

Softwood scrub



Landform	Undulating plains.
Woody vegetation	Bonewood scrub with emergent wilga, bottle tree, ooline, bauhinia and Crow's ash. Understorey of croton, holly bush and currant bush.
Expected pasture composition	<i>In an uncleared state, there is little grass.</i> * Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Buffel grass*
Intermediate	Brigalow grass
Non-preferred	Lovegrasses, speargrass.
Annual grasses	
Suitable sown pastures	Buffel grass, Gatton panic, Green panic, Angleton grass, digit grass, tall finger grass, sabi grass, creeping bluegrass, Rhodes grass, butterfly pea, leucaena, Caatinga stylo, Desmanthus.
Introduced weeds	Parthenium, lantana, rubbervine.
Soil	Brown clays (vertosols, chromosols) or deep red clays (ferrosol).
Description	Surface: Weak self-mulching, scattering of stone (brown clays), or friable (red clays); Surface texture: light to medium clay (brown clays), clay loam to light clay (red clays); Subsoil texture: medium clay.
Water availability	Moderate (red clays) to high (brown clays).
Rooting depth	Between 30 to 90 cm (brown clays) to >1 m (red clays).
Fertility	Moderate total nitrogen; moderate phosphorus.
Salinity	Nil (red clays), low (brown clays).
Sodicity	Non-sodic (red clays), non-sodic (below 30 cm) (brown clays).
pH	Strongly alkaline (brown clays); slightly acid surface, acid subsoil (red clays).

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	3460 - 4280	30% (sown)	2.3 – 2.8
	16 TBA 39 FPC	1540 - 2620	30% (sown)	6.3 – 3.7
Buffel		5090 - 6480	35%	1.3 – 1.6

Enterprise

Finishing

Land use and management recommendations

- Most areas of softwood scrub have been cleared and established to improved pastures.
- Retain trees on beds and banks of watercourses.
- Maintain vegetation belts for wildlife habitats and corridors.
- Lantana and rubbervine need to be controlled using a combination of herbicides and fire.

Land use limitations

- Regrowth of some species.
- Surface sealing soils.

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 grey fantails, varied trillers and rufous fantails. Sometimes used by fruit-eating pigeons and honeyeaters.
- These scrubs provide important habitat and refuge areas for bush turkeys and black-striped wallabies in the dry interior.
- Due to the friable red soils, when there is a good litter cover, a good diversity of reptiles can be found such as ornamental snakes, blind snakes and carpet pythons.
- 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 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.
- It may be necessary to manage overgrazing by wallabies through the use of netting or electric fences (with specifications that prevent harm to other animals).

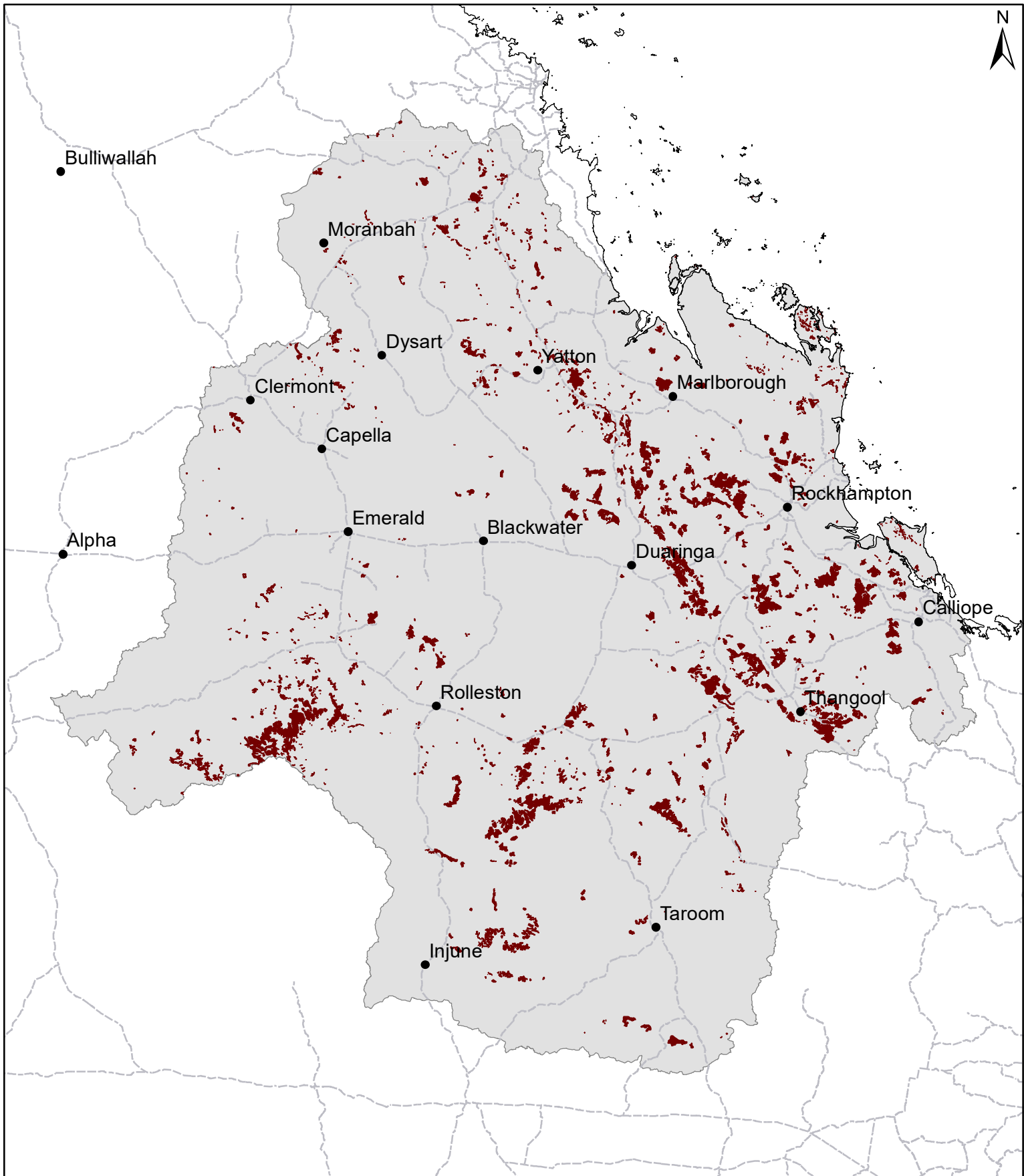
Regional ecosystems

8.2.5, 8.3.1b, 8.12.3c, 8.12.11c, 8.12.16, 8.12.17b, 11.3.11, 11.4.1, 11.8.6, 11.8.13, 11.9.4, 11.9.4a, 11.9.8, 11.10.4d, 11.10.8, 11.11.5, 11.11.5a, 11.11.18, 11.11.21, 11.12.4, 11.12.4a, 11.12.12, 12.11.4.

Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations

Land units (Gunn *et al* 1967; Story *et al* 1967) Cungelella 2 & 3, Kareela 2, Wharton 2, Bedourie 3, Racecourse 1; AMU (DPI 1993) Duckponds, Glen Idol.

FT29 Softwood scrub



Area of land type in region: 3%
Median rainfall (region): 494 – 830 mm
Average rainfall (region): 560 – 869 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 46%
Median FPC: 39%
Median TBA: 16 m2/ha



Queensland
Government