

Wooded alluvial plains



Photo: W3 (Ravensbourne) Land System

General description	Flooded alluvial plains with numerous braided channels supporting (generally) dense tree cover which drain surrounding clay soils of downs and gidgee lands with some umbrella canegrass swamps.
Landform	Alluvial plains.
Woody vegetation	Coolibah and river red gum grassy low open-woodland to open-woodland on channels; and gidgee low woodland on inter-channel areas. Other trees may also be present including boree, eastern dead finish, ironwood, poplar box and false sandalwood.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Bluegrasses, silky browntop, umbrella canegrass, Warrego summer grass, Mitchell grasses on interchannel areas, buffel grass*.
Intermediate	Lovegrass, katoora, desert bluegrass.
Non-preferred	
Annual grasses	Flinders grass, channel millet (preferred).
Common forbs	Goodenia, saltbush, cow vine. Non-preferred species include copperburrs.
Suitable sown pastures	None suitable.
Introduced weeds	Parkinsonia, mesquite (hybrid), prickly acacia, chinee apple, parthenium, rubbervine, bellyache bush, Noogoora burr, mother-of-millions, cactus (snake, devil's rope, harrisia, coral), Mexican poppy.
Soil	Deep to very deep cracking clays and gilgaied sandy grey alluvial clays with some seasonal scalding. Deep siliceous texture contrast soils when draining sandy country.
Description	Surface: Cracking clay, thin surface crust may be present; Surface texture: medium to heavy clay; Subsoil texture: medium to heavy clay.
Features	Coarse sand, ironstone concretions and gravel throughout the profile. Lime and gypsum concentrations common.

Water availability	Moderate to high in cracking clays, low in texture contrast soils.
Rooting depth	Deep
Infiltration	High initially on a dry soil profile, slowing to low levels after 50–75 mm of rain as cracks close. Good soaking rain or flooding required to wet the soil profile. Low to moderate on texture contrast soils, runoff increasing following 10 mm of rain as the surface seals.
Fertility	Moderate to low.
Salinity	Low at surface, increasing to very high at depth.
Sodicity	Non-sodic
pH	Alkaline throughout.

Utilisation 18%

Enterprise Breeding, wool production and opportunistic fattening after seasonal flooding.

Land use and management recommendations

- Suitable for grazing of native pastures.
- Maximise ground cover to reduce soil erosion.
- These areas receive runoff from adjacent country.
- Provides shade and useful top-feed.
- Strategic burning to manage gidgee thickening with late dry season hot fires.

Land use limitations

- Thickening of woody species (false sandalwood or gidgee) may limit productivity in areas.

Conservation features and related management

- Coolibah and river red gum have hollows which 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

4.3.1, 4.3.1a, 4.3.1b, 4.3.2, 4.3.8f, 4.5.6x5.

WARLUS land systems

I	II	III	IV	V	VI
W1,W2, W3,W4, W5,W6, W7	W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, W6, W7	W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, W6, W7, W8	W1, W2, W3, W4, W5	W1, W2, W3, W4	W1, W2