

# Brigalow belah uplands



<b>Landform</b>	Gently undulating to steep low hills and rises.
<b>Woody vegetation</b>	Open forest of brigalow, belah and wilga with black tea tree and sally wattle along drainage lines. Associated with limebush, sandalwood and softwood scrub species. Poplar box and other eucalypts occasionally found on lighter soils.
<b>Expected pasture composition</b>	* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Wallaby grass, Queensland bluegrass and forest bluegrass.
Intermediate	Pitted bluegrass, curly windmill grass, windmill chloris, slender chloris, brigalow grass and early spring grass.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses, white speargrass, green couch, slender bamboo grass.
<b>Common forbs and legumes</b>	Mueller's saltbush. Non-preferred species include dog and galvanised burrs.
<b>Suitable sown pastures</b>	Gatton panic, green panic, Bambatsi, creeping bluegrass, Rhodes (Katambora), Angleton bluegrass (Floren), lucerne, medics (barrel and button), leucaena, woolly pod vetch, Caatinga stylo and desmanthus.
<b>Introduced weeds</b>	African boxthorn, tree pear, prickly pear and mother-of-millions.
<b>Soil</b>	Moderately deep to deep (75–150 cm) grey-brown cracking clays, sometimes with brown sand and loams over brown clays, with shallow, linear to moderate gilgai microrelief (vertosol, dermosol).
Description	<b>Surface:</b> Moderate blocky structure, usually self-mulching; <b>Surface texture:</b> light clay to clay; <b>Subsoil texture:</b> medium to heavy clay.
Water availability	Moderate; plant available water capacity (PAWC) 100 – 150 mm in root zone.
Rooting depth	Effective rooting depth 80–150 cm.

Fertility	Low organic carbon and nitrogen; very low to medium available phosphorus, very low to low zinc.
Salinity	Very low to low at the surface; moderate to very high saline subsoils.
Sodicity	Non-sodic at surface; strongly sodic subsoils.
pH	Alkaline to strongly alkaline at the surface; strongly acid subsoils.

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

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 582 – 666 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	6730 - 6920	30%	1.4 – 1.4
	13 TBA 31 FPC	4050 - 4750	30%	2.1 – 2.4
Sown			35%	

### Enterprise

Growing and finishing.

### Land use and management recommendations

- Suitable for grazing of native and improved pastures and for most field and forage crops.
- Use of runoff control structures (contour banks, waterways), maintaining effective ground cover and conservative stocking practices (spelling pastures, flexible stocking rates) are important to reduce runoff and minimise risk of sheet, rill and wind erosion.
- If regrowth is limiting pasture growth control by burning every 3 – 5 years.

### Land use limitations

- Sandy loam to light clay soils are prone to structural and nutrient decline.
- Brigalow and limebush regrowth.

### Conservation features and related management

- These woodlands have been heavily cleared and are considered 'endangered' with approximately 10% of the pre-European extent remaining.
- Brigalow, particularly in association with belah, provides habitat for a very high diversity of birds (yellow-tailed black-cockatoo, crested bellbird, spotted bowerbird), reptiles (eastern spiny-tailed gecko, slider and striped skinks), and insectivorous bats including the vulnerable greater long-eared bat.
- Softwood scrub remnants are threatened by weed invasion (lantana) and fire on the margins. Fire breaks and cool season burns reduce this risk.
- The productivity values to wildlife and health of these areas can be enhanced using soil conservation techniques to minimise soil erosion, using fire to control regrowth, and maintaining connected timbered areas.

