Ironbark and spotted gum ridges

Landform	Steep hills and mountains.
Woody vegetation	Eucalypt open forest of narrow-leaved ironbark / grey ironbark, spotted gum with some softwood scrub. Patches of rusty gum and understorey of wattles and bulloak.
Expected pasture composition	** Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.*
Preferred	Black speargrass, barbwire grass, kangaroo grass, tambookie grass, pitted bluegrass.
Intermediate	Bottlewasher grasses, hooky grass, couch grass*.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses.
Legumes	Glycine pea, narrow-leaved indigo.
Suitable sown pastures	Shrubby stylo, fine stem stylo, Wynn cassia.
Introduced weeds	
Soil	Texture contrast soils of brown to dark grey loamy sands overlaying red, brown or yellow clay.
Description	***Surface*:** Sandy or loamy, hard-setting; ***Surface texture:*** loamy sand or sandy clay loam to clay loam; ***Subsoil texture:*** light to heavy clay.
Features	Usually a prominent bleached zone above hard clay subsoil. Strongly sodic and dispersible, with dominance of magnesium in subsoil increasing tendency for dispersion. Sometimes mottled (yellow or grey). Sometimes contains lime.
Water availability	Very low, PAWC <50 mm in root zone.

Rooting depth	Effective rooting depth <0.4 m.
Fertility	Low to medium, can be variable (loamy solodics) nitrogen; very low to low, can be variable (loamy solodics) phosphorus; low to medium to high (loamy solodics, variable soloths) potassium; medium zinc; low to medium copper.
Salinity	Very low at surface; medium to high at depth below 0.5 m.
Sodicity	Non-sodic at surface; sodic to strongly sodic at depth.
pH	Soil surface very strongly acid (4.5) or strongly acid (5.4); subsoils very strongly acid (5.0) to medium acid (6.0) (soloths) or moderately alkaline (8.0) to strongly alkaline (9.0) (solodics).
Utilisation	25%
Enterprise	Breeding
Land use and management recommendations	• Suitable for grazing of native and improved pastures. Timber reserves. • Maintain maximum surface cover at all times. • Over-sowing of legumes should be done with minimal soil disturbance (e.g. strip cultivation). • Maintain as much timber cover as possible, especially on steeper slopes and ridges. • Burn every 2–3 years to help control weeds and regrowth (wattles).
Land use limitations	• Rooting depth limited by hard, and saline or acid, subsoils. • Hard clay subsoils impede drainage and are prone to water logging in wet periods. • Very susceptible to sheet, tunnel and gullying erosion. • Generally very low nutrient status, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus.
Conservation features and related management	• These land types provide valuable resources for forest dependent fauna such as possums, gliders, forest owls, microbats, insectivorous birds and arboreal and ground dwelling reptiles. • Rare flora (*Persoonia* spp. and cycads) occur in these communities. • These land types have generally been cleared or thinned for grazing on the moderate and lower slopes. • Areas extensively managed for timber have been modified through selective thinning and frequent fire resulting in even aged stands with minimal habitat trees and poor stand succession. • Retaining adequate numbers of habitat trees is important for forest health and biodiversity. • The careful use of fire (especially following disturbance such as thinning or harvesting) allows forest regeneration and can be proactively used to promote biodiversity values within the land type and across the landscape.
Regional ecosystems	12.11.5m, 12.8.24, 12.9-10.17a, 12.9-10.19a, 12.9-10.2.
Land resource area	Marburg Forest, 7a; Volcanic Peaks, 3a (Noble, 1996).