

Blue gum on cracking clay



Landform	Broad, low sloping floodplains on valley floors.
Woody vegetation	Tall open forest of Queensland blue gum and Moreton Bay ash with occasional broad-leaved apple, silver-leaved ironbark, rough-barked apple and broad-leaved ironbark. Understorey usually absent.
Expected pasture composition	<i>Southern black speargrass pastures.</i> * Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Black speargrass, forest bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass, scentedtop, hairy panic.
Intermediate	Spring grass, liverseed (urochloa) grass, bamboo speargrass, umbrella grass.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses (e.g. dark), slender chloris.
Legumes	Woolly glycine, rhynchosia, glycine pea, creeping tick trefoil.
Annual grasses	Small burr grass.
Suitable sown pastures	Creeping bluegrass, Rhodes grass, Angleton grass, leucaena, butterfly pea, Caatinga stylo, Desmanthus.
Introduced weeds	Chinese elm, broad-leaved pepper tree, cat's claw creeper.
Soil	Deep (>150 cm) dark cracking clays (black earths, vertosols), brown sandy loams (earthy sands, tenosols) and sandy clay loams (prairie, dermosols).
Description	Surface: Friable, sandy; weakly self-mulching, or hard-setting; Surface texture: sandy clay loam to medium clay; Subsoil texture: sandy loam to light medium clay to medium heavy clay.
Features	Some calcium carbonate and iron/manganese nodules and segregations may be present in prairie and black earths subsoils. Surface crust forms after rain on prairie soils.
Water availability	Low (earthy sands) to moderate (prairie) to high (black earths) PAWC.
Drainage	Rapidly (earthy sands), well (prairie) and moderately (black earths) drained.
Rooting depth	Effective rooting depth >100 cm (earthy sands, prairie, black earths).

Fertility	Moderate; low nitrogen; variable (earthy sands), high (prairie), very high (black earths) phosphorus; variable (earthy sands), moderate to high potassium.
Salinity	Non-saline (earthy sands) or very low (prairie) to low (black earths) surface salinity; moderate below 80–100 cm (black earths).
Sodicity	Non-sodic at the surface; slightly sodic or sodic below 80 cm (black earths) to strongly sodic subsoils (prairie).
pH	Slightly acidic (pH 6.0) at surface; increasing to very slightly (prairie) or moderately alkaline (black earths) at depth. Neutral to alkaline throughout (earthy sands).

Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 663 – 754 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	4480 - 4680	30%	2.1 – 2.2
	11 TBA 27 FPC	2350 - 3060	30%	3.2 – 4.1

Enterprise

Land use and management recommendations

Fattening

- Suitable for grazing of native and improved pastures and cropping (not if soil <45 cm).
- Use of minimum tillage and maintenance of effective ground cover (>50%) and conservative stocking practices (spelling pastures, flexible stocking rates) are important to retain organic matter, maintain soil structure, reduce runoff and minimise risk of erosion.
- Retain timber on ridges, in drainage lines and at changes of slope at base of hills to lower watertable and control salinity. Use electric fences rather than fixed fences on flood prone areas.
- Burning is recommended every 3–4 years to control regrowth (ironbarks, wattles) and to enhance preferred pasture species.
- Prone to flooding, streambank erosion and waterlogging. Moderate to high erosion hazard.
- Low moisture availability on rapidly drained soils; poor internal drainage on lower slopes of black earth soils; and hard-setting, surface sealing clays.
- While blue gum is common, few extensive, intact remnants remain. The large hollows often found in large, old blue gums are important nesting sites and habitat for birds and marsupials.
- Many of the freshwater wetlands in the inland Burnett are associated with this land type.
- Blue gum regenerates readily in the absence of grazing and regular fire.
- Regrowth can be encouraged by allowing remnants to expand and establish connection with other areas of remnant vegetation.
- Regrowth has hardwood potential.