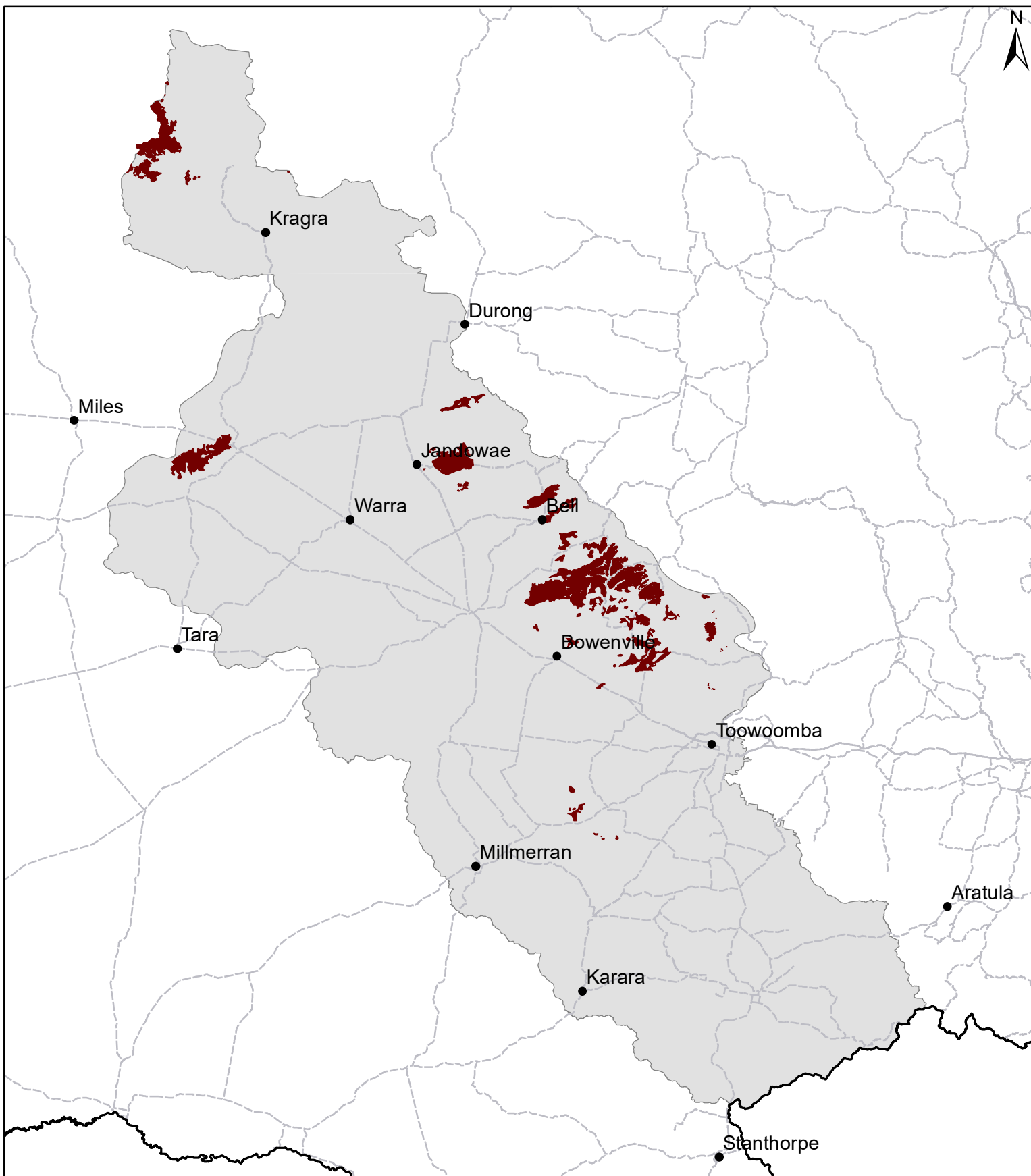
### Regional Ecosystems

11.9.5, 11.9.5a, 12.8.23, 12.9-10.6

### Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations

Central Darling Downs Land Management Manual: 6a, 6c (*Acland, Clayburn, Edgefield, Gate, Moola, Wynhari*); Understanding and Managing Soils in the Murilla, Tara and Chinchilla Shires: 5a, 5b (*Moola*). Land Inventory and Technical Guide Eastern Downs Area: (*Edgefield, Gate, Malling, Moola*); Description and Management of the Soils of the Eastern Darling Downs Queensland: (*Acland, Gate, Grays, Moola*).

# DD04 Brigalow belah uplands



Area of land type in region: 2%  
Median rainfall (region): 580 – 909 mm  
Average rainfall (region): 585 – 927 mm  
Area of land type with FPC: 18%  
Median FPC: 31%  
Median TBA: 13 m<sup>2</sup>/ha



**Queensland**  
Government