

Mulga woodlands



General description

Flat to gently undulating plains and low hills with mulga tall open shrubland or low open woodlands, dominated by mulga communities. Can distinguish between soft or hard mulga, depending on the underlying soils.

Mulga woodlands cover about 1.4% of the Channel Country.

Landform

Flat to gently undulating plains and low hills.

Woody vegetation

Mulga, poplar box, gidgee, western bloodwood, beefwood, whitewood, vinetree, bastard mulga, dead finish, turkey bush.

Expected pasture composition

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

Preferred

Queensland bluegrass, silky browntop, mulga Mitchell, mulga oats, cotton panic, silky umbrella grass, kangaroo grass.

Intermediate

Lovegrasses (e.g. Brown's, clustered), woollybutt wanderrie, mountain wanderrie, five-minute grass, bottlewasher grasses, spinifex.

Non-preferred

Wiregrasses, greybeard grass.

Annual grasses

Button grass, three-awned wanderrie, comb windmill grass.

Common forbs

Narrow-leaved indigo, pigweed, pussytails, woolly copperburr, sida.

Suitable sown pasture

Buffel grass may be useful in some areas of soft mulga, but establishment may be limited by low soil phosphorous.

Introduced weeds

None

Soil

Softer mulga – deep loamy red earths, red clays and texture contrast soils, sinkholes common.

Harder mulga – shallow stony red earths, texture contrast soils and brown/red clays, hardpan soils and gravelly cover common.

Description

Surface: Loamy hard or moderately hard surfaces; **Surface texture:** light sandy loam to clay loams; **Subsoil texture:** clay content increasing down profile to light to medium clays.

Features

Clay plains and overlying sand deposits, deeply weathered. Sinkholes associated with sandy light clays.

Water availability

Medium to low.

Rooting depth

Limited by soil depth.

Infiltration

High

Fertility

Low to moderate.

Salinity
Sodicity
pH

Very low at surface increasing to medium at depth.
Non-sodic.
(Soft mulga) Moderately acid at surface grading to slightly acid to moderately alkaline at depth.
(Hard mulga) Very strongly to slightly acid.

Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 175 – 390 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	30 - 820	15%	24 - 649
	2 TBA 5 FPC	20 - 400	15%	49 – 974

Enterprise

Land use and management recommendations

- Breeding
- Suitable for grazing of native pastures. Maximise ground cover to reduce soil erosion.
 - These areas provide good run-off for adjacent country.
 - Provides shade and useful top feed.
 - Responds to small falls of rain.
 - Strategic burning with hot fires may be needed to reduce thickening and to increase spinifex palatability and availability of green forage.
 - Livestock may need phosphorus supplements.
 - Encroachment and thickening problems.
 - Susceptible to wind and water erosion (e.g. sheet erosion), especially when ground cover is low.
 - Run-off can be very high on harder country (poor infiltration).
 - Mulga soils tend to have modified ground layer.
 - Fencing to manage total grazing pressure and wet season spelling can be beneficial.
 - Spinifex areas are potential habitat for endangered night parrot. Spinifex communities benefit from a patch burning regime to maintain diversity and minimise wildfire risk.
 - Burning should only be carried out when there is sufficient moisture in the soil profile to generate new growth.
 - Rare flora e.g. *Grevillea kennedyana* may occur in this land type.

