

Ironbark country



Landform	Hillslopes, plains, fans and sometimes ridges.
Woody vegetation	Open woodland of silver-leaved ironbark, White's ironbark, narrow-leaved ironbark, ghost gum and bloodwood (e.g. Clarkson's, yellowjacket, large-fruited). Scattered occurrences of wattle, currant bush, poplar box, ironwood, false sandalwood, prickly pine, quinine, eastern dead finish, Reid river box and cypress pine.
Expected pasture composition	* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Black speargrass, soft spinifex, kangaroo grass, Queensland bluegrass, desert bluegrass, forest bluegrass, curly bluegrass, golden beard grass.
Intermediate	Bottlewasher grasses, lovegrasses (e.g. clustered, purple), silky oil grass.
Non-preferred	Wiregrass (e.g. dark, many-headed, Jericho), wanderrie grass (mountain, northern), barbwire grass, red Natal grass*.
Suitable sown pastures	Buffel grass and Shrubby stylo throughout. Urochloa, Indian bluegrass and Caribbean stylo in the north.
Introduced weeds	Parkinsonia, red Natal grass.
Soil	Deep sandy loam over a sandy clay loam. Texture contrast profile with an ironstone hardpan usually present.
Description	Surface: Soft; Surface texture: sandy loam; Subsoil texture: sandy clay loam.
Water availability	Good
Rooting depth	Deep; hardpan can limit rooting depth.

<p>Fertility</p> <p>Salinity</p> <p>Sodicity</p> <p>pH</p>	<p>Moderate; low to moderate, phosphorus deficient nutrient status.</p> <p>Very low salt content in most areas.</p> <p>Mainly non-sodic. NP1 has a sodic subsoil.</p> <p>Slightly acid surface over medium acid to moderately alkaline subsoil.</p>
<p>Utilisation</p>	<p>25%</p>
<p>Enterprise</p>	<p>Breeding</p>
<p>Land use and management recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for grazing of native pastures. Capable of moderate pasture growth. • High density of perennial grasses ensures rapid response to rain and, therefore, optimum grass production.
<p>Land use limitations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topsoils are susceptible to crusting or compaction and sheet erosion. • Good ground cover essential to minimise erosion. • Variable soil erosion hazard. Prone to sheet erosion.
<p>Conservation features and related management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As with the box woodlands, the ironbark open woodlands are equally widespread and one of the most significant habitats for vertebrate fauna in the Desert Uplands. These woodlands, and the variety of micro-habitats associated with the different soils, ground cover and shrub layers, support a very high diversity of reptiles; woodland bird species that have declined in south-eastern Australia (e.g. square-tailed kite, Australian bustard, bush stone-curlew, squatter pigeon, black-throated finch, hooded robin, grey-crowned babbler and brown treecreeper); and of terrestrial and arboreal mammals (e.g. koalas, squirrel gliders, common brushtail possums, rufous bettongs and spectacled hare-wallabies). • Retention of a minimum pasture biomass of 1500 kg/ha and a minimum ground cover of 50% is recommended to ensure a good diversity of native pasture species, especially those species most palatable or sensitive to grazing, is retained over time. • Grazing on a rotational basis is encouraged with paddock spelling occurring at least once every 3 to 4 years. • Burning, after the first summer rains, once every 7–10 years is recommended to prevent tree thickening. Burning should be preceded by a paddock spell to ensure an effective burn, and followed by spelling to ensure pasture re-establishment success. • To ensure wildlife have a refuge area where they can exist without competition from stock, an area of ironbark woodlands should be kept at least three kilometres from artificial water.
<p>Regional ecosystems</p>	<p>10.3.10, 10.3.10x1-2, 10.3.28a-b, 10.3.9, 10.3.9x1-2, 10.5.11a-c, 10.5.2a-b, 10.5.2ax1, 10.5.4a-c, 10.5.5a-c, 10.5.7a-b, 10.5.7ax1, 10.5.9a-b, 10.9.5a-b, 10.9.5ax1.</p>
<p>DUSLR project land units</p>	<p>CA2, CA3, CO3, DT2, LE1, LN1, NP1, SP1, SP2, TF1.</p>