

Silver-leaved ironbark on granite



Landform	Undulating rises with broad hill crests on granite.
Woody vegetation	Open forest to woodland of silver-leaved ironbark, narrow-leaved ironbark and Queensland blue gum. Understorey of wattles and minor beefwood.
Expected pasture composition	<i>Southern black speargrass pastures.</i> * Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species
Preferred	Black speargrass, red Natal grass*, barbwire grass.
Intermediate	Pitted bluegrass grass, many-headed wiregrass, silky umbrella grass, feathertop Rhodes grass*.
Non-preferred	Dark wiregrass, reedgrass, golden beard grass.
Legumes	Rattlepods, Birdsville indigo, glycine pea.
Suitable sown pastures	Creeping bluegrass, fine stem stylo, shrubby stylo, Wynn cassia.
Introduced weeds	
Soil	Shallow to moderately deep yellow, red or brown texture contrast soils.
Description	Surface: Hard-setting; Surface texture: loamy sand to sandy clay loam; Subsoil texture: medium clay.
Features	Stone free.
Water availability	Low (yellow) to high (red) PAWC.
Drainage	Poorly drained (yellow) to moderately drained (red).
Rooting depth	Effective rooting depth 20 cm (yellow) to 60 cm (red).
Fertility	Low; low to moderate nitrogen, very low phosphorus, low to moderate to high potassium.
Salinity	Low to non-saline.

Sodicity

Non-sodic (red), strongly sodic below 50 cm (yellow).

pH

Alkaline soil reaction trend, slightly acidic at surface, increasing alkalinity (pH 6.0–7.5) upper subsoils and moderately alkaline (7.8–8.6) in lower 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 631 – 707 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	2860	30%	3.4
	10 TBA 25 FPC	1380 - 1480	30%	6.6 – 7.1

Enterprise

Breeding and stores.

Land use and management recommendations

- Suitable for grazing of native and improved pastures, short-term cropping only on red soils.
- 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 stony ridges and at changes of slope at base of hills to control erosion (particularly tunnel erosion).
- Burning is recommended every 2–3 years to control regrowth (blue gum, ironbarks, wattles) and to enhance preferred pasture species.

Land use limitations

- Shallow effective rooting depth and poor internal drainage (yellow).
- Low fertility.
- Low PAWC will restrict dryland crop growth.
- Hard-setting surface affects infiltration and cultivation.
- Small seeded crops and pasture difficult to establish due to rapid drying and sealing of sandy surface.
- Moderate erosion hazard on low to moderate slopes (red).
- Very high erosion hazard and particularly prone to tunnel erosion (yellow).

Conservation features and related management

- Older silver-leaved ironbark trees frequently have hollows favoured by brushtail possums. The deep-fissured bark provides shelter for reptiles, such as tree skinks.
- Generally the good grass cover provides shelter and food for ground dwelling animals such as wallabies and rufous bettongs.
- Trees are important in the cycling of nutrients from deeper in the soil profile.
- Patch burning of these woodlands in the late winter months is preferable.
- Mature trees can easily be burnt through at the base and therefore frequent burning can lead to loss of these important habitat trees.

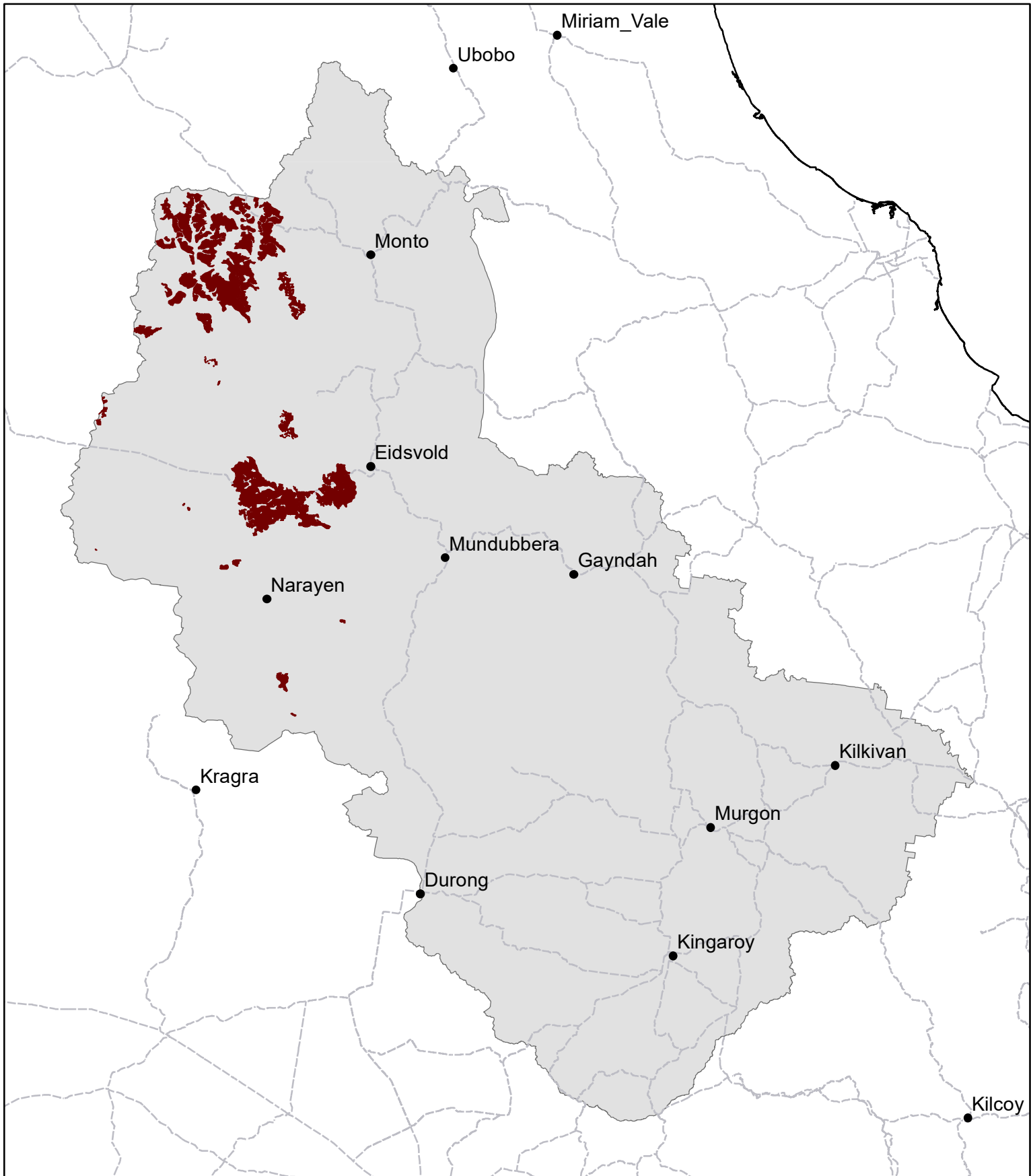
Regional Ecosystems

11.9.2.

Land resource area

Granite Hills.

IB17 Silver-leaved ironbark on granite



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: 46%
Median FPC: 25%
Median TBA: 10 m²/ha



Queensland
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