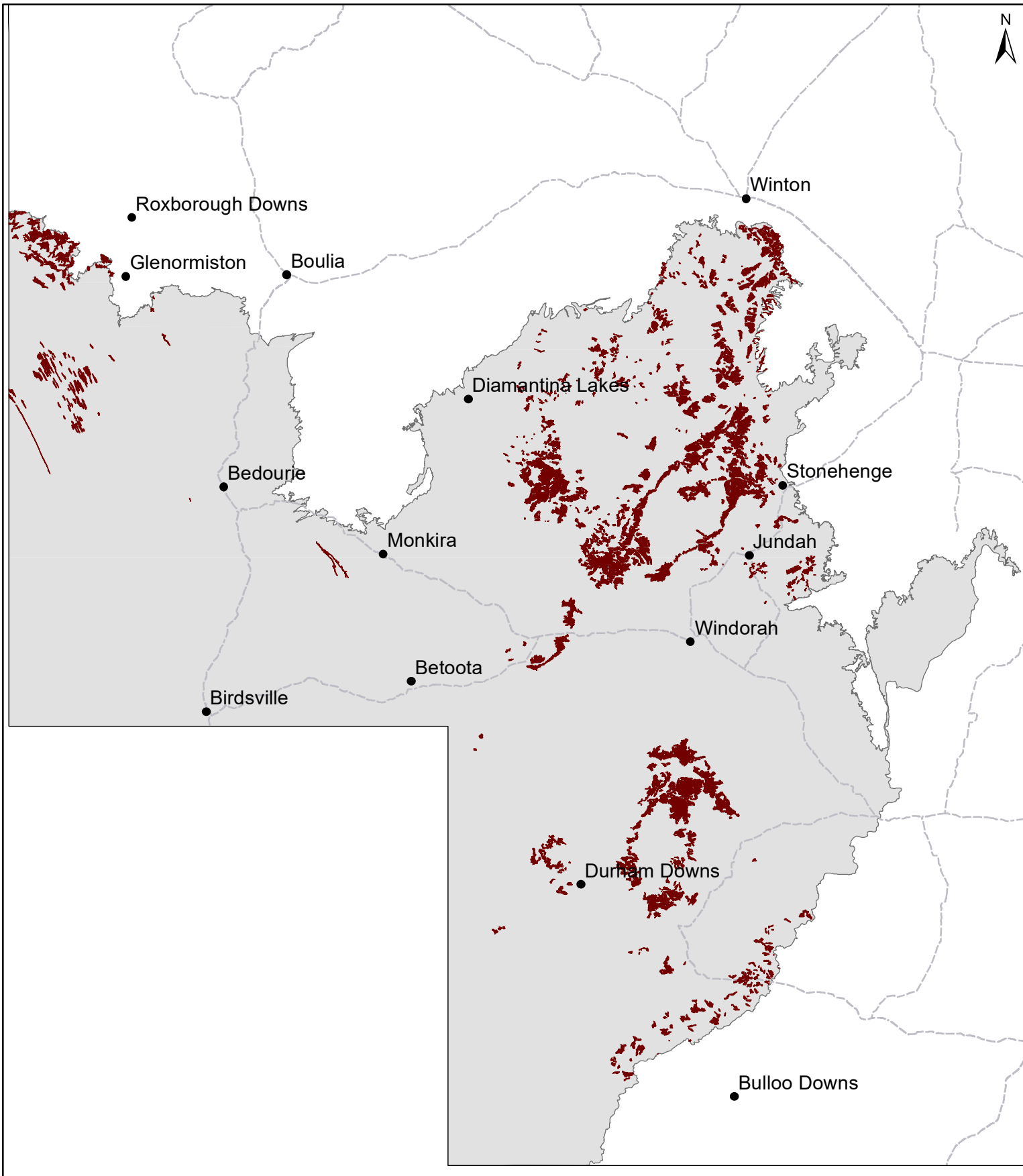
**Regional Ecosystems**

5.3.11, 5.7.6, 5.9.2x1, 5.9.2x2.

**WARLUS Part Land systems**

I	II	III	IV	V	VI
G1, G2, G3, G4, G5	G1, G2, G3, G4				T1, T2, areas within A2

# CC05 Gidgee woodlands



Area of land type in region: 3%  
Median rainfall (region): 151 – 390 mm  
Average rainfall (region): 187 – 429 mm  
Area of land type with FPC: 56%  
Median FPC: 3%  
Median TBA: 1 m<sup>2</sup>/ha



**Queensland  
Government**