Scrubs on deep clays

Landform	Plains and hillslopes.
Woody vegetation	Gidgee and brigalow low open to low woodlands. Blackwood only occurs on red duplex or red clay soils. Associated species include boree, leopardwood, yapunyah, blackbutt, false sandalwood, mimosa, Reid river box, coolibah, eurah, currant bush, water bush.
Expected pasture composition	** Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.*
Preferred	Buffel grass*, bull Mitchell grass, curly Mitchell grass, bluegrasses (e.g. desert).
Intermediate	Bottlewasher grasses, fairy grass.
Non-preferred	Five-minute grass, wiregrasses (e.g. dark, many-headed, Jericho, feathertop, gulf feathertop, purple).
Annual grasses	Flinders grasses.
Common forbs	Non-preferred forbs include sidas (e.g. high, silver).
Suitable sown pastures	Buffel grass.
Introduced weeds	Parthenium, parkinsonia, mother-of-millions, velvet tree pear, harrisia cactus.
Soil	Deep to very deep uniform cracking clay soil.
Description	***Surface*:** Self-mulching; ***Surface texture*:** medium to heavy clay; ***Subsoil texture*:** medium to heavy clay.
Water availability	Good
Rooting depth	Deep to very deep, particularly on red duplex or red clay soils.
Fertility	High; moderate nutrient status.
Salinity	Often moderate salt content throughout profile.
Sodicity	Some sodicity at depth.

pH	Slightly acid to moderately alkaline surface and mildly to strongly alkaline subsoil.
Utilisation	30%
Enterprise	Growing
Land use and management recommendations	• Suitable for grazing. Capable of high pasture growth. • These highly productive areas can be used strategically for growing stock, or meeting periods of high nutritional demand for the breeding herd. This gives the added benefit of spelling less productive land types.
Land use limitations	• These areas, while very productive and resilient soils, are susceptible to infestation by parthenium. • Light falls of rain can close surface cracks subsequently limiting infiltration and resulting in a poor pasture growth response. The shallow-rooted annuals have a short growing season. Lower slopes/flats are prone to inundation. • Limited soil erosion hazard. Prone to sheet, rill and gully erosion along tracks and fence lines and on sloping lands and drainage lines.
Conservation features and related management	• Open gidgee, blackwood or brigalow woodland fauna are often highly inter-connected and inter-related with the surrounding eucalypt woodland and riparian communities. • The dense canopy, high levels of fallen and dead timber, cracking soils, and high cover of herbage in the acacia scrubs favour and support high numbers of particular animal guilds – arboreal mammals, arboreal and scansorial reptiles (geckos, dragons, skinks) and some woodland birds (e.g. painted honeyeaters that eat scrub mistletoe). • The restricted legless lizard, the brigalow scaly-foot, is known to occur in scrub patches. Gidgee scrubs on alluvials in the Prairie–Torrens creek areas support an endangered small plant, *Nesaea robertsii,* which is very vulnerable to grazing. This plant is only known from two locations in Queensland. • Most acacia remnants are small and fragmented and occur in the form of shade lines and stock shade near waters. These remnants can readily be enhanced by allowing natural regeneration of regrowth, particularly along fence lines, to re-establish landscape linkages across properties. Re-establishment of linkages to riparian areas, and buffers to riparian areas, are of high conservation benefit. The wider the regenerated strips, the more robust and effective they will be over time. • Parthenium infestations and succulent weeds (mother-of-millions, velvet tree pear, harrisia cactus), are a problem along alluvial acacia scrub areas and can be controlled with selective use of fire, biological controls and herbicide sprays.
Regional ecosystems	10.3.3a-b, 10.3.4a-d, 10.3.4dx1, 10.3.5, 10.3.14e, 10.3.15d, 10.3.15m, 10.3.30, 10.4.2, 10.4.3a-b, 10.4.4, 10.4.5, 10.4.5x1-2, 10.4.7, 10.9.6, 10.9.6x1-2, 11.9.11.
DUSLR project land units	AR1, TK3, WV3, DS3, RD2, CA4, BR1, UH2, LG2, WY2.