

Poplar box and silver-leaved ironbark



Landform	Upper slopes and crests of rolling hills.
Woody vegetation	Silver-leaved ironbark, poplar box, narrow-leaved ironbark, white cypress pine, mountain coolibah, bullock, and kurrajong.
Expected pasture composition	* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Forest bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass, native oatgrass, kangaroo grass, buffel grass*.
Intermediate	Pitted bluegrass, golden beard grass, barbwire grass, bottlewasher grasses.
Non-preferred	Wiregrass (curled, purple wiregrass, many-headed), poverty grass, buck spinifex.
Annual grasses	Kerosene (non-preferred).
Legumes	Native indigo, Birdsville indigo.
Suitable sown pastures	Rhodes grass, creeping bluegrass, buffel grass, digit grass, tall finger grass, medic (barrel, Toreador), Caatinga stylo.
Introduced weeds	Mother-of-millions.
Soils	Soils range from stony, grey clays to clayey texture contrast soils.
Description	Surface: Firm to hard-setting; Surface texture: sandy loam; Subsoil texture: sandy clay loam to light clay.
Water availability	Very low to low.
Rooting depth	Variable with slope position, but generally 80–130 cm.
Fertility	Low to moderate total nitrogen; extremely low to very low phosphorus.
Salinity	Moderate below 60–90 cm.

Sodicity

pH

High below 30 cm.

Medium acid to strongly acid throughout.

Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day

Median annual rainfall 469 – 580 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	2990 - 3040	20%	4.8 – 5.1
	11 TBA 27 FPC	1470 - 1860	20%	7.9 – 9.9

Enterprise

Breeding and growing.

Land use and management recommendations

- Suitable mainly for grazing of native and improved pastures.
- Contour banks are required on tracks to control erosion.

Land use limitations

- Subsoil sodicity is common, low moisture storage.
- Low fertility and low water holding capacity in root zone.
- Hard-setting surface soils.
- High levels of regrowth.
- The saw fly, *Platypsectra interrupta*, is an insect which has produced poisoning in cattle. The saw flies descend from trees, primarily from silver-leaved ironbark, onto the ground where they die and decompose. Cattle apparently acquire a taste for these dead and decomposing larvae. It is thought that the unusual craving is due to a phosphorus and/or protein deficiency. To date, the removal of cattle from infected areas or the destruction of the silver-leaved ironbark in selected areas has been the only means of control.
- Dense stands of burrs (galvanised) and broad-leaved weeds (mulga fern, pigweed, pimelea, weir vine) may limit pasture growth, productivity and be toxic to stock.
- These grassy woodlands can provide habitat for rare and threatened species (pink cockatoo, squatter pigeon, leaden delma, yakka skink, little pied bat); and woodland-dependant birds (e.g. grey-crowned babbler, brown treecreeper, finches).
- Mature trees provide hollows for fauna especially nesting birds, possums and gliders, and some hollow-dwelling reptiles like the freckled monitor (a small goanna) and the pale-headed snake.
- This land type has been prone to extensive clearing, and modification to the structure of the tree canopy has occurred by the removal of many of the larger hollow-bearing silver-leaved ironbark trees.
- Careful management of grazing pressure and maintenance of ground cover is important to minimise risk of sheet and gully erosion, reduce runoff and protect the wildlife habitat. Use of fire could assist in controlling woody weeds and enhance productivity and habitat potential of the land type.

