

# Brigalow with melonholes



<b>Landform</b>	Undulating plains, lowlands, downs, low tablelands and hills.
<b>Woody vegetation</b>	Brigalow scrub with understorey of false sandalwood, currant bush, and occasionally yellowwood.
<b>Expected pasture composition</b>	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Queensland bluegrass, forest bluegrass, desert bluegrass, silky browntop, bull and curly Mitchell grass.
Intermediate	Native millet, shot grass, Warrego grass, tall chloris.
Non-preferred	Fairy grass, umbrella cane grass, wiregrass.
Annual grasses	Button grass, weeping lovegrass.
Common forbs	Saltbushes.
<b>Suitable sown pastures</b>	Buffel grass, Bambatsi panic, purple pigeon grass, Angleton grass, leucaena (>120 cm), butterfly pea (>90 cm), Desmanthus, Caatinga stylo, Caribbean stylo.
<b>Introduced weeds</b>	Parthenium, mother-of-millions.
<b>Soil</b>	Gilgaied, brown or grey cracking clay (brown or grey vertosol).
Description	<b>Surface:</b> Surface mulching to hard-setting (variable between mounds and depressions); <b>Surface texture:</b> medium to heavy clay; <b>Subsoil texture:</b> medium to heavy clay.
Water availability	Low to moderate.
Rooting depth	Shallow
Fertility	Low to moderate total nitrogen; low to moderate phosphorus.

Salinity High (below 30 cm).  
 Sodicty Strongly sodic (below 30 cm).  
 pH Strongly 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 – 653 mm				
Pasture type	Median tree cover  (TBA m <sup>2</sup> /ha) (FPC %)	Median annual pasture growth  (DM kg/ha)	Safe annual utilisation pasture growth  (%)	LTCC  (ha/AE)
Native species	0 TBA/FPC	3230 - 3960	30%	2.5 - 3.0
	9 TBA 23 FPC	1670 - 2340	30%	4.2 – 5.8
Buffel		4770 - 5450	35%	1.5 – 1.8

**Enterprise**

**Land use and management recommendations**

**Land use limitations**

**Conservation features and related management**

Finishing

- Not suited to cultivation.
- Tunnelling problems through dam walls.
- Melonholes
- Regrowth
- As there are very few areas of this land type remaining in the Fitzroy Basin they are of high value. It is an ecosystem where the higher drier parts of the melonholes are heavily grazed, and depressions, which become water-logged in the wet provide for a unique and very specific suite of plants.
- In its natural state this land type offers limited grazing value but a high ecological value.
- An endangered plant *Solanum adonaphyrum* is associated with these melonholes, as is the poorly recorded plant *S. elacaphyllum*.
- Brigalow melonholes can be prolific breeding sites for frogs, and are an attractant for species such as the vulnerable ornamental snake (*Denisonia maculata*) that feeds almost exclusively on frogs.
- These areas are very readily degraded because of their uneven wetness and plant composition.
- The ideal scenario for conservation would be to fence these unique areas off from grazing.

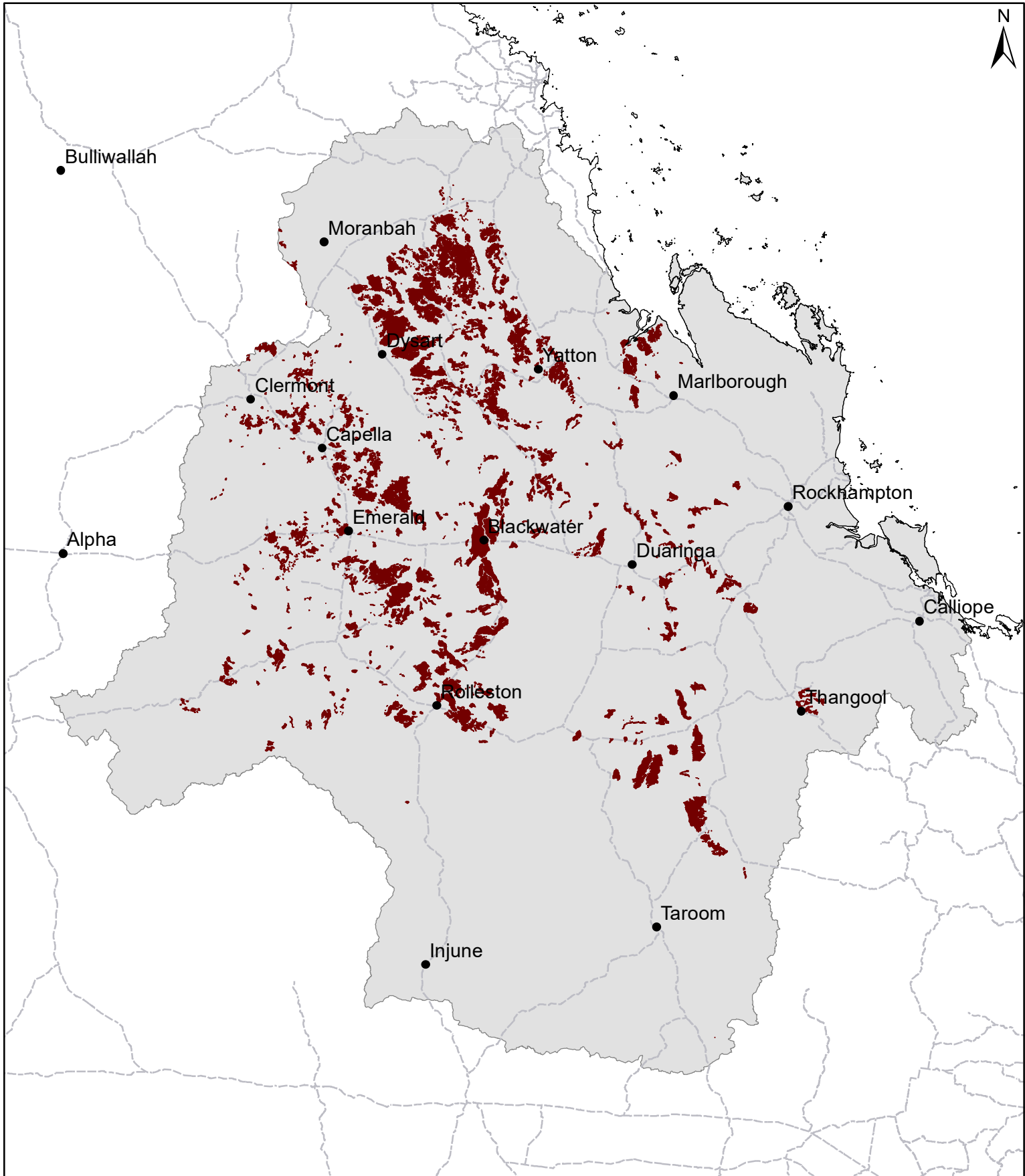
**Regional Ecosystems**

11.4.3, 11.4.3a, 11.4.9, 11.4.9a-b.

**Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations**

Land units (Gunn *et al* 1967; Story *et al* 1967) Islay 4, Somerby 5, Humboldt 5; Agricultural Management Units (Thwaites and Maher 1993) Lonesome; Soil associations (Burgess 2003; Shields *et al* 1993) Turon, Warwick, Pomegranate melonhole phase, Norwich, Knockane, Picardy surface seal phase, Nungaroo, Midden.

# FT05 Brigalow with melonholes



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: 17%  
Median FPC: 23%  
Median TBA: 9 m<sup>2</sup>/ha



**Queensland**  
Government