Poplar box woodlands (red soils)

Landform

Shallow drainage lines developed on flat plains or low sloping to gently undulating plains (slopes to 3%) forming run-on areas that extend to local alluvia.

Woody vegetation

Poplar box woodland to open woodland with a variable shrubby understorey of false sandalwood and black fuchsia. Often associated with mulga, yellowjacket or silver-leaved ironbark with occasional patches of cypress pine, belah and brigalow depending on soil.

Expected pasture composition

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

Preferred	Desert bluegrass, buffel grass* (naturalised), Queensland bluegrass, cotton panic, silky umbrella grass, black speargrass, hairy panic, kangaroo grass, mulga Mitchell.
Intermediate	Pitted bluegrass, tall chloris, bottlewasher grasses, curly windmill grass, lovegrasses (e.g. purple, dainty, clustered), five-minute grass, box grass.
Non-preferred	Cane panic, wiregrasses (e.g. Jericho, dark).
Annual grasses	Comb chloris, three-awn wanderrie grass, hairy armgrass, button grass, mulka, weeping lovegrass. Bunched kerosene (non-preferred).
Common forbs	Lesser joyweed, blue trumpet, caustic weed, hill hibiscus, burrs (e.g. black roly poly, galvanised, goathead, tall copperburr), sidas (e.g. corrugated, fine, high, pin), daisy burrs, mulga fern, smooth velleia, tropical speedwell.

Suitable sown pastures

Buffel grass, mulga oats.

Introduced weeds

Mother-of-millions, Noogoora burr, spiked malvastrum, Bathurst burr, parkinsonia, African boxthorn, saffron thistle to the east.

Soil	Moderately deep to deep red earths, red clays and red texture contrast soils.
Description	***Surface*:** Hard-setting: ***Surface texture*:** Light sandy clay loam to clay loams; ***Subsoil texture*:** Sandy light to medium clay.
Features	Hard-setting, sometimes hardpans at 40–80 cm depth.
Water availability	Low to moderate.
Rooting depth	Deep, hardpans may limit effective rooting depth.
Fertility	Low to fair; low to fair carbon, low to very low nitrogen, low to very low phosphorus.
Salinity	Low throughout.
Sodicity	Negligible at surface.
pH	Usually acid to neutral; becoming alkaline to strongly alkaline at depth.
Utilisation	15%
Enterprise	Breeding ewes and cows.
Land use and management recommendations	• Pastures respond to light (>15 mm) to moderate (25 mm) falls of rain in areas that receive runoff and have higher productive potential than surrounding lands. • Opportunistic winter grazing crops are possible on areas not prone to flooding or overland wash. • Can be developed with improved pastures if phosphorus levels are adequate (>20 mg/kg). • Use fire judiciously as management tool to control woody weeds.
Land use limitations	• Maintenance of ground cover to minimise shrub invasion and wind and water (gully) erosion. • Regrowth and high shrub densities (e.g. butter bush, silver cassia, Charleville turkey bush, black fuchsia) can limit productivity. • Strip clearing is preferable to clearing of large areas to minimise erosion and degradation.
Conservation features and related management	• This land zone has high fauna diversity, particularly birds (e.g. brown treecreeper, rainbow bee-eater, red-backed kingfisher, thornbills) and many insectivorous bats (e.g. vulnerable greater long-eared bat). • The presence of logs and fallen woody material can provide habitat for a variety of geckos, lizards and skinks (e.g. marbled velvet gecko, the rare yakka skink, Delma legless lizards, slider skinks). • Poplar box lands have been extensively cleared in the east, and disturbance can cause thick regrowth and high understorey shrub densities (e.g. false sandalwood). • Use of fire could assist in controlling woody weeds and enhance productivity and habitat potential of the land zone.
Regional ecosystems	6.3.18, 6.4.3, 6.5.2, 6.5.3, 6.5.5, 6.5.17.