Land use limitations

Conservation features and related management

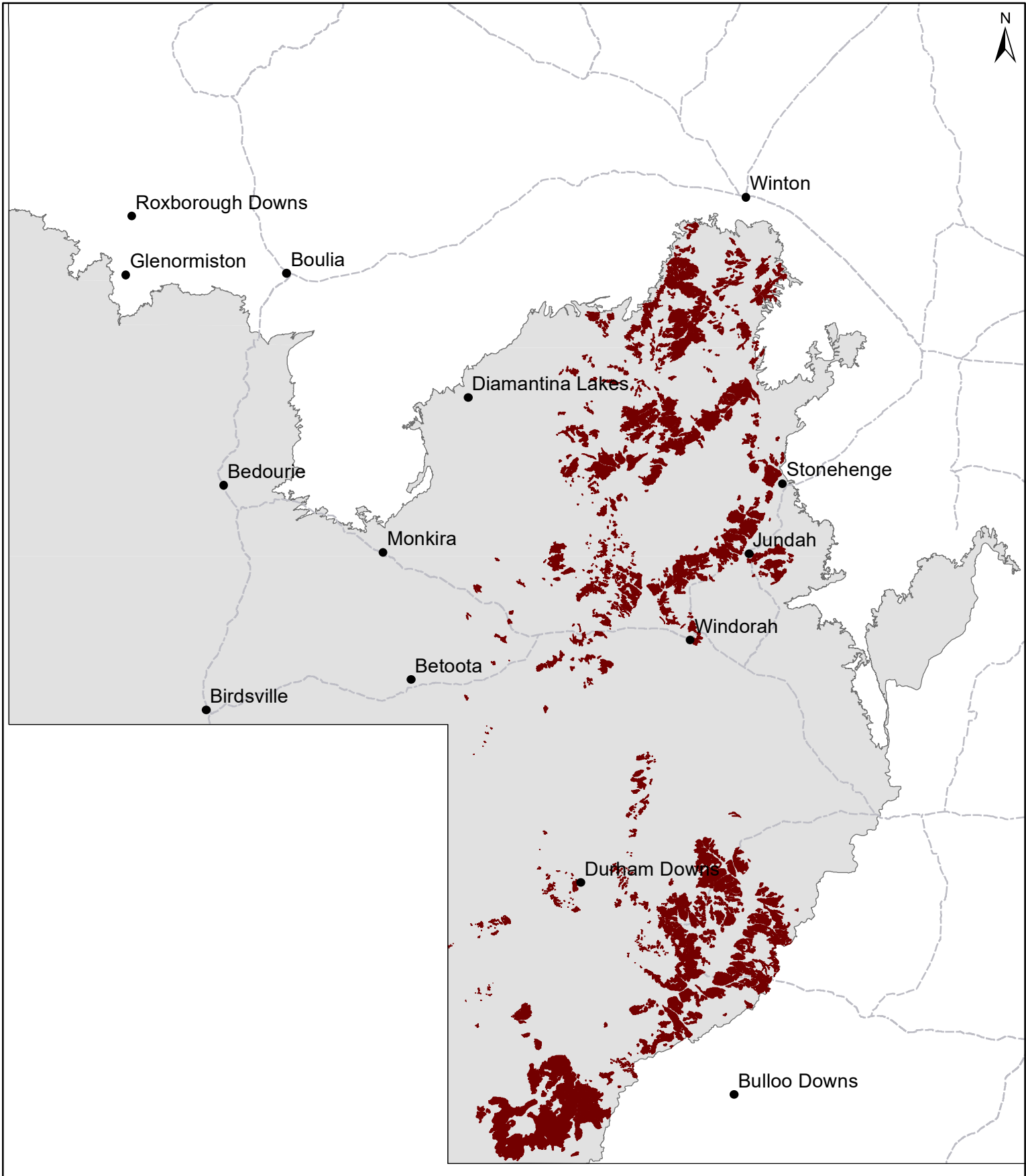
Regional Ecosystems

5.5.1, 5.5.1x2, 5.5.2, 5.5.3a-b.

WARLUS Part Land systems

I	II	III	IV	V	VI
(Soft mulga) M1, M2, M3, M4, M5 (Hard mulga) H1, H2, H3, H4, H5	(Soft mulga) M1, M2, M3, M4 (Hard mulga) H1, H2, H3, H4				(Soft mulga) M1 (Hard mulga) H1

CC06 Mulga woodlands



Area of land type in region: 6%
Median rainfall (region): 151 – 390 mm
Average rainfall (region): 187 – 429 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 47%
Median FPC: 5%
Median TBA: 2 m²/ha



**Queensland
Government**