

Box flats



| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Landform | Alluvial plains. |
| Woody vegetation | Poplar box woodland with Moreton Bay ash, occasional silver-leaved ironbark, bauhinia, bloodwood and Queensland blue gum. Often an understorey of sally wattle. <i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i> |
| Expected pasture composition | |
| Preferred | Black speargrass, cotton panic, forest bluegrass, kangaroo grass. |
| Intermediate | Curly windmill grass, summer grass. |
| Non-preferred | Feathertop wiregrass, erect kerosene grass. |
| Annual grasses | Comet grass. |
| Common forbs | Flannel weeds (non-preferred). |
| Suitable sown pastures | Buffel grass, creeping bluegrass, digit grass, butterfly pea (>90 cm), shrubby stylo, Caribbean stylo, Caatinga stylo. |
| Introduced weeds | Parkinsonia, mother-of-millions, harrisia cactus. |
| Soil | Sandy surfaced brown (occasionally grey) texture contrast soil (sodosol). |
| Description | Surface: Firm to hard-setting; Surface texture: sandy, silty or loamy; Subsoil texture: medium clay to heavy clay. |
| Water availability | Low to moderate. |
| Rooting depth | 0.6 to 0.9 m. |
| Fertility | Low total nitrogen; low to moderate phosphorus. |
| Salinity | Non-saline |

Sodicity

High (below 0.30–0.6 m).

pH

Alkaline

Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)

| Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------|
| Median annual rainfall 521 – 755 mm | | | | |
| Pasture type | Median tree cover (TBA m ² /ha) (FPC %) | Median annual pasture growth (DM kg/ha) | Safe annual utilisation pasture growth (%) | LTCC (ha/AE) |
| Native species | 0 TBA/FPC | 2790 - 3950 | 25% | 3.0 – 4.2 |
| | 11 TBA 27 FPC | 750 - 1960 | 25% | 6.0 – 16 |

Enterprise

Growing and finishing.

Land use and management recommendations

- Exposed sodic B horizon on roads and dams will erode.
- Goes to bulldust when disturbed.
- Will deteriorate to clay pans with heavy grazing.
- When mixed with other less fertile land types in a paddock, alluvial areas are at risk of overgrazing.
- Land condition should be monitored carefully and management adjusted if necessary to reduce grazing pressure in these areas.

Land use limitations

- Dispersive subsoil.

Conservation features and related management

- When these areas are in good condition they provide habitat for a wide range of macropods (sometimes up to eight species can be seen), arboreal marsupials, birds and reptiles. A prolific number of reptiles can be found if there is a good litter cover.
- In a healthy state these woodlands have good nutrient cycling via litter decomposition and soil microbial activity keeping the soil, pasture and trees healthy and productive.
- Ideally these flats should be spelled in the wet summer months to allow native pastures to re-seed.
- As these areas are the ‘cream’ for both wildlife and grazing production a balance should be sought, a recommended 100 m buffer along creeks and rivers fenced and more lightly grazed.

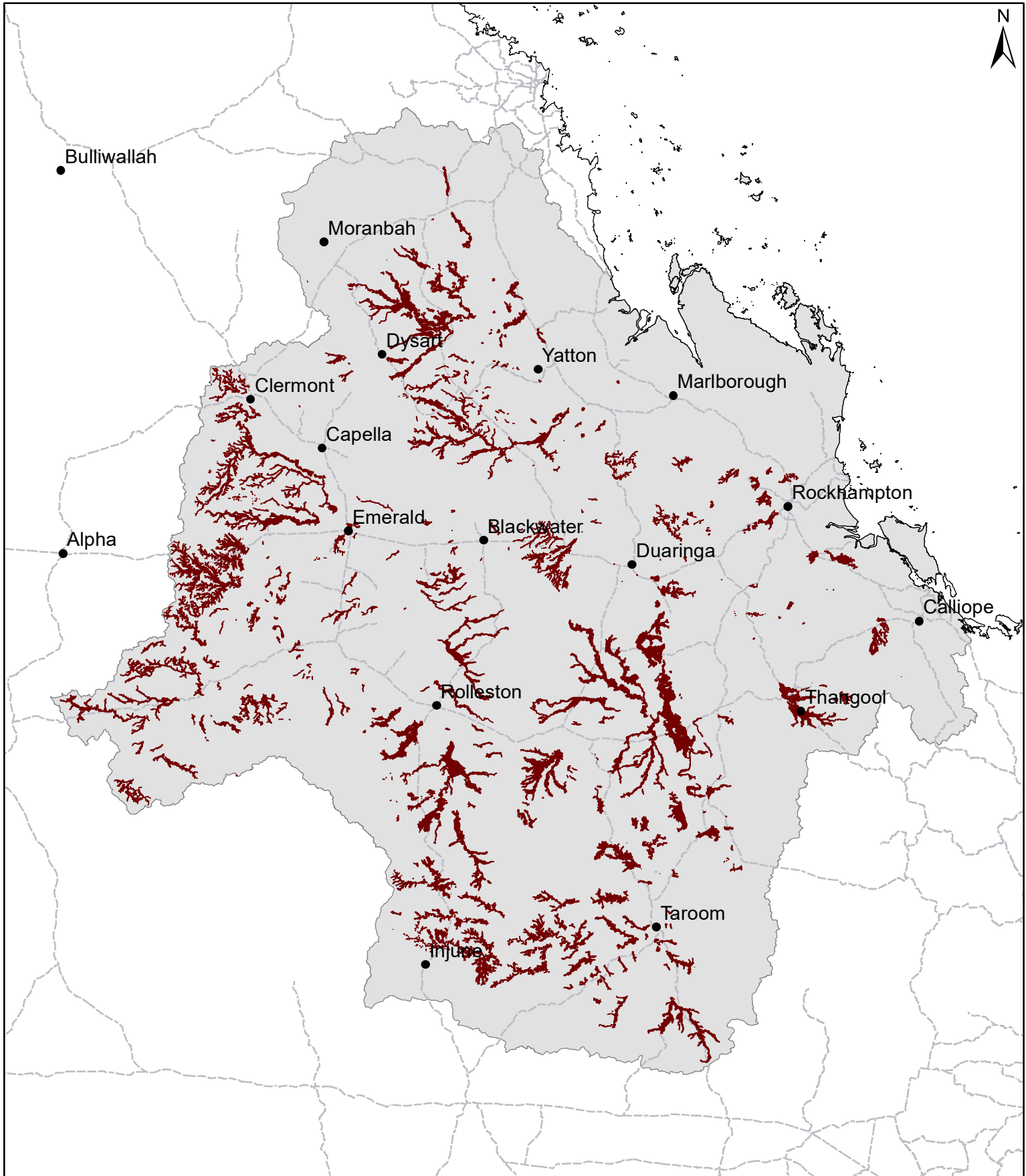
Regional Ecosystems

11.3.2, 11.3.2a-b, 11.3.7.

Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations

Land units (Gunn *et al* 1967; Story *et al* 1967) Alpha 2, Funnel 2, Connors 2; Soil associations (Burgess 2003; Shields *et al* 1993) Booroondarra, Parrot, Roper, Stephens Fletcher.

FT03 Box flats



Area of land type in region: 4%
Median rainfall (region): 494 – 830 mm
Average rainfall (region): 560 – 869 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 44%
Median FPC: 27%
Median TBA: 11 m²/ha



**Queensland
Government**