Box country

Landform	Fans, plains, hillslopes, footslopes and drainage depressions.
Woody vegetation	Poplar box or Reid river box woodlands. Associated with river red gum and ghost gum. Variable shrubby understorey of ironwood, vine tree, eastern dead finish, Ellangowan, desert oak, beefwood, false sandalwood, currant bush and bauhinia.
Expected pasture composition	** Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.*
Preferred	Black speargrass, kangaroo grass, forest bluegrass, desert bluegrass, golden beard grass, buffel grass*, soft spinifex.
Intermediate	Lovegrasses (e.g. clustered, purple), cotton panic, bottlewasher grasses.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses (e.g. dark, many-headed, Jericho, purple, gulf feathertop).
Common forbs	Sida (non-preferred).
Suitable sown pastures	Buffel grass, Shrubby stylo.
Introduced weeds	Parkinsonia, rubber vine, bellyache bush.
Soil	Sandy loam topsoils with sodic clayey subsoils.
Description	***Surface*:** Soft; ***Surface texture*:** sandy loam; ***Subsoil texture*:** clay.
Water availability	Moderate to good.
Rooting depth	0.60 m
Fertility	Low to moderate; moderate nutrient status.

Salinity	Low
Sodicity	Subsoils are usually sodic.
pH	Slightly acid to neutral surface and subsoil.
Utilisation	25%
Enterprise	Breeding and growing.
Land use and management recommendations	• Suitable for grazing. • Capable of high pasture growth. • These areas can be prone to overgrazing. • Currant bush regrowth can be a problem
Land use limitations	• Topsoils are susceptible to sheet erosion and scalding, particularly if ground cover is reduced. • Sodic, dispersive subsoils are susceptible to gully erosion. • Prone to seasonal flooding. • Ellangowan (toxic) may be present. • Variable soil erosion hazard. Highly erodible where subsoil is exposed, particularly along fence lines, tracks and on sloping lands and drainage lines.
Conservation features and related management	• These floristically diverse, hollow-bearing woodlands are fertile, productive and widespread in the Desert Uplands and support a diverse number of vertebrate species. Box woodlands are particularly significant for many declining woodland bird species (e.g. speckled warbler, black-throated finch, hooded robin, grey-crowned babbler, brown treecreeper); granivorous birds, and some restricted reptiles. The woodlands support a high diversity of mammals (e.g. koala, squirrel glider, sugar glider, common brushtail possum, rufous bettong), and hollow-roosting bats including significant species such as *Chalinolobus picatus* and *Vespadelus finlaysoni*. • As box woodlands are highly productive for cattle grazing, there is potential for conflict between managing for special wildlife and managing for stock. Ideally, these woodlands should be spelled in the wet summer months to allow native perennial pastures to re-seed and prevent degradation of the soil cover. Wet season spelling would also be of benefit for native species and long-term production. • Avoid overgrazing as this reduces the competition of pasture species, prevents fires (which should be reintroduced to control woody vegetation thickening) and leads to an increase in density of false sandalwood and currant bush.
Regional ecosystems	10.3.6a, 10.3.6ax1, 10.3.6ax2, 10.3.6ax3, 10.3.6ax4, 10.3.15k, 10.3.27a, 10.3.27c, 10.5.12, 10.9.8, 11.5.3.
DUSLR project land units	AC2, BE3, CR5, DS2, NP3, NP4, RD1, TF2, TS2, VA4 (Lorimer 2003).