

# Ironbark and bloodwood on non-cracking clay



<b>Landform</b>	Undulating rises and mid to lower slopes of low hills and ranges.
<b>Woody vegetation</b>	Woodlands of silver-leaved and narrow-leaved ironbarks and variable-barked bloodwood with occasional Queensland blue gum and areas of softwood scrub. Understorey usually absent.
<b>Expected pasture composition</b>	<i>Southern black speargrass pasture.</i> * Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Black speargrass, forest bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass, scentedtop, paspalum*.
Intermediate	Pitted bluegrass, Indian couch*, barbwire grass, silkyheads.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses (dark, erect kerosene), slender chloris, woodland lovegrass.
Legumes	Woolly glycine, rhynchosia, emu foot, creeping tick trefoil.
<b>Suitable sown pastures</b>	Creeping bluegrass, Rhodes grass, Gatton panic, Caatinga stylo, Desmanthus.
<b>Introduced weeds</b>	Creeping lantana.
<b>Soil</b>	Dark, brown and red non-cracking clays.
Description	<b>Surface:</b> Hard-setting to weakly self-mulching; <b>Surface texture:</b> light clay; <b>Subsoil texture:</b> medium heavy clay.
Features	Weathered bedrock at depths of 65 cm (prairie). Small amounts of cobble but generally stone free.
Water availability	Low to moderate PAWC.
Drainage	Moderate
Rooting depth	Effective rooting depth variable 60–90 cm.
Fertility	Moderate to high; low to moderate nitrogen, very low to low phosphorus, moderate to high potassium.

Salinity

Very low (prairie) to moderate below 70 cm (non-cracking red clays).

Sodicity

Non-sodic (prairie). Sodic below 25 cm to strongly sodic below 70 cm (red non-cracking).

pH

Neutral soil reaction trend (pH 6.5–7.5, prairie); alkaline soil reaction trend (pH 8.5–9.0 red non-cracking subsoils).

### Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 629 – 754 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	3430 - 3810	30%	2.6 – 2.8
	9 TBA 23 FPC	2020 - 2460	30%	4.0 – 4.8

### Enterprise

Breeding and fattening.

### Land use and management recommendations

- Suitable for grazing of native and improved pastures and short term only cropping.
- 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.
- Burning is recommended every 2–3 years to control regrowth (ironbarks, wattles) and to enhance preferred pasture species.

### Land use limitations

- Cloddy surface, PAWC and rockiness may restrict cultivation and crop establishment.
- Cultivation can cause surface crusting which affects crop establishment.
- Shallow effective rooting depth due to adverse subsoils conditions or rock.
- High to very high erosion hazard, particularly prone to gully erosion where water is concentrated.

### Conservation features and related management

- This woodland is an important wildlife habitat. Mature stands with numerous tree hollows are home to possums, koalas and gliders. The rough fissured bark of the ironbarks is ideal habitat for skinks and geckoes.
- The grassy understorey provides habitat for ground fauna such as small marsupials (betongs), reptiles (frilled-neck lizards) and birds (quail) and is an important food source for the large macropods (whip-tailed wallabies, eastern grey kangaroos).
- While large areas of this land type have been thinned for grazing, reasonably sized remnants remain.
- The health of the landscape can be enhanced through appropriate fire regimes, grazing management and allowing regrowth to develop into effective wildlife corridors.

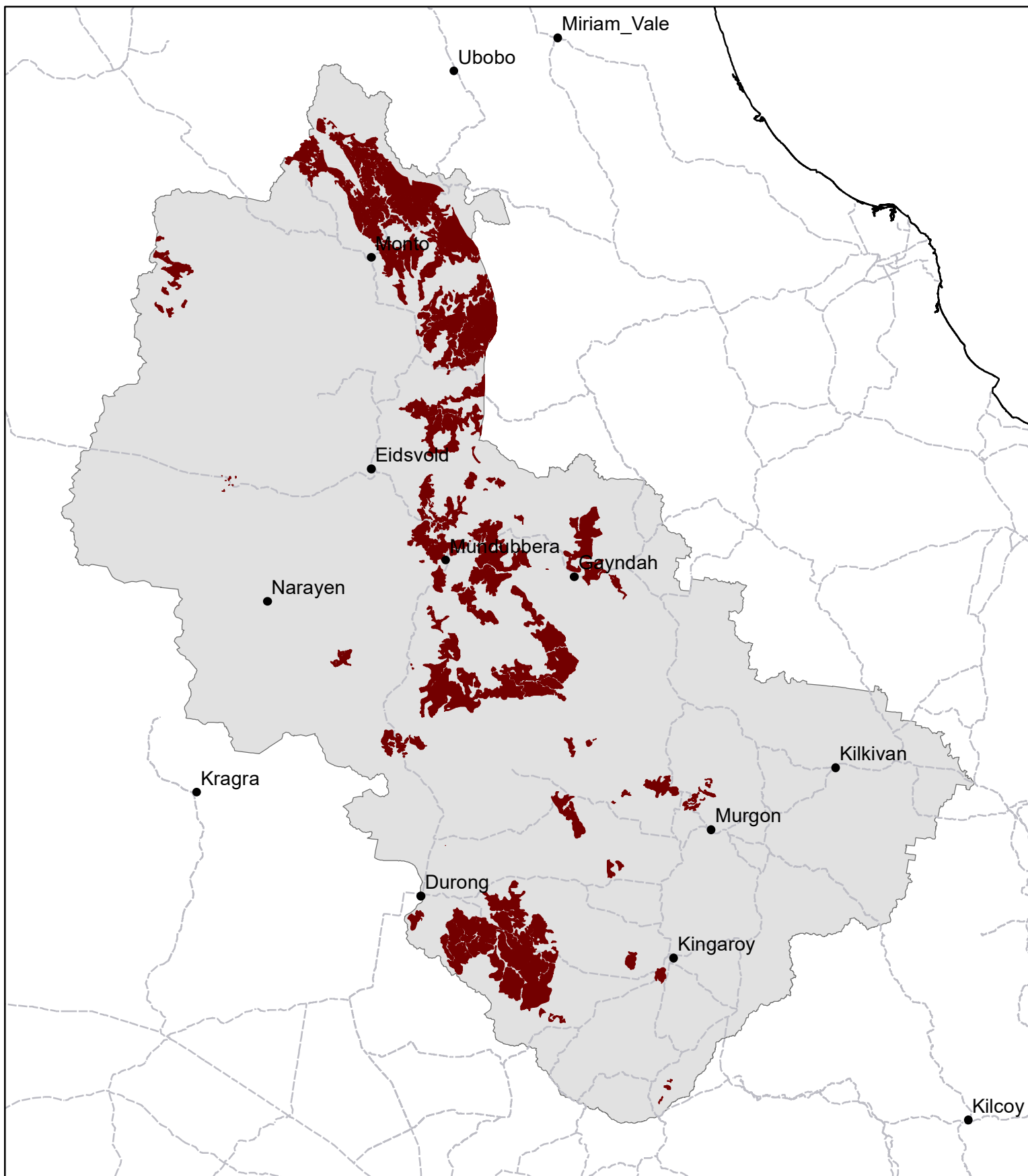
### Regional Ecosystems

11.11.4, 11.12.3, 12.9-10.8.

### Land resource area

Volcanic Uplands.

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Area of land type in region: 8%  
Median rainfall (region): 529 – 1018 mm  
Average rainfall (region): 560 – 1070 mm  
Area of land type with FPC: 63%  
Median FPC: 23%  
Median TBA: 9 m<sup>2</sup>/ha



**Queensland**  
Government