

Brigalow softwood scrub



Landform

Undulating scrub plains.

Woody vegetation

Brigalow and belah scrub with wilga (decreasing frequency towards the north) or yellowwood (increasing frequency towards the north); and occasional bottle tree, bonewood, Crow's ash, ooline, bauhinia, myall and poplar box. An understorey of currant bush, false sandalwood and limebush.

Expected pasture composition

* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.

Preferred

Desert bluegrass, forest bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass, curly and bull Mitchell grass, kangaroo grass.

Intermediate

Brigalow grass, shot grass, curly windmill grass.

Non-preferred

Fairy grass, wiregrasses.

Common forbs

Saltbushes (intermediate). Roly poly burr, galvanised burr (non-preferred).

Suitable sown pastures

Buffel grass, Gatton panic, Green panic, creeping bluegrass, Desmanthus, butterfly pea, Caatinga stylo, shrubby stylo, Caribbean stylo.

Introduced weeds

Parthenium, velvety tree pear.

Soil

Dark brown and grey-brown cracking clay soils (vertisols) or deep, dark brown gradational or uniform soils (dermosols).

Description

Surface: Strong and fine self-mulching; **Surface texture:** light to medium clay; **Subsoil texture:** medium to heavy clay.

Water availability

Moderate to high.

Rooting depth

Deep (below 90 cm).

Fertility

Moderate total nitrogen; moderate phosphorus.

Salinity

Moderate (below 40–90 cm, depending on location).

Sodicity
pH

Low (below 60 cm).

Neutral to 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 ² /ha) (FPC %)	Median annual pasture growth (DM kg/ha)	Safe annual utilisation pasture growth (%)	LTCC (ha/AE)
Native species	0 TBA/FPC	3690 - 4620	30%	2.1 – 2.6
	11 TBA 27 FPC	1590 - 2630	30%	3.7 – 6.1
Buffel		5810 - 7220	35%	1.2 – 1.4

Enterprise

Finishing

Land use and management recommendations

- Suitable for cropping on soils deeper than 45 cm and on slopes less than 4%.
- Suitable for pasture improvement.

Land use limitations

- Regrowth
- Salinity can affect rooting depth.
- Moderate erosion hazard when cultivated.
- Surface sealing soils.
- Waterlogging.

Conservation features and related management

- This land type is very rare in the Fitzroy landscape and the remaining patches of scrub are critical to migratory birds such as yellow robins, grey fantails, varied trillers and rufous fantails.
- These scrubs are important habitat for bush turkeys and black-striped wallabies in the dry interior.
- Softwood scrubs have a wide range of plant species at their inland limits of distribution.
- This land type is very susceptible to fire and therefore a firebreak around its periphery is warranted, especially if adjoining a dense stand of buffel grass. Burning around the scrub margins should only be undertaken when fuels are not completely cured or at the coolest time of the year. Burning should be conducted from the scrub margins out into surrounding vegetation, to reduce fire intensity at the scrub interface.
- Velvety tree pear can be a problem in this land type.
- Seasonal light grazing of these areas is recommended to knock down the buffel grass but keep the native forbs and shrubs.

