

# Hard ironbark country



<b>Landform</b>	Hillcrest, hillslope, footslope and fans.
<b>Woody vegetation</b>	Open to low open woodland of silver-leaved, narrow-leaved and White's ironbarks. Occasional occurrences of mallee box, bloodwood (e.g. Clarkson's, yellowjacket, western), desert oak, false sandalwood, currant bush, ghost gum, wattles, quinine and tea tree in sparse, variable understorey.
<b>Expected pasture composition</b>	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Kangaroo grass, soft spinifex, buck spinifex.
Intermediate	Bottlewasher grasses, wanderrie grass (mountain, northern), five-minute grass, silky oil grass.
Non-preferred	Wiregrass (e.g. dark, many-headed, Jericho).
<b>Suitable sown pastures</b>	Generally not suitable for sown pastures.
<b>Introduced weeds</b>	Generally not a problem.
<b>Soil</b>	Sandy loam topsoil over sodic sandy clay subsoil. A hardpan or ironstone occurs within 0.5 m of the surface.
Description	<b>Surface:</b> Soft; <b>Surface texture:</b> sandy loam; <b>Subsoil texture:</b> sandy clay.
Water availability	Low
Rooting depth	0.25–0.5 m.

<b>Fertility</b>	Low; low with phosphorus deficient nutrient status.
<b>Salinity</b>	Moderate
<b>Sodicity</b>	Mainly sodic subsoils.
<b>pH</b>	Slightly acid to strongly alkaline surface over medium acid to mildly alkaline subsoil.
<b>Utilisation</b>	20%
<b>Enterprise</b>	Breeding
<b>Land use and management recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable for grazing of native pastures. Capable of moderate pasture growth.</li> <li>• These areas require conservative management as they are low productivity, on fragile soils and unsuited to improved pastures.</li> </ul>
<b>Land use limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Run-off can be high after heavy rainfall.</li> <li>• Low fertility.</li> <li>• High erosion hazard. Prone to sheet erosion and shallow gulying.</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation features and related management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These woodlands, while simple in structure, have a dominant soft spinifex ground cover with important wildlife values and are characterised by a wide variety of plant species at ground level and shrub level.</li> <li>• Spinifex and inter-tussock annual herbs and forbs provide seasonal food sources for small mammals (e.g. desert mouse, striped-faced dunnart, delicate mouse); ground reptile populations (skinks, geckoes, legless lizards) including mulga snakes that are in decline as a result of ingesting the poisonous cane toad; granivorous birds (pigeons, quail, parrots and finches); and migrating birds that are often attracted from inland arid Australia (e.g. crimson chats).</li> <li>• Dense pasture and a good ground cover of litter are necessary to maintain good infiltration characteristics. Maintaining a good biomass of native perennial grasses with a cover of over 40%, not only ensures a rapid response to rain and optimum grass production, but holds the rain and allows time for infiltration.</li> <li>• A good retention of pasture biomass at the end of the dry season provides a stable habitat for ground fauna, seed source for granivorous birds and is a good preventative measure for soil erosion.</li> <li>• Fire is an important management tool in this habitat, and spelling after fire to allow pasture recovery is very important.</li> </ul>
<b>Regional ecosystems</b>	10.3.11a-d, 10.7.1a-f, 10.7.1bx1, 10.7.9, 10.7.10a-c, 10.7.11a-b, 10.7.12a, 10.7.13x1.
<b>DUSLR project land units</b>	BD3, BB1, CM2, CM1, GK1, AB2, BT4, TM1, AB3, SS1.