

# Coolibah flats



<b>Landform</b>	Plains, drainage depressions (mainly on the Belyando and Suttor rivers).
<b>Woody vegetation</b>	Coolibah open woodlands. Associated species may include river red gum, Reid river box, bloodwoods (e.g. yellowjacket, large-fruited), gidgee, wattles, ghost gum, currant bush and Moreton Bay ash.
<b>Expected pasture composition</b>	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Buffel grass*, curly Mitchell grass, black speargrass, forest bluegrass, golden beard grass, kangaroo grass, Queensland bluegrass.
Intermediate	Bottlewasher grasses, umbrella canegrass, silky oil grass, native oatgrass, urochloa*, fairy grass, lovegrass (e.g. clustered, purple), windmill grass, Indian bluegrass*.
Non-preferred	Wiregrass (e.g. dark, many-headed, Jericho, feathertop, gulf feathertop), reed grass.
Common forbs	Sedges.
<b>Suitable sown pastures</b>	Buffel grass may be restricted by waterlogging.
<b>Introduced weeds</b>	Parthenium, parkinsonia.
<b>Soil</b>	Deep cracking clays.
<b>Description</b>	<b>Surface:</b> Cracking; <b>Surface texture:</b> medium to heavy clay; <b>Subsoil texture:</b> medium to heavy clay.

<b>Water availability</b>	Good
<b>Rooting depth</b>	Deep
<b>Fertility</b>	Moderate; moderate nutrient status.
<b>Salinity</b>	Non-saline
<b>Sodicity</b>	Moderate to high sodicity in subsoil.
<b>pH</b>	Neutral surface and mildly alkaline with depth.
<b>Utilisation</b>	25%
<b>Enterprise</b>	Breeding and growing.
<b>Land use and management recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable for grazing of native pastures.</li> <li>• Capable of high pasture growth.</li> <li>• Ideally these areas are fenced off and managed separately to encourage preferred grasses and maintain good production.</li> </ul>
<b>Land use limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These areas are prone to inundation for extended periods that can result in a lack of persistence of perennial grasses.</li> <li>• Pasture can be limited to annuals.</li> <li>• Variable soil erosion hazard. Highly prone to sheet erosion despite gentle slopes.</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation features and related management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These woodlands provide important habitat for a range of wildlife. Seed eating birds make use of the frontage grasses for food and shelter (e.g. finches, parrots, doves). Coolibahs flower regularly and reliably, providing a major blossom and nectar source for gliders, nectarivorous birds, fruit bats and native bees. The hollows in the large coolibahs are important nest sites for owls and possums.</li> <li>• In some places coolibah flats have become woodlands of predominantly older trees with little to no regeneration. This phenomenon is related to water storage systems interrupting the natural flooding cycle required by these woodlands to regenerate. As the trees decline in health due to age, drought or disease, substantial losses can occur.</li> <li>• Where insufficient regeneration is present, fencing of riparian areas with parts of the river or creek can permit management of grazing pressure in these woodlands and limit the impact of cattle grazing young gum seedlings.</li> <li>• Natural water flows and flooding should be allowed if possible. Placement of artificial watering points away from the streams will reduce trampling damage, erosion and weed invasion on the riverbanks.</li> <li>• Low disturbance and low usage of fire in these areas is recommended as weed infestations readily establish after flood events.</li> </ul>
<b>Regional ecosystems</b>	10.3.15h, 10.3.15i.
<b>DUSLR project land units</b>	AR3, DE3, TK2, TK4.