Coolibah floodplains

Landform	Alluvial plains.
Woody vegetation	Coolibah woodland with an understorey of scattered clumps of brigalow and bauhinia.
Expected pasture composition	** Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.*
Preferred	Queensland bluegrass, forest bluegrass, silky browntop, bull and curly Mitchell grass, couch grass.
Intermediate	Native millet, shot grass, Warrego grass, spring grass, curly windmill grass, golden beard grass, tall chloris.
Non-preferred	Umbrella cane grass, weeping lovegrass, fairy grass.
Annual grasses	Button grass, Flinders grass, pepper grass.
Suitable sown pastures	Bambatsi panic, Angleton grass, buffel grass, purple pigeon grass, Caatinga stylo, butterfly pea, Desmanthus. Leucaena where not frequently or severely flooded.
Introduced weeds	Parthenium, parkinsonian, rubbervine, mimosa.
Soil	Black cracking clay (vertosol).
Description	***Surface*:** Firm to crusting; ***Surface texture*:** light clay to medium clay; ***Subsoil texture*:** medium to heavy clay.
Water availability	Moderate to high.
Rooting depth	60 cm
Fertility	Moderate total nitrogen; moderate phosphorus.
Salinity	Moderate (below 60 cm).
Sodicity	Sodic (below 0.6 m); however this is variable.
pH	Strongly alkaline.

Utilisation

30%

Enterprise

Growing and finishing.

Land use and management recommendations

- Suitable for pasture improvement.
- Suitable for cropping in areas not subject to severe flooding.
- Retain trees on bed and banks of streams.
- Soil disturbance encourages germination of woody species.
- When mixed with other less fertile land types in a paddock, alluvial areas are at risk of overgrazing.
- Land condition should be monitored carefully and management adjusted if necessary to reduce grazing pressure in these areas.

Land use limitations

- Flooding and waterlogging.
- Salinity and surface cracking.
- Restricted access in wet conditions.
- Weed invasion (parthenium).
- Erosive flooding in some areas.
- Establishment problems with improved pastures due to crusting / cracking or coarse self-mulching surface.

Conservation features and related management

- Older trees with hollows are important habitat for arboreal marsupials and provide nest sites for cockatoos and parrots. The branches provide roosting sites for waterbirds such as cormorants, ibis, spoonbills and egrets.
- Coolibah is one of the most important koala food trees.
- Other animals such as freshwater turtles, frogs, pygmy geese, whistling ducks and seasonal wetland plants such as water chestnuts and water lilies are common in this land type.
- Localised stands of lignum provide good habitat and shelter for breeding ducks, and larger burrowing frogs.
- Coolibah protects creeks and riverbanks from erosion.
- Coolibah regeneration is stimulated by flooding.
- Seedlings can be damaged by overgrazing, resulting in some areas where only mature trees can be seen.
- Overgrazing and soil disturbance can lead to parthenium and parkinsonia infestations. Retention of large tussock grasses, such as kangaroo grass, bluegrasses, coolibah grass and forest Mitchell grass, can provide a good body of pasture over dry seasons that will help control weed infestations.
- Fencing this riparian land type can make for better control of grazing pressures.

Regional ecosystems

11.3.3, 11.3.3a, 11.3.3c.

Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations

Land units (Gunn *et al* 1967; Story *et al* 1967) Funnel 4, Comet 1, 4 & 5; AMU (DPI 1993) Moramana; Soil associations (Shields *et al* 1993; Burgess 2003) Lindsay, Bluchers, Issac, Moramana, Jeffray.