Basalt

Landform	Basalt undulating plains, rolling hills and plateaux.
Woody vegetation	Ironbarks, bloodwoods, open woodland characterised by whitewood, ghost gum, coolibah and bauhinia.
Expected pasture composition	** Denotes non-native species*
Preferred	Black speargrass, Queensland bluegrass, kangaroo grass, forest bluegrass, desert bluegrass, plume sorghum.
Intermediate	Pitted bluegrass, golden beard grass, Indian couch*, white grass, canegrass, giant speargrass.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses (eg: feathertop, white speargrass)
Annual grasses	Native couch, hairy armgrass, button grass, weeping lovegrass.
Common forbs	Rattlepods, rhynochosia, vernonia, indigofera.
Suitable sown pastures	Oversow with legumes; Shrubby stylo (e.g. Seca) (lighter soils), Caatingo stylo and Desmanthus.
Introduced weeds	Rubbervine, grader grass, stinking passionfruit, prickly acacia.

Soil	Predominantly black earths (vertisols) with minor areas of red basalt (ferrosols)
Description	***Surface:*** Self mulching black earths with potential to crack, soft (red basalt), both with varying level of basalt stones; ***Surface texture:*** medium to heavy clay; ***Sub-soil texture:*** medium to heavy clay.
Features	Little white Carbonate nodules may occur in black earths. Presence of basalt stones varies from sparse to almost complete boulder coverage.
Water availability	Red Basalt: moderate water holding capacity with medium to rapid internal drainage. Black Earths: moderate to very high water holding capacity with moderate to slow internal drainage.
Rooting depth	Shallow to moderate.
Infiltration	Moderate to high.
Fertility	Moderate to high. Tendency to be low in salt and sulphur.
Chloride	Low to very low.
Sodium	Non-sodic.
pH	Alkaline (black earths): neutral to slightly acidic (red basalt/ferrosols).
Utilisation	20%
Enterprise	Breeding and fattening.
Land use and management recommendations	• Use combination of control methods (fire, chemical, mechanical and biological) as management tool to control woody weeds • Maintenance of ground cover to minimise shrub invasion and wind and water (gully) erosion.
Land use limitations	• Timber thickening can limit productivity. • Basalt stone cover affects infrastructure development eg: fences, roads, stock water.
Conservation features and related management	• Subject to high grazing pressure. • Subject to weed infestation by rubbervine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora)* and grader grass (*Themeda quadrivalvis*) and invasive exotic weed species such as mimosa (*Acacia farnesiana*) that may change the community to a tall open shrubland.
Regional ecosystems	1.12.5, 9.3.11, 9.8.13, 9.8.1a, 9.8.5a-b, 9.8.9.
Land Systems	Rosella (59), Boonderoo (60) (Perry 1964), Land zone F (Fox *et al* 2001)