

# Brigalow with melonholes



## Landform

Undulating plains, lowlands, downs, low tablelands and hills.

## Woody vegetation

Brigalow scrub with understorey of false sandalwood, currant bush, and occasionally yellowwood.

## Expected pasture composition

*\* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.*

### Preferred

Queensland bluegrass, forest bluegrass, desert bluegrass, silky browntop, bull and curly Mitchell grass.

### Intermediate

Native millet, shot grass, Warrego grass, tall chloris.

### Non-preferred

Fairy grass, umbrella cane grass, wiregrass.

### Annual grasses

Button grass, weeping lovegrass.

### Common forbs

Saltbushes.

## Suitable sown pastures

Buffel grass, Bambatsi panic, purple pigeon grass, Angleton grass, leucaena (>120 cm), butterfly pea (>90 cm), Desmanthus, Caatinga stylo, Caribbean stylo.

## Introduced weeds

Parthenium, mother-of-millions.

## Soil

Gilgaied, brown or grey cracking clay (brown or grey vertosol).

## Description

**Surface:** Surface mulching to hard-setting (variable between mounds and depressions); **Surface texture:** medium to heavy clay; **Subsoil texture:** medium to heavy clay.

Water availability	Low to moderate.
Rooting depth	Shallow
Fertility	Low to moderate total nitrogen; low to moderate phosphorus.
Salinity	High (below 30 cm).
Sodicity	Strongly sodic (below 30 cm).
pH	Strongly alkaline.
<b>Utilisation</b>	30%
<b>Enterprise</b>	Finishing
<b>Land use and management recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not suited to cultivation.</li> <li>• Tunnelling problems through dam walls.</li> </ul>
<b>Land use limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melonholes</li> <li>• Regrowth</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation features and related management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As there are very few areas of this land type remaining in the Fitzroy Basin they are of high value. It is an ecosystem where the higher drier parts of the melonholes are heavily grazed, and depressions, which become water-logged in the wet provide for a unique and very specific suite of plants.</li> <li>• In its natural state this land type offers limited grazing value but a high ecological value.</li> <li>• An endangered plant <i>Solanum adonaphyrum</i> is associated with these melonholes, as is the poorly recorded plant <i>S. elacaphyllum</i>.</li> <li>• Brigalow melonholes can be prolific breeding sites for frogs, and are an attractant for species such as the vulnerable ornamental snake (<i>Denisonia maculata</i>) that feeds almost exclusively on frogs.</li> <li>• These areas are very readily degraded because of their uneven wetness and plant composition.</li> <li>• The ideal scenario for conservation would be to fence these unique areas off from grazing.</li> </ul>
<b>Regional ecosystems</b>	11.4.3, 11.4.3a, 11.4.9, 11.4.9a-b.
<b>Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations</b>	Land units (Gunn <i>et al</i> 1967; Story <i>et al</i> 1967) Islay 4, Somerby 5, Humboldt 5; Agricultural Management Units (Thwaites and Maher 1993) Lonesome; Soil associations (Burgess 2003; Shields <i>et al</i> 1993) Turon, Warwick, Pomegranate melonhole phase, Norwich, Knockane, Picardy surface seal phase, Nungaroo, Midden.