

Ironbark and mountain coolibah woodland on stony dark clay



Landform	Steep hillslopes and mountains, scarps and crest of ridges along the Great Dividing Range.
Woody vegetation	Grassy forest to woodland of mountain coolibah and narrow-leaved ironbark that may have softwood scrub (bottletree, scrub boonaree, round-leaved myrtle, native olive and wild rosemary) understorey. Other trees that may occur include silver-leaved ironbark, white box, blue gum and yellow box. Grass trees, wattle and cypress pine can be found in pockets along the scarp and ridges.
Expected pasture composition	* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Forest bluegrass and Queensland bluegrass.
Intermediate	Pitted bluegrass, cotton panic, curly windmill grass, brigalow grass, early spring grass, tall chloris and barbwire grass.
Non-preferred	Green couch, foxtail, rough speargrass, white speargrass and wiregrasses.
Common forbs and legumes	Zinnia* (non-preferred).
Suitable sown pastures	Green panic, Gatton panic, Rhodes grass (Katambora types), digit grass and creeping bluegrass (Bisset). Lucerne, medics (barrel and spineless burr) and Caatinga stylo.
Introduced weeds	Lantana, African boxthorn, tree pear, tiger pear, prickly pear and mother-of-millions.
Soil	Very shallow, stony, dark cracking clay overlying basalt (vertosol, dermosol).
Description	Surface: Abundant stones; Surface texture: black, dark brown or dark grey medium clay; Subsoil texture: heavy clay with increasing stones to hard basalt.
Water availability	Very low; plant available water capacity (PAWC) <50 mm.

Rooting depth
Fertility
Salinity
Sodicity
pH

Shallow effective rooting depth (5 – 30 cm).
Low fertility; responds to nitrogen, sulphur and occasionally phosphorus and potassium.
Very low.
Non-sodic.
Neutral at the surface (pH 6.5 – 7.5); mildly to strongly alkaline in subsoils (pH 7.5 – 8.5).

Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 580 – 729 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	3130 - 3880	25%	3.0 – 3.7
	9 TBA 23 FPC	1730 - 2680	25%	4.4 – 6.8
Sown			30%	

Enterprise

Breeding

Land use and management recommendations

- Shallow, soils with stone and gravel throughout profile.
- These grassed areas may provide valuable water dispersal for cultivated areas on the lower slopes.
- Maintaining effective ground cover and conservative stocking practices (spelling pastures, flexible stocking rates) are important to minimise the risk of sheet, rill and gully erosion and reduce runoff.
- If regrowth is limiting pasture growth control by burning every 3 – 5 years.
- Stock generally move off the creek flats and up into this land type during winter where they will browse woody plants and selectively graze unfrosted pasture plants.
- Good bee and nature conservation country.

Land use limitations

- Non-arable due to shallow soil depths, low water availability and large amounts of stone.
- Not suitable for constructing waterways and contour banks due to shallow soil depth.
- Timber and wattle regrowth can limit productivity.

Conservation features and related management

- Extensive areas of these forest or woodlands, particularly areas of softwood scrub and/or white box, have been cleared.
- The woodlands provide habitat for insectivorous and nectivorous birds and mammals and a number of rare and threatened flora (lobed bluegrass, finger panic grass, Baileys indigo, native hawk weed, austral toadflax and native thistle).
- Softwood scrub remnants are threatened by weed invasion (lantana) and fire on the margins. Fire breaks and cool season burns reduce this risk.
- Maintaining timbered areas can allow connectivity of remnants and habitat corridors, encourage habitat diversity, and greatly increase the value of these areas of land to wildlife and the overall health of the system.