Land use limitations

Conservation features and related management

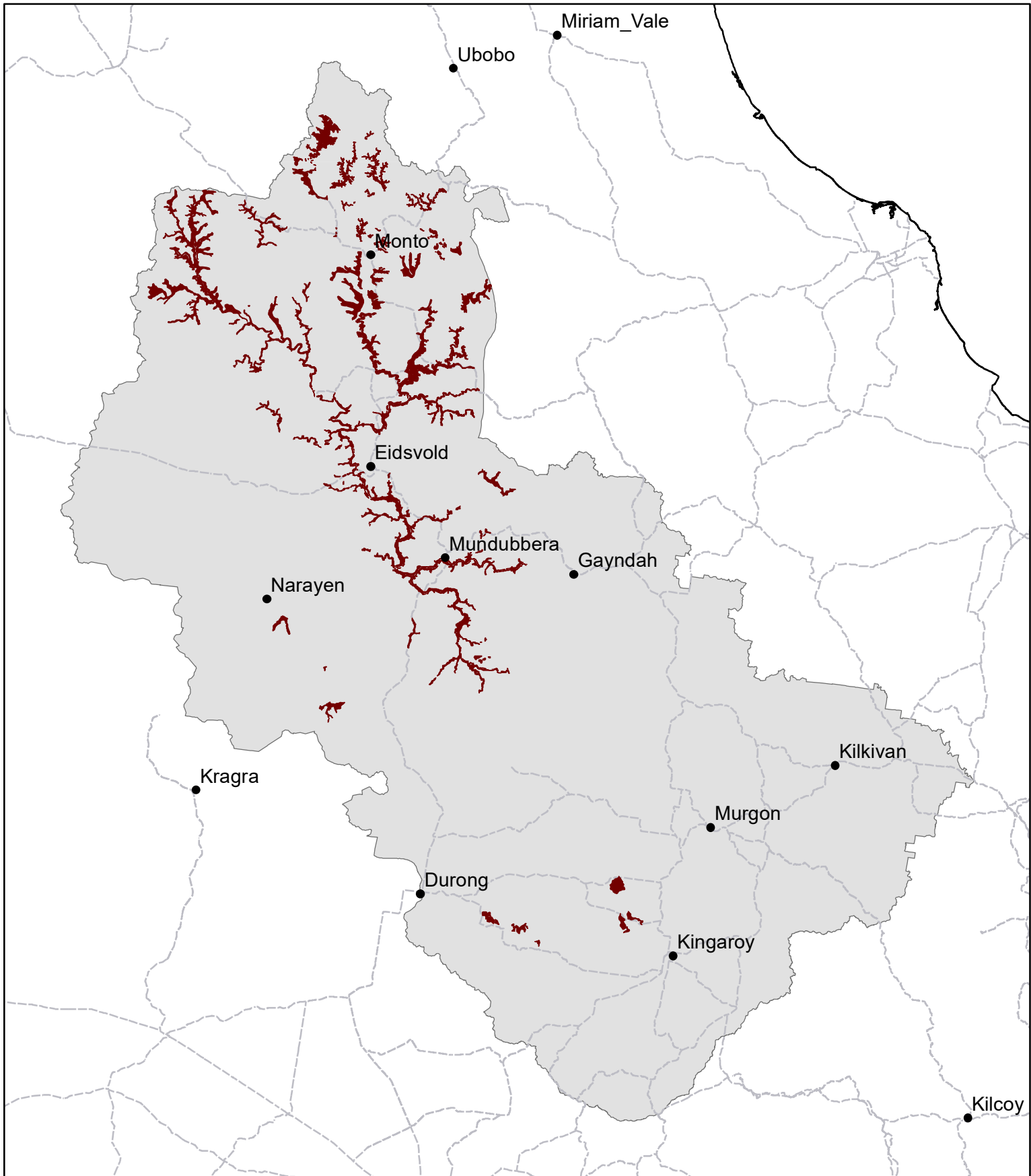
Regional Ecosystems

Land resource area

11.3.4, 11.3.27a-c.

Floodplains.

IB02 Blue gum on cracking clay



Area of land type in region: 2%
Median rainfall (region): 529 – 1018 mm
Average rainfall (region): 560 – 1070 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 43%
Median FPC: 27%
Median TBA: 11 m²/ha



Queensland
Government