Conservation features and related management

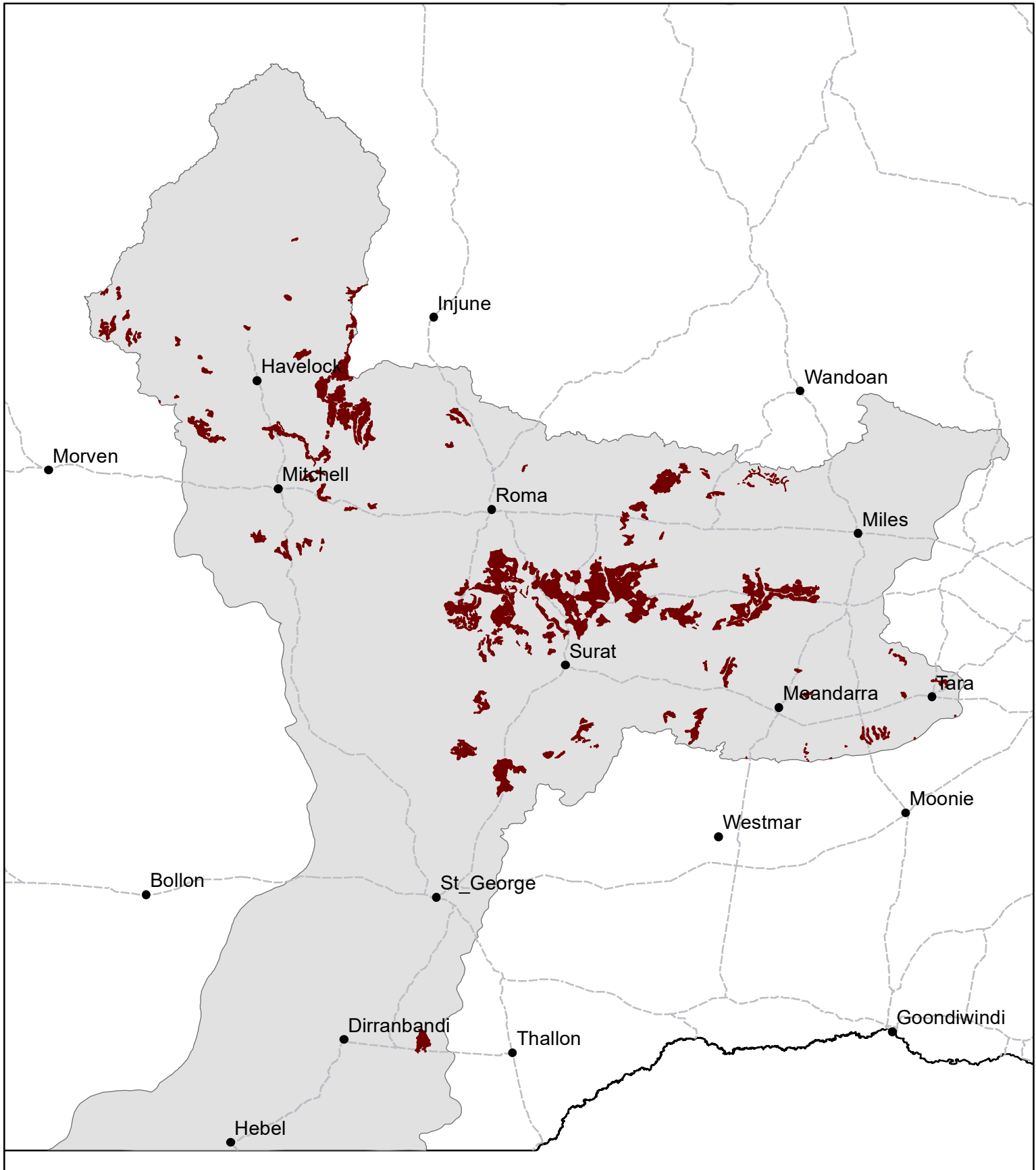
11.9.2, 11.10.7, 11.10.7a.

Regional Ecosystems

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

Land Units (Galloway *et al* 1974) 25; Map Units (DPI 1984) 19b; LRA, Soil Associations (DPI 1996) Light Forest, 9b Flinton; LRA (DPI 1987) 3 – Amby, 11 – Straun, 7 - Bymount (minor).

MB13 Poplar box and silver-leaved ironbark



Area of land type in region: 4%
Median rainfall (region): 400 – 615 mm
Average rainfall (region): 438 – 630 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 42%
Median FPC: 27%
Median TBA: 11 m2/ha



Queensland
Government