

Rough spinifex hills



Landform

Rugged mountains, rocky plateaus and high plains, and hilly country.

Woody vegetation

Sparse low-woodland of snappy gum with scattered Cloncurrybox, western bloodwood, winged nut tree, turpentine, wattles and cassias.

Expected pasture composition

** Denotes non-native species*

Preferred

Soft spinifex, Cloncurry buffel grass*.

Intermediate

Bottlewashers, wanderrie grasses, hard spinifex, five-minute grass.

Non-preferred

Wiregrasses.

Annual grasses

Native couch, small burr grass, Australian dropseed, fire grass, slender wanderrie grass.

Common forbs

Gidgee burrs, foxtails, sidas, red spinach.

Suitable sown pastures

Not suitable for sown pastures.

Introduced weeds

Kapok bush.

Soil	Skeletal and rock outcrops poorly drained deeper soils along drainagelines.
Description	Surface: Massive with varying stone cover; Surface texture: sandy loam to sandy clay loam; Sub-soil texture: clay
Features	Deeper soils occur along drainage lines. Soils drain poorly at depth. Surface soil tends to seal. Generally, shallow soils less than 30cm are frequently stony and occur on steeper slopes.
Water availability	Very low to low.
Rooting depth	Low.
Infiltration	High on the steeper country until surface wets up after 10-15 mm of rain. On the deeper soils along drainage lines, light rain will be required to allow water to infiltrate down to the deeper clays once profile is wet, little through drainage is likely to occur, rest will run off.
Fertility	Low.
Salinity	Low, unknown at depth along the drainage lines.
Sodicity	Low, unknown at depth along the drainage lines.
pH	Neutral to acidic.
Utilisation	15%
Enterprise	Breeding.
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of perennial pastures is required to allow infiltration in the deeper soils. • Maintenance of ground cover to minimise shrub invasion and erosion. • Mosaic burning for wildfire control, turpentine management and to improve access and grazing value of spinifex.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steepness of slope may limit available grazing areas. • Steepness of slope and shallow stony soils limit cultivation opportunities. • Turpentine thickening can limit productivity. • Historic mining has potential to impact water quality.
Conservation features and related management	
Regional ecosystems	1.11.6, 1.11.8, 1.11.9, 1.12.3a, 1.7.1a, 1.7.7a, 1.9.10, 1.9.11a, 1.9.11c, 1.9.12, 1.9.13, 1.9.14, 1.9.4b-c, 2.3.20b, 2.3.37, 2.5.4, 2.5.9, 4.9.12x4a.
Land systems	Kuridala (18), Argylla (8) Merlin (13) (Perry 1964)