Yellowjacket country +/- wattles

Landform	Plains and hillslopes.
Woody vegetation	Low open woodland to open woodland of yellowjacket. Often associated with bloodwood (e.g. Clarkson's, yellowjacket, western), applejack, ghost gum and with dense understorey of wattles, quinine, soap tree and heartleaf poison bush.
Expected pasture composition	** Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.*
Preferred	Soft spinifex, black speargrass, kangaroo grass, golden beard grass, forest bluegrass.
Intermediate	Buck spinifex.
Non-preferred	Wiregrass (e.g. dark, many-headed, Jericho, gulf feathertop, purple), bottlewasher grasses, wanderrie (mountain, northern).
Suitable sown pastures	Generally not suitable for sown pastures.
Introduced weeds	
Soil	Very deep profile of sandy red loam surface, and/or yellow sandy soils. Fine sandy surface, with sandy clay loam subsoil.
Description	***Surface*:** Loose to soft; ***Surface texture*:** sandy or sandy loam; ***Subsoil texture*:** clay loam.
Water availability	Low
Rooting depth	Very deep.
Fertility	Very low; very low, phosphorus deficient nutrient status.
Salinity	Very low salt content.

Sodicity	Mostly non-sodic.
pH	Slightly acid surface over medium acid subsoil.
Utilisation	20%
Enterprise	Breeding
Land use and management recommendations	• Suitable for grazing. Capable of moderate pasture growth. • During extended dry conditions, these areas can provide useful grazing. • Sown pastures may only persist under trees. • Heartleaf poison bush is common and is responsible for high stock fatalities if grazed at the wrong time.
Land use limitations	• A good vegetative ground cover is required to protect the loose, sandy topsoils from erosion by runoff water and increased erosion. Sheet erosion can occur if ground cover is low. • Pasture growth is limited by low nutrient status and poor water availability. South of Aramac the yellowjacket country is slightly more fertile because of the extended growing season and higher levels of organic matter. • Spinifex-dominant pastures together with accumulated leaf litter under the bloodwoods are highly susceptible to wild fires started by pre-wet lightning strikes. • Limited soil erosion hazard. Prone to sheet, rill and gully erosion along tracks and fence lines and on sloping lands.
Conservation features and related management	• These woodlands are the best remaining intact sub-tropical woodlands in Central Queensland, and are the bioregional and biodiversity heartland of the Desert Uplands. The very deep soil profiles, with special characteristics of low runoff and high infiltration rates, represent a nationally important recharge zone for aquifers of the Great Artesian Basin. • The woodlands are habitat to at least two endemic reptile species (*Ctenotus rosarium* and *Lerista chordae*). The deep red sandy soils and predominant spinifex cover provides habitat for an exceptional diversity of reptiles, many of which are threatened or restricted (e.g. *Simoselaps warro, Ctenotus pantherinus*). • High mammal abundance of species (e.g. desert mouse, delicate mouse, striped-faced dunnart) can be found in these yellowjacket woodlands. • A very high floristic diversity provides food sources for a wide array and abundance of woodlands birds, including the hooded robin which is increasingly threatened throughout its range in Australia. • Maintenance of this extremely important habitat should be continued through low levels of grazing, minimal infrastructure, one or no watering points and burning after first summer rains every 7–8 years. The best time to burn is after the first good rains of the wet season, when the ground is moist. • Tussock density and ground cover should be maintained at all times to minimise run-off and maximise the rate of infiltration.
Regional ecosystems	10.5.1a-e, 10.5.1i, 10.5.8a-b, 10.5.10.
DUSLR project land units	BN2, DT1, GT1, JJ1, NP2, OE3, WW3.