**Land types of Queensland**

**Mulga Region**

**Version 3.1**

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**Soft mulga**

**Landform**

Flat to gently undulating plains (slopes <1%).

**Woody vegetation**

Mulga low open woodlands to tall woodlands; often associated with poplar box, ironwood, Clarkson’s bloodwood and false sandalwood east of the Grey Range, and with western bloodwood and beefwood to the west. Patches with a spinifex understorey are found throughout on very acidic soils.

* Denotes non-native “Expected Pasture Composition” species.

**Expected pasture composition**

- **Preferred**
  - Silky umbrella grass, cotton panic, mulga oats, hairy panic, kangaroo grass, mulga Mitchell.
- **Intermediate**
  - Silky heads, bottlewasher grasses, woollybutt, purple lovegrass, woollybutt wanderrie grass, mountain wanderrie grass, five-minute grass, cane panic.
- **Non-preferred**
  - Greybeard grass, wiregrasses (e.g. Jericho, dark).
- **Annual grasses**
  - Hairy armgrass, three-awn wanderrie grass, comb chloris, button grass, comet grass, small burr grass, annual digit grass. Bunched kerosene (non-preferred).
- **Common forbs**
  - Green pussytail, silvertail, longtails, small purple foxtail, daisy burrs, silky bluebush, galvanised burr, goathead burr, copperburrs (tangled, woolly), black roly poly, tropical speedwell, green crumbweed, *Muelleranthus trifoliolatus*, smooth goodenia, smooth velleia, mulga nettle, hill hibiscus, sidas (e.g. fine, lifesaver, ridge, shrub), tarvine, parakeelyas, caustic weed, mulga fern, weir vine, potato bushes.

**Suitable sown pastures**

Buffel grass, old man saltbush, mulga Mitchell, mulga oats.

**Introduced weeds**

Mesquite to west, saffron thistle to the east, parkinsonia and African boxthorn around water points.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Description</th>
<th>Shallow to moderately deep (50–150 cm) sandy to loamy red earths.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surface</td>
<td>Loamy hard or moderately hard surfaces; Surface texture: Light sandy loam to clay loams; Subsoil texture: Clay content increasing down profile to light to medium clays. Layers of ironshot and charcoal pieces common at depth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Features</td>
<td>Hard-setting, hardpans may occur at depth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water availability</td>
<td>Low to moderate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rooting depth</td>
<td>Can be limited by hardpans (&gt;70 cm).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fertility</td>
<td>Very low to fair (phosphorus, carbon, nitrogen).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salinity</td>
<td>Very low.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sodicity</td>
<td>Non-sodic, except when associated with hardpans.</td>
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<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>Usually acid to slightly acid throughout profile of red loams; tending towards neutral at depth or alkaline values with occurrence of hardpans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilisation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise</td>
<td>Breeding ewes and cows.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Land use and management recommendations | - Mulga fodder provides drought protein reserves.  
- Stock lightly during dry periods and post drought to maintain ground cover and to minimise water and wind erosion and maximise rainfall capture.  
- Use fire opportunistically as management tool to control woody weeds and dense mulga.  
- Fragile grazing lands.  
- Wiregrasses often predominate in areas cleared of mulga and sandier soils.  
- Mulga density and/or butter bush, fire bush, green turkey bush, false sandalwood and hopbush invasion commonly limits pasture growth.  
- Strip clearing is preferable to clearing of large areas to minimise erosion, degradation and widespread whipstick mulga regeneration.  
- Soil nutrient deficiencies (phosphorus, sulphur, calcium, magnesium), acidity and poor surface structure.  
- Mulga groves to the north and west may provide habitat for the rare and threatened fauna (pink cockatoo, painted honeyeater, yakka skink and Forest’s mouse), and a diverse range of birds (Hall’s babbler, thornbills, pardalotes and mallee ringneck, blue bonnet, mulga and red-winged parrots).  
- Some areas to north and east are highly modified in their structural and floristic composition, and significant areas are in poor condition due to irreversible sheet erosion.  
- Maintenance of ground cover is important to minimise erosion.  
| Regional ecosystems | 6.5.1, 6.5.10, 6.5.6, 6.5.7, 6.5.8, 6.5.9, 6.5.10, 6.5.11, 6.5.12, 6.5.13, 6.5.14, 6.5.16, 6.5.18. |