

# Softwood vine scrub on clay or loam



<b>Landform</b>	Ridges, slopes and sheltered gullies.
<b>Woody vegetation</b>	Brigalow, belah, wilga, bottle trees, mountain coolibah, scrub trees, false sandalwood.
<b>Expected pasture composition</b>	<i>Uncleared sparse pasture.</i> * Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Queensland bluegrass.
Intermediate	Brigalow grass, buffel grass*.
Non-preferred	Lovegrasses, dark wiregrass, rat's tail couch, slender chloris.
Legumes	Woolly glycine, glycine pea.
<b>Suitable sown pastures</b>	Bambatsi, purple pigeon grass, Angleton grass, creeping bluegrass, Rhodes grass, buffel grass, green panic, digit grass, tall finger grass, desmanthus, medic (barrel, burr), Caatinga stylo, leucaena. Short term (2 to 5 years) lucerne, burgundy bean, snail medic.
<b>Introduced weeds</b>	Parthenium, Bathurst burr, Noogoora burr.
<b>Soils</b>	Brown and grey brown clays (vertosols).
Description	<b>Surface:</b> Loose to weakly crusting; <b>Surface texture:</b> light to medium clay; <b>Subsoil texture:</b> medium clay.
Water availability	Moderate
Rooting depth	Between 30 to 90 cm.
Fertility	Low total nitrogen; moderate phosphorus.
Salinity	Very low.

Sodicity

Sodic to strongly sodic below 30 cm.

pH

Slightly alkaline.

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

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 546 – 561 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	2840 - 2920	30% (sown)	3.3 - 3.4
	21 TBA 49 FPC	< 770 - 790	30% (sown)	> 11– 12
Buffel		3370 - 3650	35%	1.3 – 1.6

### Enterprise

Finishing

### Land use and management recommendations

- Most areas of softwood scrub have been cleared and established to improved pastures.
- Retain trees on beds and banks of watercourses.
- Maintain vegetation belts for wildlife habitats and corridors.

### Land use limitations

- Regrowth of some species.
- Surface sealing soils.
- Subsoil sodicity is common.
- Dense stands of burrs (galvanised) and broad-leaved plants (mintweed, pigweed) may limit pasture growth, productivity and be toxic to stock.

### Conservation features and related management

- Habitat for many rare and threatened plants including ooline, Bailey's cypress, *Atalaya calcicola*, *Croton magneticus*, *Ehretia grahamii* and *Wrightia versicolor*.
- Softwood scrubs provide important habitat for threatened species (e.g. common death adder, brigalow scaly-foot, short-necked worm-skink, greater long-eared bat); a large number of rare and endemic invertebrates (e.g. land snails and native dung beetles); and species that like to shelter in dense cover, such as black-breasted button-quail (now probably extinct from the region), barking owls, bandicoots and black-striped wallabies.
- Many animals – particularly birds – that live in rainforests or wet forests further east (e.g. emerald dove, wonga pigeon, scrubwrens, eastern yellow robin) can be found in these softwood scrubs.
- These habitats can be sensitive to fire and invasion by introduced pasture grasses such as buffel grass, which also provides fuel for damaging fires.
- In some cases, wallaby populations (where there are no predators such as dingos) can build up enough numbers to over-graze the ground layer of isolated remnant scrubs and vine thickets.

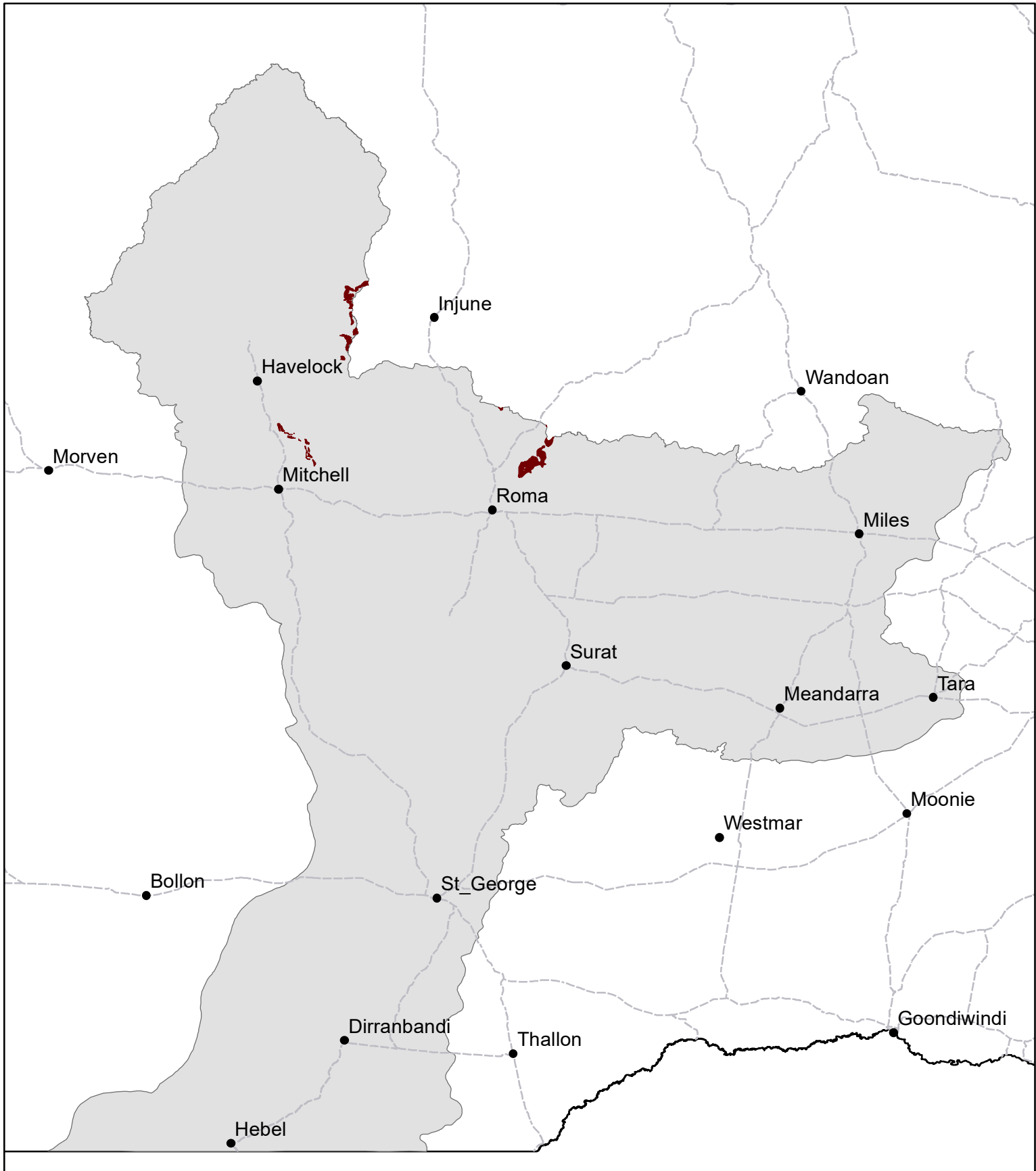
### Regional Ecosystems

11.8.3, 11.9.4a, 11.9.14.

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

Land Units (Galloway *et al* 1974) 9; Map Units (DPI 1984) 1; LRA, Soil Associations (DPI 1996) Brigalow Rises, 5c; Land Resource Areas (DPI 1987) 2 - Brigalow Uplands, Eumamurrin.

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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: 32%  
Median FPC: 49%  
Median TBA: 21 m<sup>2</sup>/ha



**Queensland**  
Government