

Bulloak country



Landform

Hill and ranges, alluvial valleys.

Woody vegetation

Bulloak as a monoculture or with emergent poplar box, Clarkson's bloodwood and occasional false sandalwood, Leichhardt bean, scrub leopardwood, quinine tree, ironwood, wattles.

Expected pasture composition

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

Preferred

Black speargrass.

Intermediate

Golden beard grass.

Non-preferred

Lovegrasses, white speargrass, five-minute grass.

Annual grasses

Suitable sown pastures

Not suitable for development.

Introduced weeds

Soil

Brown or grey, hard-setting, sandy surfaced, texture contrast soil (sodosol)

Description

Surface: Hard-setting; **Surface texture:** sandy; **Subsoil texture:** sandy medium clay.

Water availability

Low

Rooting depth	15–30 cm.
Fertility	Very low total nitrogen; very low phosphorus.
Salinity	Moderate below 60 cm.
Sodicity	Strongly sodic below 60 cm.
pH	Acid to strongly acid.

Utilisation 15%

Enterprise Breeding

Land use and management recommendations

- Extensive grazing; questionable grazing value.
- Not suitable for development.

Land use limitations

- Soils are very unstable and prone to extreme erosion and degradation following disturbance.

Conservation features and related management

- This land type is not fauna rich; however, bull oak provides roosting and nesting sites for a range of small passerine (perch) birds (e.g. finches, wrens, honeyeaters), and those species with more specialised requirements such as the spotted nightjar which roosts on the ground in thicker vegetation. Arboreal geckoes can also be found.
- It is important to avoid these areas as much as possible for infrastructure such as roads and fence-lines as the sodic subsoil is very dispersive and extremely erosive.
- Ideally these areas should be fenced out as they have no grazing value and their high tree density would be a mustering problem.

Regional ecosystems

8.12.31b, 11.5.1a, 11.5.2a, 12.11.21.

Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations

Land units (Gunn *et al* 1967; Story *et al* 1967) Monteagle 4; Agricultural Management Units (Thwaites and Maher 1993) Picardy; Soil associations (Burgess 2003) Heyford and Bundoora.