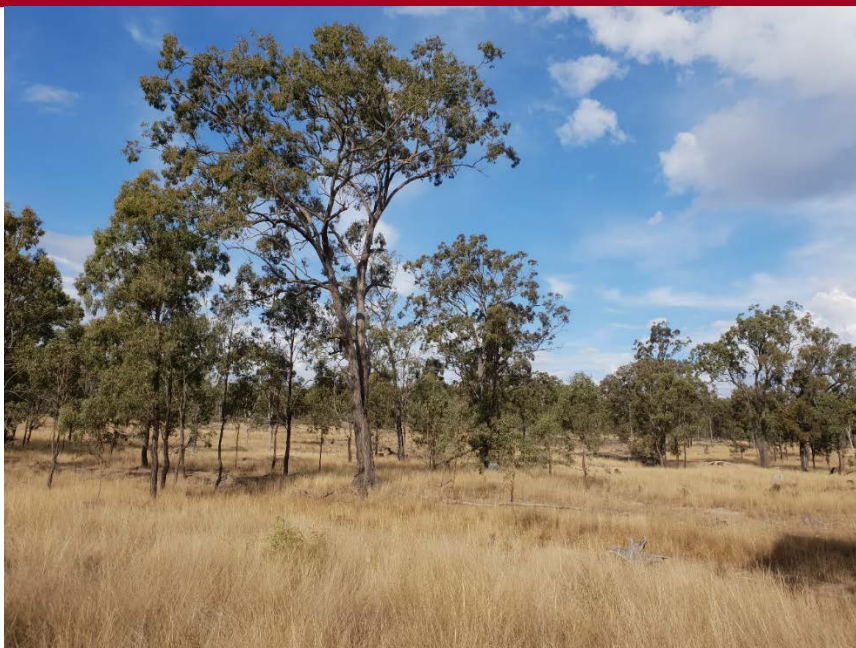


# Traprock hills



<b>Landform</b>	Undulating low traprock hills, isolated traprock knolls and ridges.
<b>Woody vegetation</b>	Layered open forest of ironbark (narrow-leaved, dusky-leaved, mugga or broad-leaved red), grey box and yellow box with occasional fuzzy box, tumbledown gum, cypress pine and an understorey of wild rosemary and wattles.
<b>Expected pasture composition</b>	* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Queensland bluegrass, barbwire grass, wallaby grass, weeping grass, paspalum*.
Intermediate	Pitted bluegrass, windmill grass, hairy panic and rough speargrass.
Non-preferred	Purple wiregrass, dark wiregrass, many-headed wiregrass, shorthair plume grass, hedgehog grass, five-minute grass and slender bamboo grass.
Common forbs and legumes	Cluster clover*, hare's foot clover*, glycine and desmodium.
<b>Suitable sown pastures</b>	Digit grass and forest bluegrass (Swann). Barrel and burr medics (pH >6), rose clover, cluster clover, subclovers, lucerne and biserrula.
<b>Introduced weeds</b>	African lovegrass, coolatai grass, tree pear and prickly pear.
<b>Soil</b>	Very shallow to shallow, gravelly, clay loams. Gradational and texture contrast soils (kandasol, sodosol).
Description	<b>Surface:</b> Hard-setting and gravelly hard-setting; <b>Surface texture:</b> loams to clay loams; <b>Subsoil texture:</b> grey clay loam, bleached when dry, grading to weathered rock between 30–40 cm.
Water availability	Very low; plant available water capacity (PAWC) <50 – 100 mm.
Rooting depth	Shallow; 20 – 30 cm or depth to rock.
Fertility	Very low. Responds to nitrogen, phosphorus, copper, and zinc.
Salinity	Low to high salinity.
Sodicity	Subsoil moderately to strongly sodic.
pH	Medium acid to mildly alkaline (pH 6.0 – 7.5).

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

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 628 – 748 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	2150	20%	6.8
	13 TBA 31 FPC	730 - 1270	20%	12 – 20

**Enterprise  
Land use and management recommendations**

Cattle and sheep breeding, wool production and bee keeping.

- This soil is best left undeveloped and in its native state – suitable for native pastures only. Limited suitability for grazing sown pastures on lower slopes.
- Ensure there is a regrowth management when clearing.
- Strategically place water points to avoid areas of overgrazing, use centrally located watering points (1 water point per 200 ha) – scalding may become a problem when there are insufficient, or badly located, watering points.
- In poor run-down pastures, on-going supplementation will be required for weaner growth and development as pasture alone is unlikely to provide sufficient nutrients.
- On areas with gentle slopes and deeper A horizons, use fully prepared seedbeds with superphosphate application (150 kg/ha) to establish sown pastures.
- Top-dress sown pastures with 100 kg/ha of superphosphate after two years.
- If band-seeding, use a chisel plough with narrow points along the contour.
- Good bee and nature conservation country if not cleared.
- Generally not suited to intensive livestock due to potential for contamination of ground water through underlying permeable rock.
- Ironbark only of medium quality (hollow or cracks), may be useful farm timber.
- Protect as valuable watershed country.

**Land use limitations**

- Steep topography, high erosion risk due to steep slopes.
- Hard-setting surface, shallow rooting depth, stoniness and rockiness.
- Waterlogging, depending on slope.
- Overgrazed areas susceptible to scalding.
- Regrowth, particularly of eucalypt, wattle and wild rosemary when cleared.

