

Poplar box with mulga understorey



Landform	Plains to undulating hills with slopes to 4%.
Woody vegetation	Poplar box, mulga, silver-leaved ironbark, false sandalwood, currant bush.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Desert bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass, cotton panic, black speargrass, mulga oats, mulga Mitchell grass, kangaroo grass, hairy panic, buffel grass*.
Intermediate	Pitted bluegrass, golden beard grass, silky umbrella grass, mountain wanderrie grass, curly windmill grass, silky browntop, box grass, spinifex.
Non-preferred	Bottlewasher grasses, cane panic, rough speargrass, five-minute grass, buck spinifex.
Legumes	Slender tick trefoil, native indigo, Birdsville indigo, glycine pea.
Suitable sown pastures	Buffel grass, Indian bluegrass.
Introduced weeds	African boxthorn.
Soils	Soils are shallow to moderately deep gravelly red earths.
Description	Surface: Hard-setting; Surface texture: light sandy clay loam to clay loam; Subsoil texture: sandy light to medium clay, red, yellow or grey in colour.
Water availability	Low to moderate.
Rooting depth	Low
Fertility	Low to moderate total nitrogen, low to moderate phosphorus.
Salinity	Low
Sodicity	Non-sodic
pH	Generally neutral to acid, increasing with depth.

Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 450 – 469 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	1060 - 1300	25%	9.0 - 11
	7 TBA 18 FPC	570 - 750	25%	16 – 21

Enterprise

Land use and management recommendations

Breeding ewes and cows.

- Suitable for low intensity grazing of sheep and cattle.
- Limited potential for pasture improvement with careful management.
- Pastures respond to light to moderate falls of rain (25–50 mm) in areas that receive runoff and have higher productive potential than surrounding lands.
- Can be developed with sown pastures if phosphorus levels are adequate (>20 mg/kg).
- Use fire judiciously as a management tool to control woody weeds.
- Strip clearing is preferable to clearing of large areas to minimise erosion and degradation.
- Maintenance of ground cover to minimise shrub invasion and wind and water (gully) erosion.

Land use limitations

- Rapid decline and soil physical deterioration follows clearing or overgrazing.
- Regrowth and high shrub densities can limit productivity.
- Low soil fertility, low soil moisture storage.
- Dense stands of burrs (galvanised) and broad-leaved weeds (weir vine, mulga fern, pigweed, pimelea) may limit pasture growth, productivity and be toxic to stock.

Conservation features and related management

- This land type can support a high diversity of fauna including birds (e.g. brown treecreeper, rainbow bee-eater, red-backed kingfisher, honeyeaters and thornbills) and many insectivorous bats (e.g. broad-nosed, little forest and long-eared bats).
- Mammals such as sugar glider, swamp wallaby and dunnarts (carnivorous marsupial-mice) can be found here.
- The presence of logs and fallen woody material can provide habitat for a variety of reptiles, including geckoes (wood, velvet and dtella geckoes), legless lizards, burrowing skinks and dragon lizards (e.g. Burn’s lash-tail).
- Poplar box woodlands have been extensively cleared and modified.
- Invasion and regrowth can cause high understorey shrub densities (e.g. currant bush, Ellangowan poison bush).
- 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.
- Control of feral animals such as pigs and foxes can help to protect native wildlife in this habitat.

