

# Hard mulga



<b>Landform</b>	Rolling hills and hard ridges with slopes of 2–8%.
<b>Woody vegetation</b>	Mulga, lancewood, ironbark and bendee.
<b>Expected pasture composition</b>	<i>* Denotes non-native “Expected Pasture Composition” species.</i>
Preferred	Mulga oats, mulga Mitchell grass, box grass, kangaroo grass.
Intermediate	Pitted bluegrass, curly windmill grass, mountain wanderrie grass.
Non-preferred	Rough speargrass, wiregrasses.
Legumes	Slender tick trefoil, native indigo, Birdsville indigo.
<b>Suitable sown pastures</b>	Not suitable for sown pastures
<b>Introduced weeds</b>	
<b>Soils</b>	Soils shallow to moderately deep (30–90 cm), stony or gravelly loamy red earths with areas of ironstone.
Description	<b>Surface:</b> Loamy hard surfaces; <b>Surface texture:</b> Sandy clay loam to clay loam; <b>Subsoil texture:</b> clay content may increase down profile to light clay; ironstone gravel common throughout profile.
Water availability	Low to medium.
Rooting depth	Shallow
Fertility	Very low (phosphorus, nitrogen, carbon).
Salinity	Very low
Sodicity	Non-sodic

pH

Acid to neutral throughout profile.

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

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 552– 558 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	1330 - 1410	15%	14 - 15
	6 TBA 15 FPC	750 - 810	15%	24 – 26

### Enterprise

Mixed sheep and cattle or adult wethers only.

### Land use and management recommendations

- Stock lightly during dry periods and post-drought to maintain ground cover.
- Any grass cover is better than none.
- Mulga fodder provides drought reserves.
- Wiregrasses often predominate in areas cleared of mulga.
- Opportunistic use of fire as management tool to control woody weeds.
- Maintenance of ground cover to minimise water and wind erosion and maximise rainfall use.
- Strip clearing is preferable to clearing of large areas to minimise erosion and degradation.

### Land use limitations

- Fragile grazing lands.
- Difficult to reclaim if degraded.
- Poor surface structure, soil acidity and stoniness limit mechanical treatment options.
- Dense stands of broad-leaved plants (mulga fern, pimelea, weir vine) may limit pasture growth, productivity and be toxic to stock.

### Conservation features and related management

- These areas provide potential habitat for rare and threatened fauna such as the pink cockatoo, woma python and yakka skink; and flora such as climbing caustic (*Euphorbia sarcostemmoides*).
- Hard mulga has been extensively cleared, and the remaining extent often has a highly modified structure and plant species composition.
- These areas can be heavily impacted by goats, which decimate the ground layer.
- Maintenance of vegetative cover is important in minimising excessive runoff and erosion of associated lands.
- Control of feral animals can help prevent degradation of the ground layer.

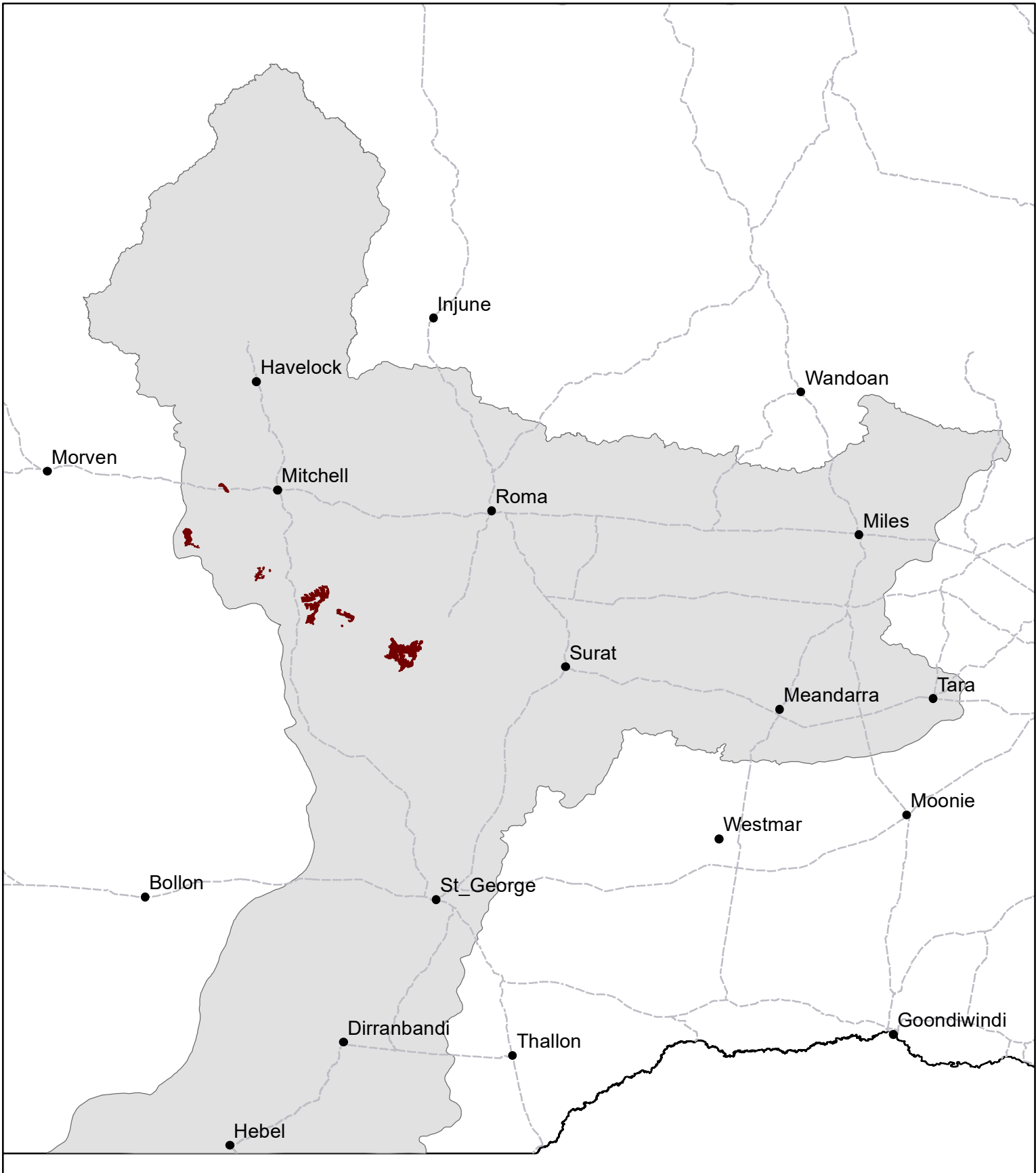
### Regional Ecosystems

6.7.1.

### Land units; Map units; Land resource areas, Soil associations

Land Units (Galloway *et al* 1974) 24; Map Units (DPI 1984) 3 (89), 43; LRA (DPI 1987) Areas of hard mulga may occur in isolated patches in 10 - Macwood, 11 – Straun, 4 – Coogoon.

# MB08 Hard mulga



Area of land type in region: 0.3%  
Median rainfall (region): 400 – 615 mm  
Average rainfall (region): 438 – 630 mm  
Area of land type with FPC: 41%  
Median FPC: 15%  
Median TBA: 6 m<sup>2</sup>/ha



**Queensland**  
Government