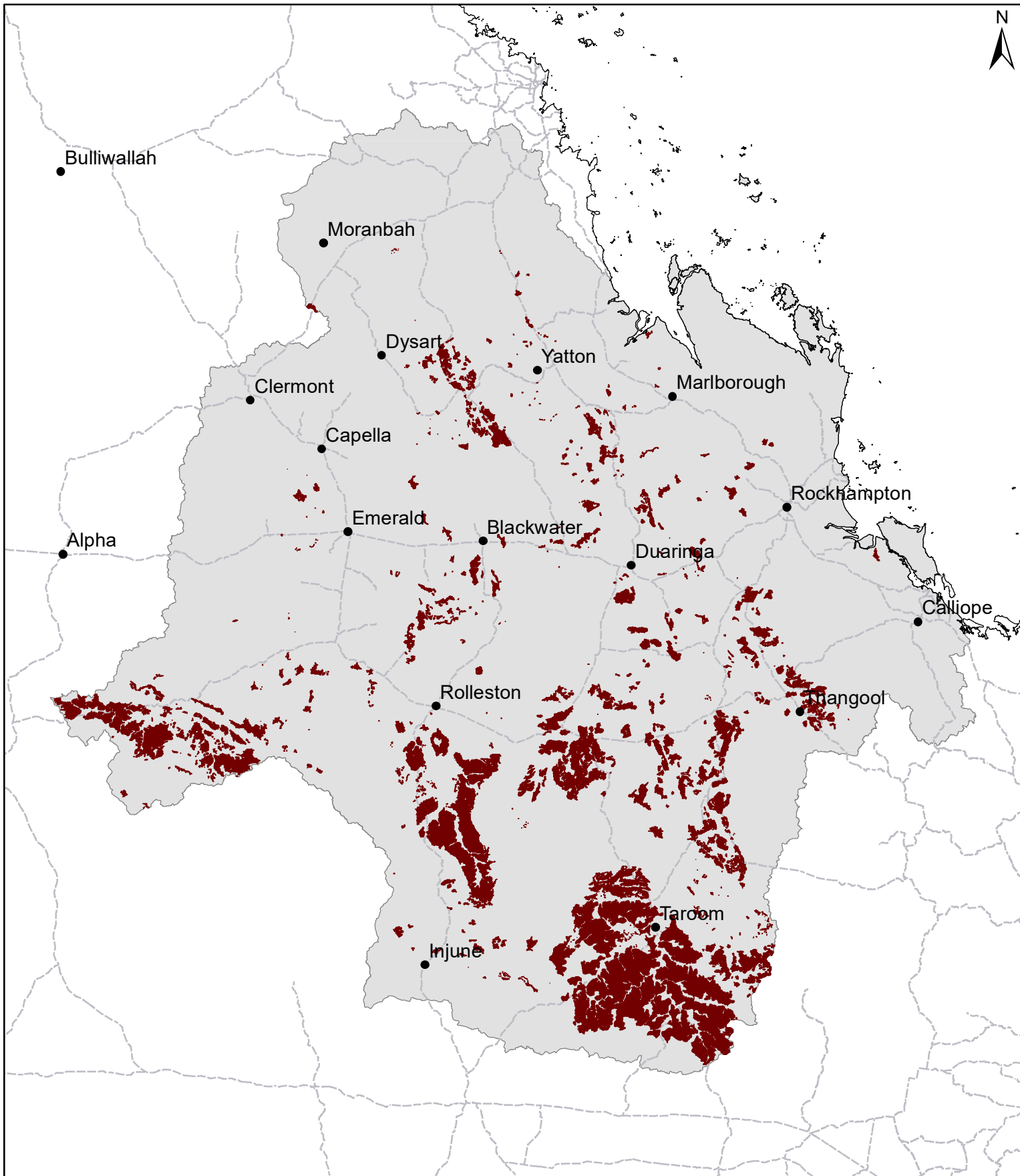
Regional Ecosystems

11.3.1b, 11.5.16, 11.9.5, 11.9.5a, 11.5.15, 11.11.13, 11.11.14, 11.12.21.

Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations

Land units (Gunn *et al* 1967; Story *et al* 1967) Kareela 3 & 4, Cungelella 2 & 3; Agricultural Management Units (Thwaites and Maher 1993) Picardy; Soil associations (Burgess 2003; Shields *et al* 1993) Turon, Warwick, Norwich, Knockane, Picardy

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Area of land type in region: 7%
Median rainfall (region): 494 – 830 mm
Average rainfall (region): 560 – 869 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 18%
Median FPC: 27%
Median TBA: 11 m²/ha



**Queensland
Government**