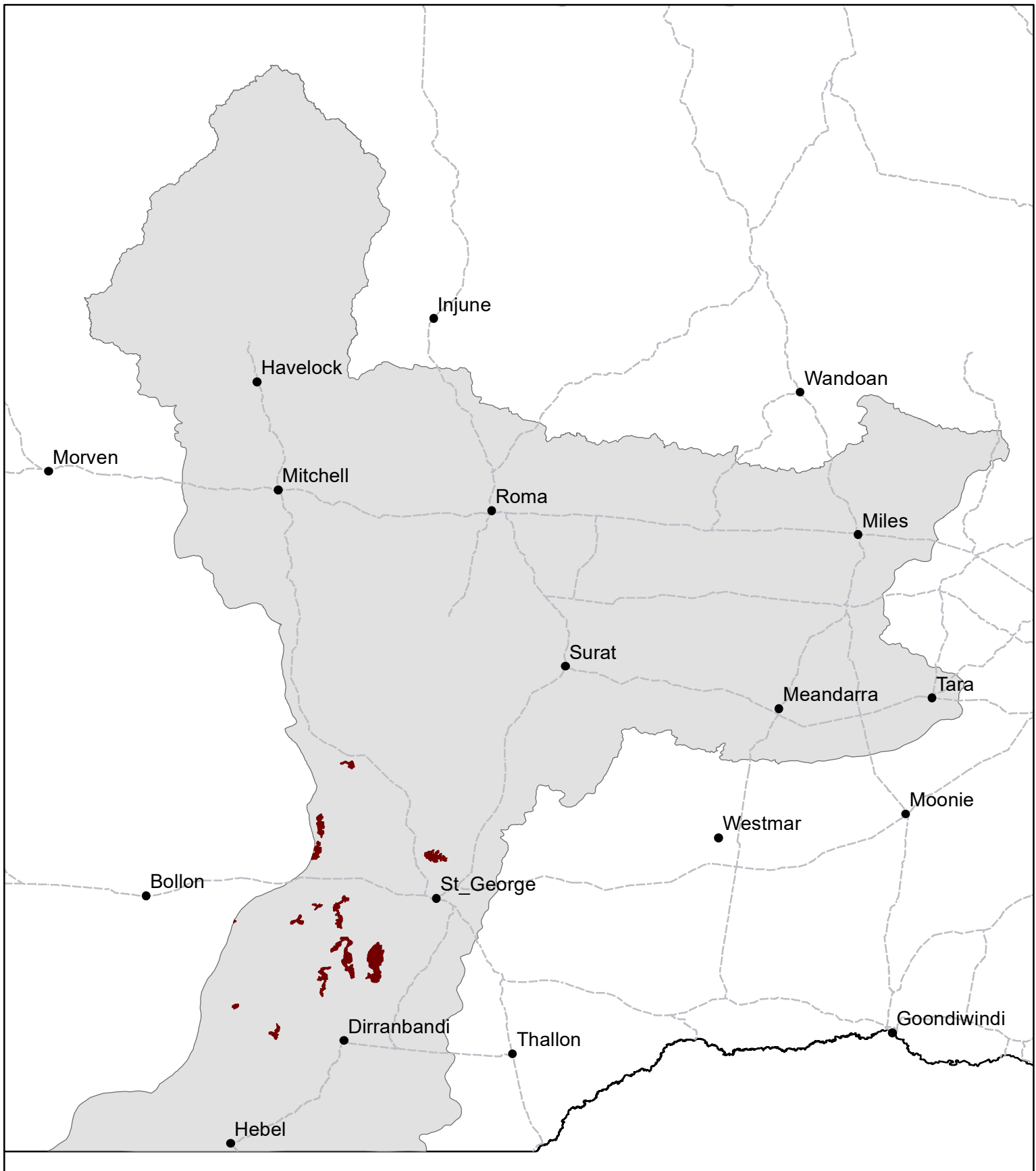
Regional Ecosystems

6.5.2, 6.5.3, 11.5.13.

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

Land Units (Galloway *et al* 1974) 23, 24; Map Units (DPI 1984) 20 (43); LRA, Soil Associations (DPI 1996) Light Forests 9a; LRA (DPI 1987) 4 - Coogoon (minor), 10 – Macwood, 11 - Straun (minor).

MB14 Poplar box with mulga understory



Area of land type in region: 0.4%
Median rainfall (region): 400 – 615 mm
Average rainfall (region): 438 – 630 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 52%
Median FPC: 18%
Median TBA: 7 m²/ha



**Queensland
Government**