Ironbark and spotted gum ridges

Landform	Steep hills and mountains.
Woody vegetation	Eucalypt open forest dominated by narrow-leaved ironbark / grey ironbark and/or spotted gum with some stringybark, box, grey gum, bloodwood. Some areas may have wattle understorey & brush box in gullies.
Expected pasture composition	** Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.*
Preferred	Black speargrass, kangaroo grass, tambookie grass.
Intermediate	Pitted bluegrass, barbed wire grass, native panic, hooky grass, couch grass*.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses, native lovegrass, windmill grass, native rat's tail grass, blady grass.
Legumes	Glycine pea, narrow-leaved indigo.
Suitable sown pastures	Not suitable for sown pastures. Legumes for dispersal include seca stylo, Wynn cassia.
Introduced weeds	Lantana, creeping lantana, giant rat's tail grass, fireweed.
Soil	Texture contrast soils of brown to dark grey loamy sands overlaying red, brown or yellow clay. (Sodosols, chromosols, rudosols - Solodics, soloths, podzolics, lithosols).
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. Solodics & soloths are 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 except soloths; solodics & soloths 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).

Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 744– 909 mm				
Pasture type	Median tree cover (TBA m2/ha) (FPC %)	Median annual pasture growth (DM kg/ha)	Safe annual utilisation pasture growth (%)	Long term carrying capacity (ha/AE)
Native species	17 TBA 41 FPC		25%	
Sown pasture	17 TBA 41 FPC		25%	

Enterprise

Breeding

Land use and management recommendations

- Suitable for grazing of native and oversown pastures. Timber reserves.
- Maintain maximum surface cover (> 90 %) at all times, in conjunction with lower utilisation rates, conservative stocking matched to seasonal forage availability and routine spelling, to minimise erosion and soil loss and maintain good land condition.
- Over-sowing of legumes should be done without disturbing soils (e.g. dispersal via livestock).
- Maintain as much timber cover as possible, especially on steeper slopes and ridges to prevent erosion.
- Generally minimise earthworks or soil disturbance, with extreme care required for highly erodible solodics, soloths to ensure highly dispersive subsoils are not disturbed or exposed.
- Burn every 4-8 years to maintain healthy grassy understorey and help control weeds and regrowth (wattles).

Land use limitations

- Rooting depth limited by hard, and saline or acid, subsoils and shallow soils over bedrock.
- Hard clay subsoils impede drainage and are prone to water logging in wet periods.
- Very susceptible to sheet, tunnel and gully 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) may occur in these communities.
- Because of location on steep hills and mountains, many areas are relatively intact and as well as habitat provide connectivity and landscape values. Lower slopes have generally been cleared or thinned for grazing.
- 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.

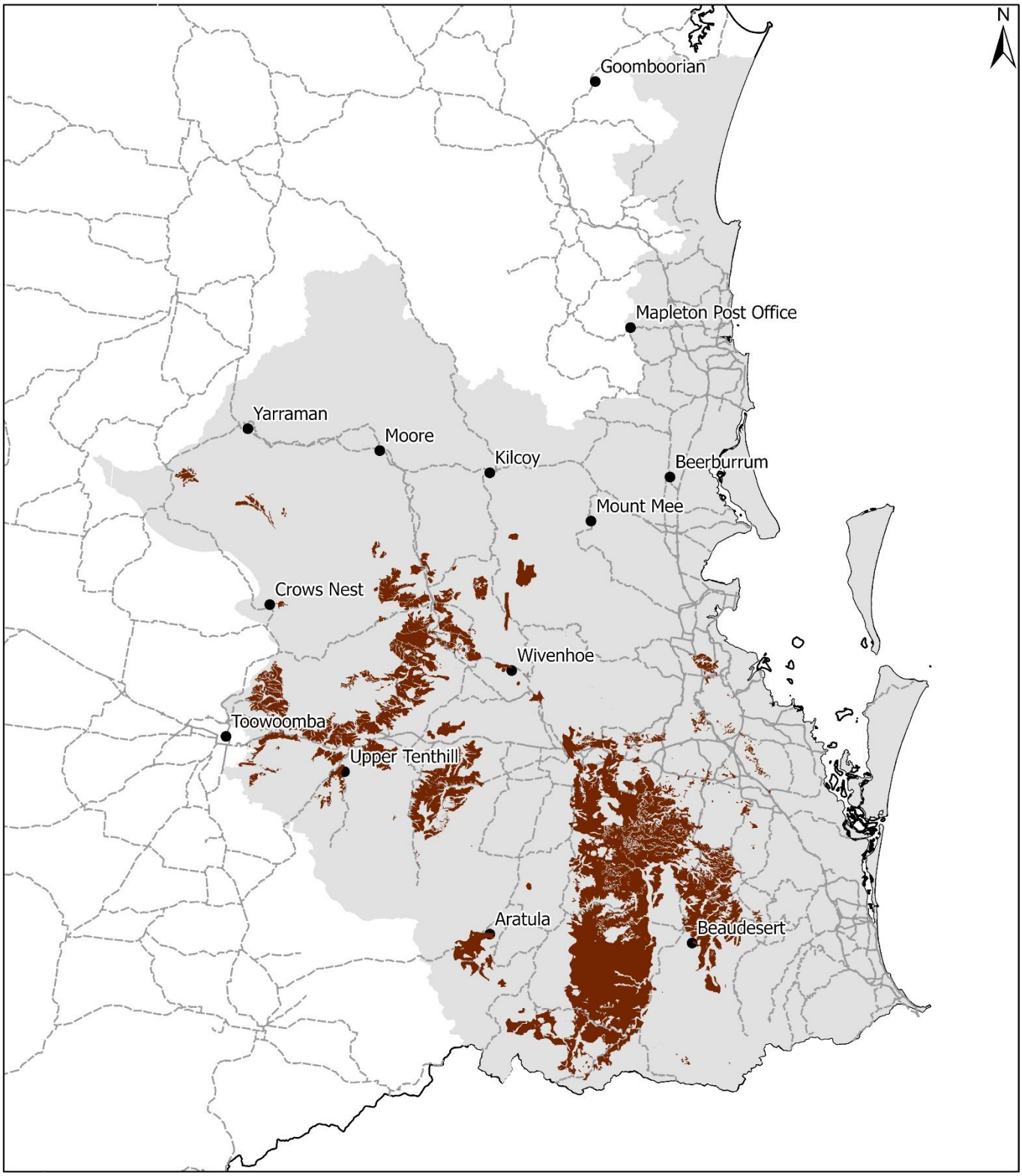
Regional Ecosystems

12.11.22, 12.11.5m, 12.12.9, 12.9-10.17b, 12.9-10.19a, 12.9-10.2.

Land resource area

Marburg Forest, 7a; Volcanic Peaks, 3a ; Metamorphic Hills,4; Northern Mixed Volcanics,3c (Noble, 1996).

SEQ07 Ironbark and spotted gum ridges



Area of land type in region: 10%
Median rainfall (region): 752–1672 mm
Average rainfall (region): 763–1766 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 32%
Median FPC: 49%
Median TBA: 21 m2/ha