

Land condition in the Mitchell grasslands

Open Downs land type

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A CONDITION (GOOD) HAS THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS:

- A Mitchell grass tussock every 0.8–1.2 m (high plant density)
- Pasture with a mix of other plants—generally of high grazing quality
- Maximum pasture growth and response to rain
- Rated at 100% of the long-term carrying capacity
- No weed infestations
- No erosion
- Good soil surface condition
- Generally good ground cover (less than 30% bare ground)



B CONDITION (FAIR) HAS THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS:

- A Mitchell grass tussock every 2–3 m (moderate plant density)
- Pasture with a mix of less-favoured or annual plants
- Pasture growth and response to rain reduced by 25%
- Rated at 75-80% of the long-term carrying capacity
- May have some weeds
- May have some signs of erosion
- Generally good soil surface condition
- Generally good to moderate ground cover (30-60% bare ground by the end of the dry season)



C CONDITION (POOR) HAS THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS:

- A Mitchell grass tussock every 20–30 m (low plant density)
- Pasture dominated by less-favoured, unpalatable or annual plants
- Pasture growth and response to rain reduced by 55%
- Rated at 45% of the long-term carrying capacity
- May have weed infestations
- May have obvious signs of past erosion and/or declining soil surface condition
- Generally moderate to poor ground cover (often more than 60% bare ground at the end of the dry season)



D CONDITION (DEGRADED) HAS THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS:

- Almost no Mitchell grass tussocks
- Pasture based on less-favoured, unpalatable or annual plants with little to no Mitchell grass
- Pasture growth and response to rain reduced by 75%
- Rated at 25% of the long-term carrying capacity
- Will often have weed infestations
- Will often have obvious signs of erosion or scalding, resulting in hostile environments for plant growth
- Moderate to poor ground cover (generally more than 60% bare ground by the end of the dry season)

