Lakebeds

Landform	Shallow depressions and lakebeds.
Woody vegetation	Open shrublands of samphires, grasslands, sedgelands and ephemeral herblands. River Cooba may be present. Occurrences of parkinsonia.
Expected pasture composition	** Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.* *@ Denotes non-grass species that are important to grazing and land condition values in ephemeral lake and swamp land types.*
Preferred	Saltbush@, marine couch.
Intermediate	Samphire@, brown beetle grass, lovegrasses, fringe rushes@.
Non-preferred	
Annual grasses	Comet grass, button grass.
Common forbs	Spreading nut-heads, red spinach. Non-preferred species include copperburr.
Suitable sown pastures	Generally unsuitable, some buffel grass.
Introduced weeds	Parkinsonia.
Soil	Shallow sandy loam over saline clay or hardpan.
Description	***Surface*:** Soft; ***Surface texture*:** sandy loam; ***Subsoil texture*:** clay.
Water availability	Low
Rooting depth	Shallow
Fertility	Low; low nutrient status.
Salinity	High
Sodicity	High
pH	Mildly alkaline surface and neutral subsoil.

Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 464 – 511 mm				
Pasture type	Median tree cover (TBA m^2/ha) (FPC %)	Median annual pasture growth (DM kg/ha)	Safe annual utilisation pasture growth (%)	LTCC (ha/AE)
Native species	0 TBA/FPC	840 - 1100	10%	27 - 35
	4 TBA 10 FPC	400 - 610	10%	48 – 73

Enterprise

Breeding

Land use and management recommendations

- Suitable for restricted grazing. Capable of low pasture growth.
- Cover of any trees, shrubs, grass or annual forbs is beneficial to the stability of this land type.

Land use limitations

- The vegetation is limited to plants that are tolerant of sodic clays and saline conditions. The added effect of windblown sand particles abrading plant tissue restricts plant growth.
- Generally low erosion hazard. Can be prone to wind erosion along open areas.

Conservation features and related management

- Both Lake Galilee and Lake Buchanan are wetlands of national significance, and have been widely recognised as providing significant waterbird habitat for seasonal migratory waterbirds when they are inundated. Large populations of pelicans, black swans, brolgas, ducks (freckled, hardhead, whistling, pink-eared, black), straw-necked ibis, white-faced herons, Caspian terns, spoonbill species, silver gulls and grey teals have been recorded feeding, breeding and nesting on the lakes.
- Apart from the lakes themselves, there are high terrestrial animal values in the samphire, saltbush, herbfield and dune woodlands associated with the margins of the lakes; especially as nesting sites for the waterbirds that feed on the lakes. The lake environs provide potential habitat for rare nomadic species that utilise the lake edges (e.g. yellow chat, orange chat, painted snipe).
- Parkinsonia infestations can be a problem on these moist areas.
- It is recommended that stock do not have direct access to the natural waterholes on the lakes, instead be watered at dams, tanks or troughs adjacent to the lakes.
- Artificial watering points and additional fencing may be necessary to decrease grazing pressure on the lake beds. Overgrazing of the ground cover of these lake beds reduces the habitat value of these unique areas for small ground fauna and nesting birds.
- Use of herbicides, fertilisers or pesticides (for parkinsonia control) in lake vicinities should only be undertaken with great caution.

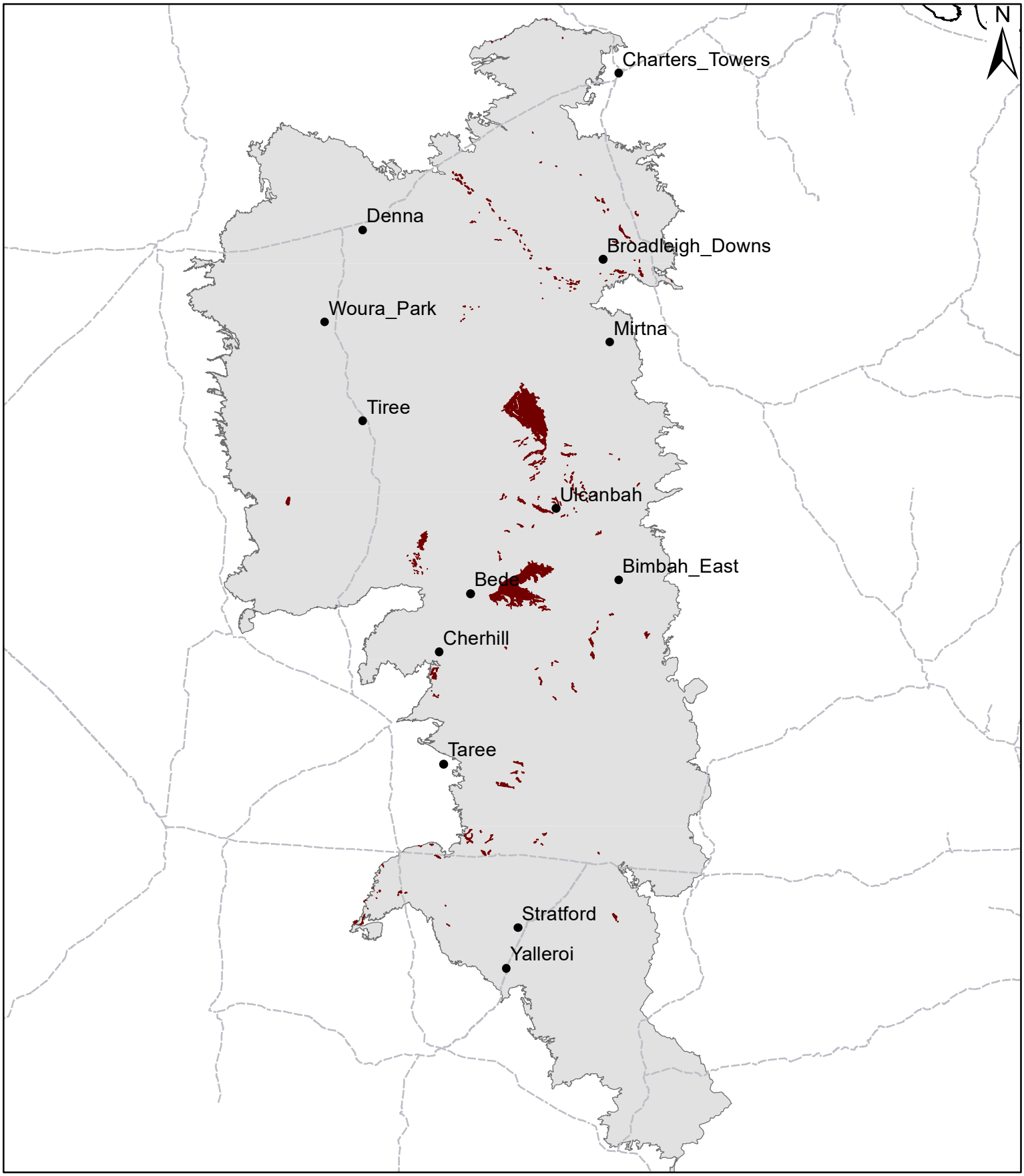
Regional Ecosystems

10.3.16d-f, 10.3.22a-d, 10.3.23a-d, 10.3.24.

DUSLR project land units

LB5, LG7, LG8, PT2.

DU10 Lakebeds



Area of land type in region: 1%
Median rainfall (region): 400 – 608 mm
Average rainfall (region): 440 – 679 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 18%
Median FPC: 10%
Median TBA: 4 m2/ha

Queensland Government