

Open alluvial plains



Photo: A3 (Landsborough) Land System

General description	Seasonally flooded flat alluvial plains dominated by annual pastures and associated with braided rivers and streams. Scalding is often present on less frequently flooded inter-channel ridges. Generally adjacent to open downs and hard gidgee.
Landform	Flat alluvial plains.
Woody vegetation	Coolibah, belalie, river red gum open-woodland fringing channels with minor areas of gidgee low woodland to low-open woodland. Boree open woodland often fringes the stream margins. Within the WARLUS Part II region, eastern dead finish, beefwood, bauhinia, mulga, mineritchie and poplar box may occur.
Expected pasture composition	<p><i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i></p> <p><i># Denotes non-grass species that are important to grazing and land condition values in annually dominated land types.</i></p>
Preferred	Mitchell grass, desert bluegrass, Warrego summer grass.
Intermediate	Curly windmill grass.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses.
Annual grasses	Flinders grass, button grass.
Common forbs	Goodenia, saltbush, cow vine#. Non-preferred species include copperburrs.
Suitable sown pastures	Mitchell grass, Queensland bluegrass. Buffel grass, bambatsi, purple pigeon grass, Angleton grass may be useful in scald reclamation.
Introduced weeds	Parthenium, parkinsonia, mesquite (hybrid), prickly acacia, rubbervine, bellyache bush, Noogoora burr, cactus, chinee apple, Mexican poppy.
Soil	Generally highly productive deep to very deep brown and grey alluvial cracking clays with self-mulching surfaces associated with seasonal scalds, to sandy grey claypans with very hard crusting surfaces. Areas of gilgai.
Description	Surface: Self-mulching clays with areas of claypan with very hard crusting surfaces and/or seasonal scalding; Surface texture: heavy clay; Subsoil texture: heavy clay.
Features	Lime and gypsum are present, with dense concentrations of gypsum at depth in some locations. Mottling may occur at depth. Ironstone and manganese also present in some locations. Natural water-ponding in some scalded areas due to very low infiltration rates.

Water availability	Low to moderate.					
Rooting depth	Shallow to moderate.					
Infiltration	High initially on a dry soil profile, slowing to low levels after 75–100 mm of rain as cracks close. Good soaking rain or flooding required to wet the soil profile. Low on claypans, with water-ponding following 5 mm of rain or less as the surface seals.					
Fertility	Moderate to high.					
Salinity	Non-saline or low at surface; variable at depth from low to very high.					
Sodicity	Non-sodic					
pH	Generally moderate to strongly alkaline throughout. Neutral grading to acid at depth in association with mottled soils.					
Utilisation	18%					
Enterprise	Breeding, wool production and opportunistic fattening after seasonal flooding.					
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for grazing of native pastures. • Maximise ground cover to reduce soil erosion. • These areas receive runoff from adjacent country. • Provides shade. • Some clay pan areas can be returned to deep cracking clays using shallow pondage systems. 					
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scalded areas may limit productivity. • Evidence of gully erosion adjacent to scalds. 					
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hollows in coolibah and river red gums are essential breeding sites for parrots, owls, waterbirds and bats. • Timbered drainage lines provide refuge areas and connectivity across grassy landscapes. • Maintaining diversity of ages and species of trees is important. • Associated wetland areas provide critical breeding habitat and food chains for fish and wetland birds. • Managing grazing pressure, feral animals and weed invasions are priority issues. 					
Regional ecosystems	4.3.10a-b, 4.3.11, 4.3.11a-e, 4.3.11x1, 4.3.14, 4.3.16a, 4.3.17, 4.3.17a-b, 4.3.18a, 4.3.18x1a-b, 4.3.20, 4.3.20x1, 4.3.22, 4.3.23, 4.3.2a-b, 4.3.3, 4.3.3a, 4.3.3c, 4.3.4, 4.3.4a, 4.3.4c-f, 4.3.4x1, 4.3.4x2a-d, 4.3.5a-b, 4.3.5a-b, 4.3.8, 4.3.8e-f, 4.3.9, 4.3.9a-b.					
WARLUS land systems	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
	A1 to A4	A2 to A6			A1 to A6	A1, A2