**Conservation features and related management**

- Extensively cleared or thinned for pasture leaving this land type highly fragmented.
- Localised occurrences of *Eucalyptus terrica*, the mallees (*E. bakeri*, *E. viridis*) and *Melaleuca decora*.
- Habitat fragments, particularly with honeyeater nesting sites, should be retained to develop a network of wildlife corridors. Conservation value of these habitat corridors could be enhanced through controlled grazing to allow for the retention of ground vegetation and cover, and encourage regeneration of favoured habitat trees.
- Habitat for threatened fauna, regent honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia*. Localised occurrences of *Eucalyptus bakeri*, *E. viridis* (mallees) and *Melaleuca decora*.

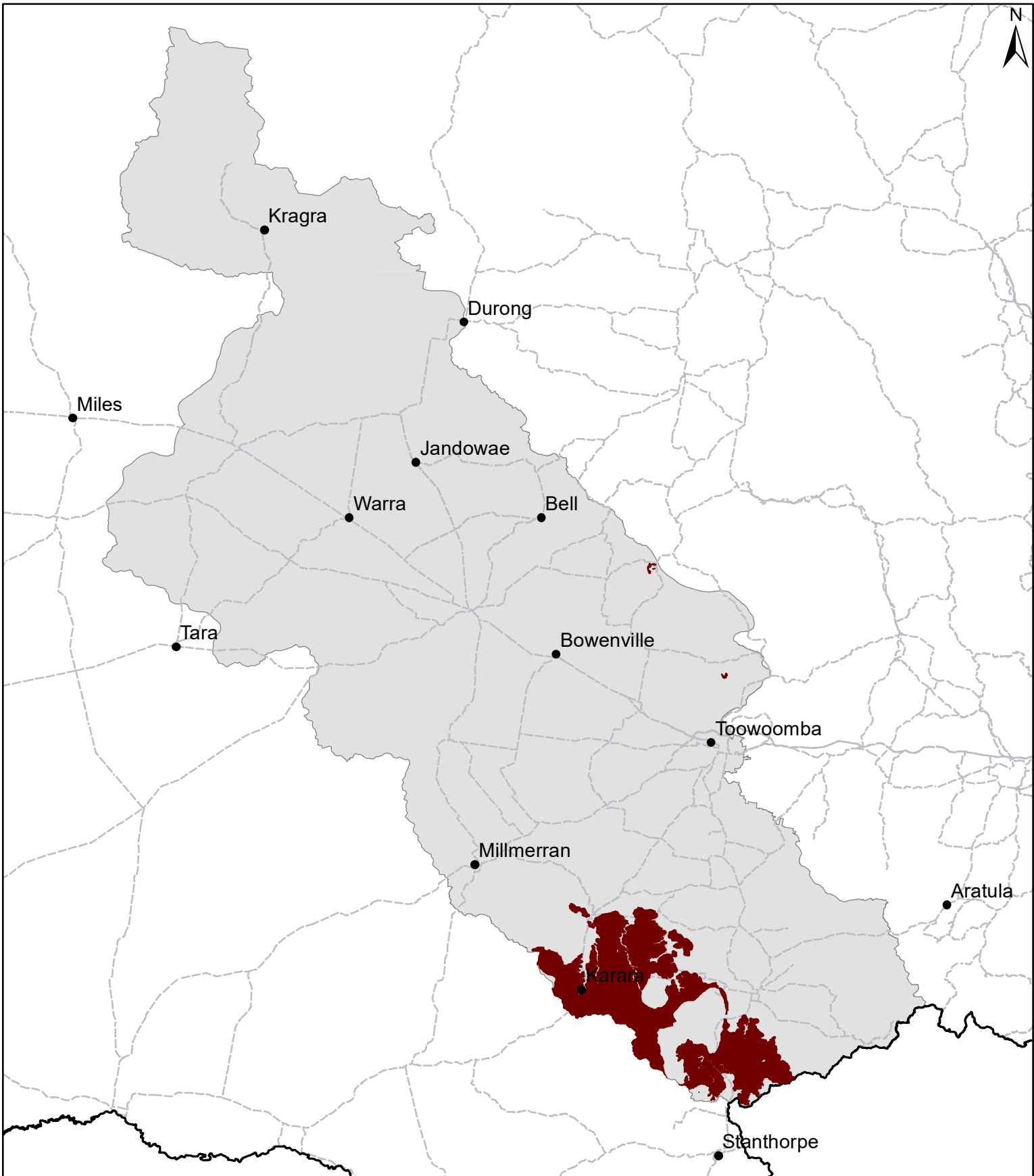
**Regional Ecosystems**

12.8.26, 13.11.1, 13.11.3, 13.11.3a, 13.11.5, 13.11.6, 13.11.8, 13.12.4, 13.3.6

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

Central Darling Downs Land Management Manual: 14a (*Gammie, Karangi*); Understanding and Managing Soils in the Stanthorpe-Rosenthal Region: Traprock mountains, Undulating to rolling traprock hills, Low traprock hills and Traprock plains (*Gammie, Karangi*); Land Inventory and Technical Guide Eastern Downs Area (*Silverwood, Thane*).

# DD17 Traprock hills



Area of land type in region: 5%  
Median rainfall (region): 580 – 909 mm  
Average rainfall (region): 585 – 927 mm  
Area of land type with FPC: 78%  
Median FPC: 31%  
Median TBA: 13 m<sup>2</sup>/ha



**Queensland**  
Government