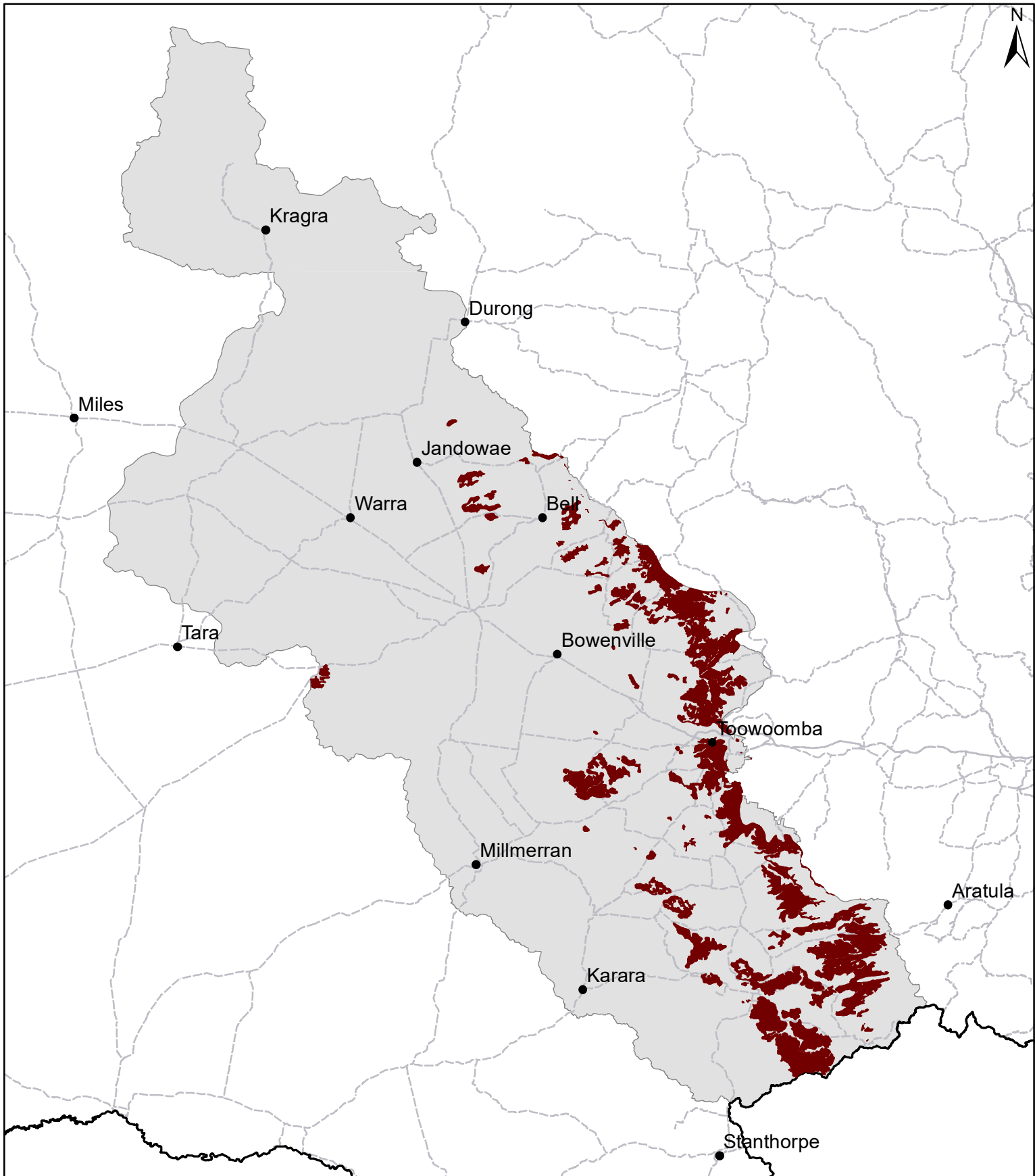
Regional Ecosystems

11.8.5, 11.8.5a, 11.8.8, 11.9.9, 12.8.15, 12.8.16, 12.8.17

Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations

Central Darling Downs Land Management Manual: 7c (*Beauaraba*, *Charlton* - shallow phase, *Purrawunda* - shallow phase); Land Inventory and Technical Guide Eastern Downs Area: (*Beauaraba*); Description and Management of the Soils of the Eastern Darling Downs Queensland (*Beauaraba*, *Purrawunda* -shallow phase).

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Area of land type in region: 7%
Median rainfall (region): 580 – 909 mm
Average rainfall (region): 585 – 927 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 53%
Median FPC: 23%
Median TBA: 9 m²/ha



Queensland
Government