

Sandplains



General description

Generally flat or gently undulating sandplains with spinifex grasslands, wooded with mulga and bloodwood. Can also be dominated by low open cassia shrublands.

Sandplains and dunefields cover about 21.4% of the Channel Country.

Landform

Flat or gently undulating sandplains.

Woody vegetation

Mulga, bastard mulga, western bloodwood, beefwood, Normanton box, river red gum, poplar box, Georgina gidgee (in drainage lines), eastern dead finish, bauhinia, dead finish, ironwood, cassias, turkey bush.

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

Expected pasture composition

Preferred

Desert bluegrass, mulga Mitchell, mulga oats, neverfail, cotton panic, silky umbrella grass, woollybutt.

Intermediate

Buck spinifex, porcupine spinifex, five-minute grass, bottlewasher grasses, knottybutt grass.

Non-preferred

Wiregrasses.

Annual grasses

Small burr grass, button grass, comet grass, fire grass, three-awned wanderrie. Kerosene grass (non-preferred).

Common forbs

Pussytails, billybuttons, cockroach bush, ruby saltbush, soft roly poly, flannel weed, sida, caltrop.

Suitable sown pasture

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

Introduced weeds

None

Soil

Deep sandy red earths on flat to gently undulating plains, with some red earthy sands and shallow alluvial grey clays in run-on areas. Red siliceous sands forming low dunes on normally hard setting surface.

Description

Surface: Hard-setting often with crust, **Surface texture:** sandy loam, **Subsoil texture:** sandy loam.

Features

Sandplains over clay and alluvia.

Water availability

Low

Rooting depth

Deep

Infiltration High
 Fertility Low
 Salinity Low increasing to medium at depth.
 Sodicity Non-sodic.
 pH Slightly alkaline 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 151 – 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 - 510	15%	38 - 650
	3 TBA 8 FPC	10 - 40	15%	490 – 1950

**Enterprise
 Land use and management recommendations**

Breeding

- Suitable for grazing of native pastures.
- Provides shade and limited top feed.
- In texture contrast soils, maximise surface cover, particularly with standing pasture, to increase infiltration and increase pasture production.
- Maximise ground cover to reduce soil erosion.
- Mosaic burning to increase spinifex palatability and availability of green forage.

Land use limitations

- Low fertility soils limit production.
- Livestock may need phosphorus supplements.
- Texture contrast soils are prone to scalding and sheet erosion.
- Soils can be susceptible to wind and water erosion.
- Low bulk to pastures.
- Presence of Georgina gidgee in some far western drainage areas.

Conservation features and related management

- Rabbits can be problematic in some areas.
- Rare species including *Grevillea kennedyana* and *Eremophila alatisepala* may occur in these land types.
- Spinifex grassland benefits from mosaic burning over 7 to 10 year cycle to maintain diversity and reduce wildfire risk.
- Burning should only be carried out when there is sufficient soil moisture to generate new growth.

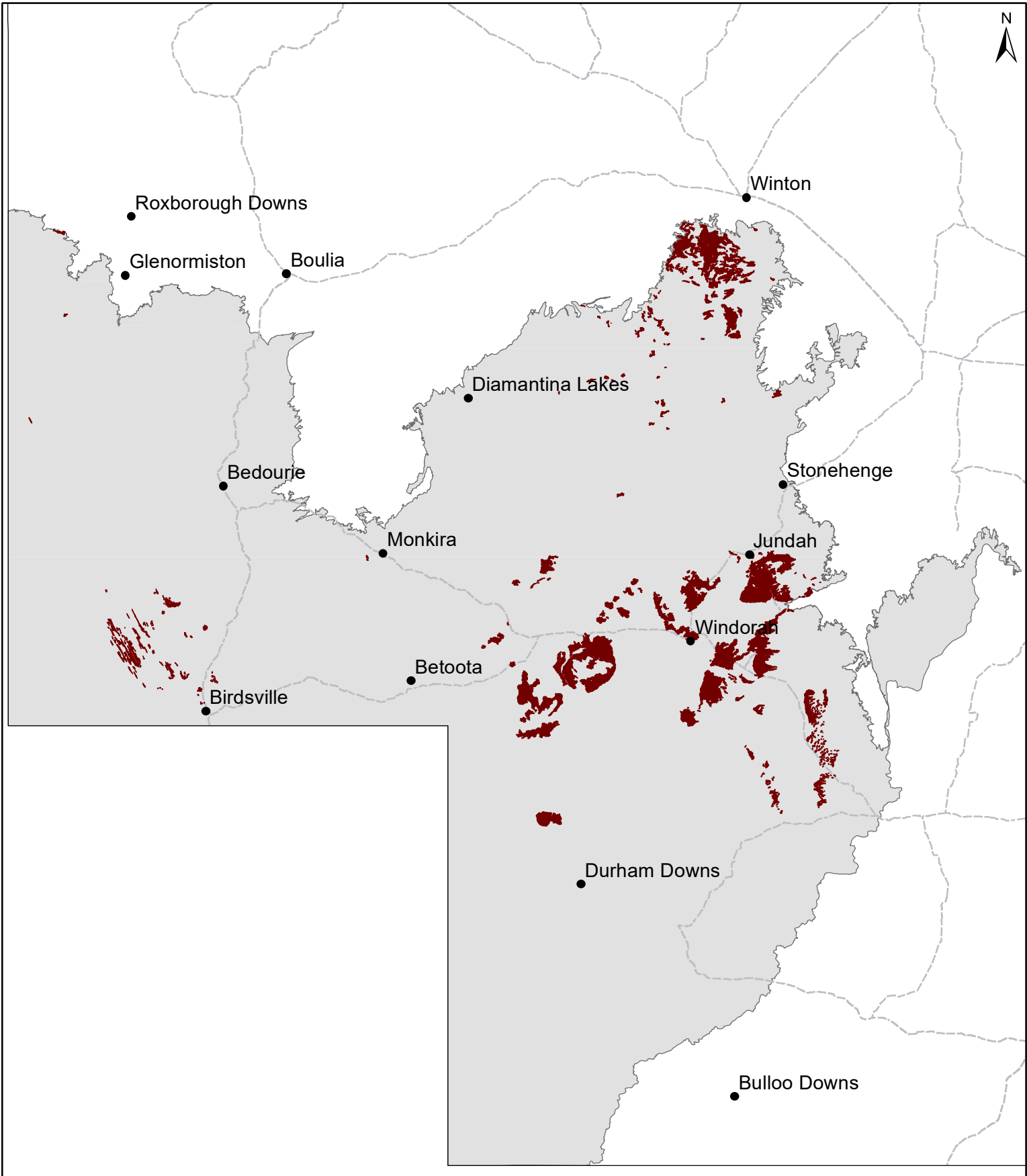
Regional Ecosystems

5.5.1x1, 5.5.6, 5.5.6a, 5.5.6x1, 5.6.6, 6.6.1b.

**WARLUS Part
 Land systems**

I	II	III	IV	V	VI
S1, S2	S1, S2, S4,S5,S6				S1, S2

CC07 Sandplains



Area of land type in region: 2%
Median rainfall (region): 151 – 390 mm
Average rainfall (region): 187 – 429 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 36%
Median FPC: 8%
Median TBA: 3 m²/ha



**Queensland
Government**