Spotted gum and narrow-leaved ironbark hills and ridges

Landform	Plateaus, rocky hilltops and steep hill slopes.
Woody vegetation	Open forest of narrow-leaved ironbark, broad-leaved ironbark, blue-leaved ironbark, spotted gum, rusty gum with some cypress pine, poplar box and wattles.
Expected pasture composition	** Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species*.
Preferred	Barbwire grass and golden beard grass.
Intermediate	Pitted bluegrass, chloris grasses, curly windmill grass and limestone bottlewasher.
Non-preferred	Many-headed wiregrass, purple lovegrass and poverty grass.
Common forbs and legumes	Matrush and sida. Non-preferred species include mulga fern and cotton bush*.
Suitable sown pastures	Generally unsuitable for sown pastures. Rhodes grass (Katambora types), digit grass and Wynn cassia are best suited to this land type.
Introduced weeds	Tree pear, harrisia cactus, African lovegrass and prickly pear.
Soil	Self-mulching brown or black cracking clay (brown or black vertosol).
Description	***Surface*:** Loose; ***Surface texture*:** loamy sand; ***Subsoil texture***: loamy sand or decomposing rock.
Water availability	Very low; plant available water capacity (PAWC) <50 mm in root zone.
Rooting depth	Effective rooting depth 30 cm.
Fertility	Medium organic carbon and low nitrogen.

Salinity

Very low.

Sodicity

Non-sodic.

pH

Strongly acidic.

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	2770 - 3330	15%	5.8 – 7.0
	15 TBA 37 FPC	820 – 1440	15%	14 – 24

Enterprise

Breeding.

Land use and management recommendations

- Highly suited to timber production of valuable spotted gum.
- Narrow-leaved ironbark also may be useful farm and millable timber.
- Suitable for grazing native pastures.
- Clearing should be avoided; tree and grass cover will reduce runoff and soil loss.
- An active regrowth control program (e.g. selective chemical, burning every 3–5 years) may be required to maintain productivity levels.
- Good bee and native conservation country if not cleared.
- Non-cracking soil and underlying rock provide good foundations for buildings and structures.

Land use limitations

- Opportunities for cultivation are limited as soils are too steep, shallow and gravelly.
- Timber regrowth may limit productivity.
- Forest shade and infertility and acidity of soils may limit medic growth.

Conservation features and related management

- This land types provides habitat for insectivorous and nectivorous birds and mammals.
- Bulloak seeds are an important food source for the vulnerable glossy black cockatoo.
- These open forests have not been extensively cleared for cultivation and provide wildlife with important links to other timbered areas. Design (e.g. strip as opposed to open park) and maintaining of timbered areas can allow connectivity of remnants through habitat corridors; provide firebreaks and shelter for stock; and greatly increase the value of these areas of land to wildlife and the overall health of the system.

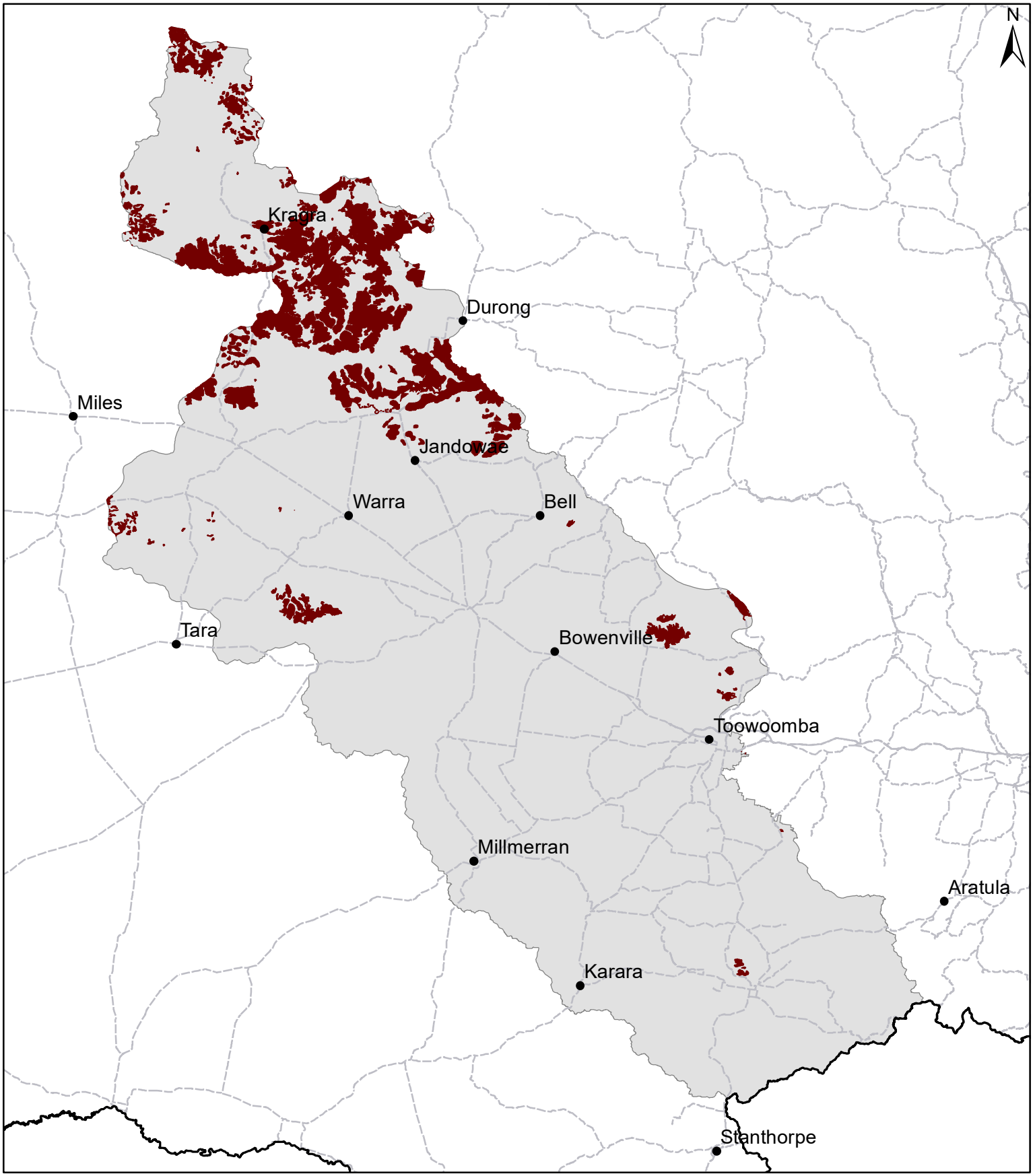
Regional Ecosystems

11.10.1, 11.10.1a, 11.10.7a, 11.7.4, 11.7.5, 11.7.6, 11.7.7, 12.9-10.19, 12.9.-10.2, 12.9-10.3, 12.9-10.5a, 12.9-10.5d

Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations

Central Darling Downs Land Management Manual: 12b (*Drome, Knoll*); Understanding and Managing Soils in the Murilla, Tara and Chinchilla Shires: 9b, 9c (*Minnabilla*). Understanding and Managing Soils in the Stanthorpe – Rosenthal Region: Gently undulating sandy rises (*Drome*); Land Inventory and Technical Guide Eastern Downs Area: (*Bony, Drome, Knoll, Wattle Glen*); Description and Management of the Soils of the Eastern Darling Downs Queensland: (*Drome, AMU 6*).

DD16 Spotted gum and narrow-leaved ironbark hills and ridges



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: 89%
Median FPC: 37%
Median TBA: 15 m2/ha

Queensland Government