

Hard gidgee



Photo: G3 (Spoilbank) Land System

General description	Flat to sloping closed gidgee woodland plains on brown cracking clays with dense stone and gravel cover. Generally drain into wooded alluvial plains and adjacent to soft mulga sandridge, soft gidgee, boree wooded downs and jump-ups.
Landform	Flat to sloping plains.
Woody vegetation	Gidgee often in association with false sandalwood, sandalwood, whitewood, broom bush, wild orange and cassia.
Expected pasture composition	* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Katoora, occasionally Mitchell grasses.
Intermediate	Woollybutt wanderrie grass, mountain wanderrie grass, fairy grass, bottlewasher grasses, knottybutt grass, and spinifex in sandy soils.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses.
Annual grasses	Button grass.
Common forbs	Pigweed, hibiscus, sida, flannel weed, saltbush, potato bush. Non-preferred species include goathead burr, gidgee burrs, copperburrs, roly poly.
Suitable sown pasture	Generally not recommended, some areas may be suited to buffel or Mitchell grass.
Introduced weeds	Parthenium, mother-of-millions, cactus (snake, devil's rope, harrisia and coral).
Soil	Deep brown clays derived from fresh and salt water mudstone and sandstone sediments with dense stone and gravel cover, and deep sandy texture contrast soils. Clay soils weakly cracking to depth.
Description	Surface: Usually dense stone and gravel cover; Surface texture: sandy clay to medium clay; Subsoil texture: medium clay.
Features	Variable gilgai development. Usually dense gravel and stone cover. Soils are fragile and actively eroding. Often shallow topsoil, subsoil very dispersive.
Water availability	Moderate
Rooting depth	Shallow to moderate.

Infiltration	Moderate initially on a dry soil profile, slowing to low levels after 25 mm of rain as topsoil is saturated. High runoff following 25 mm of rain. Estimates based on low to moderate intensity storm rain.
Fertility	Low to moderate.
Salinity	Non-saline at surface, increasing rapidly to high level in subsoils.
Sodicity	Non-sodic at surface; sodic at depth.
pH	Neutral to alkaline at surface; strongly alkaline at 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 233 – 409 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	230 - 910	15%	21 - 85
	4 TBA 10 FPC	130 - 410	15%	48 – 150

Enterprise

Land use and management recommendations

- Breeding and wool production.
- Suitable for grazing of native pastures.
 - Generally unsuited to clearing.
 - Maximise ground cover to reduce soil erosion.
 - Reduce erosion risk by preventing subsoils from being exposed.
 - These areas provide good runoff for adjacent country.
 - Provides shade and sparse top-feed.
 - Strategic burning to manage gidgee encroachment with late dry season hot fires.

Land use limitations

- Dense gidgee thickening, stone and gravel cover, slope and fragile soils limit productivity.
- High erosion risk.
- Seasonal impact from poisonous plants such as pencil caustic, turkey bush and pimelea.
- Thickening of woody species (false sandalwood) may limit productivity.

Conservation features and related management

- High reptile habitat value. Size, connectivity and condition of ground layer vegetation determine fauna values.

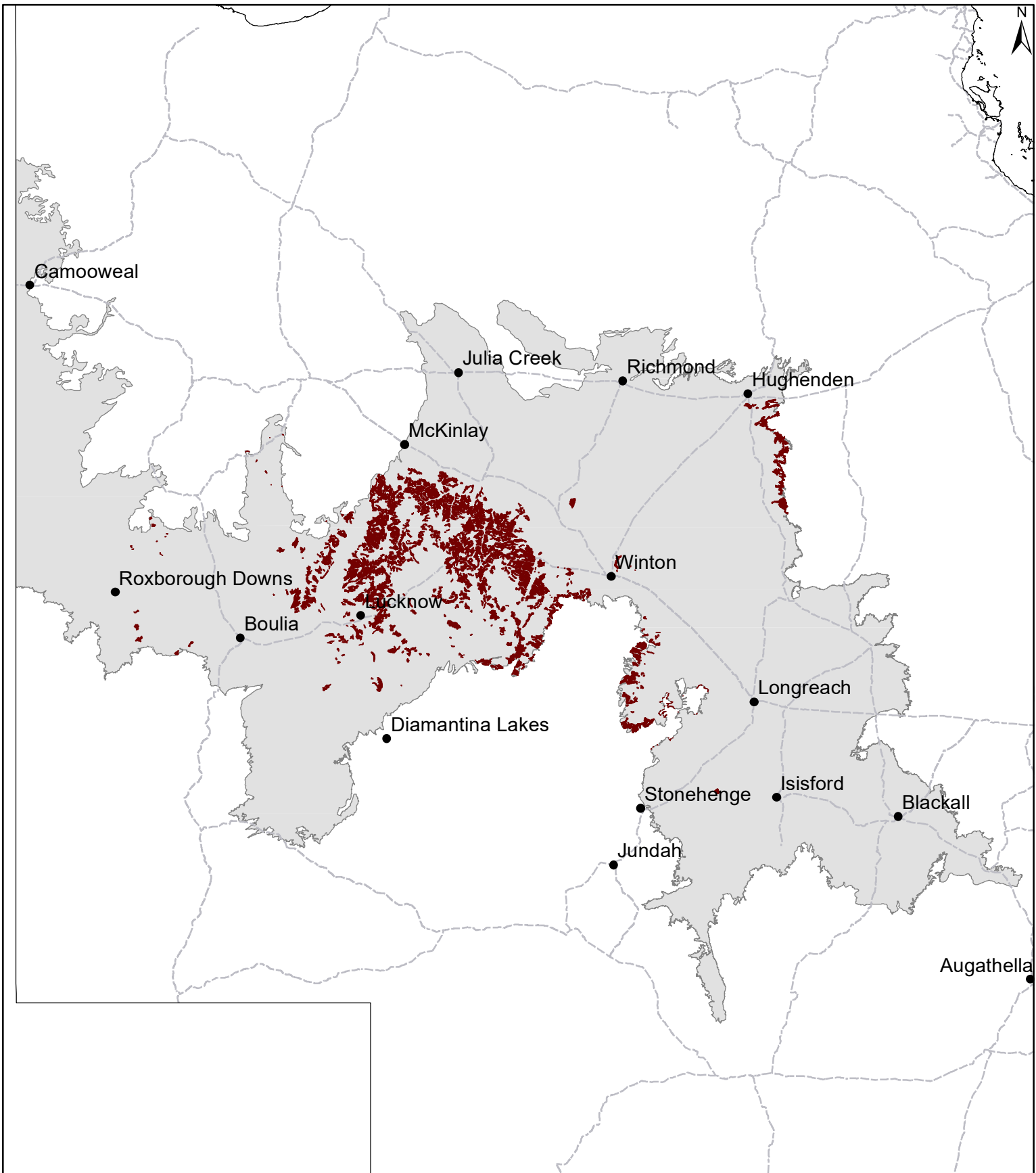
Regional Ecosystems

4.5.6x2d, 4.7.4, 4.7.4a-d, 4.9.16a.

WARLUS land systems

I	II	III	IV	V	VI
G1, G2, G3	G2, G3			G3, G4, G5	T1, T2

MGD08 Hard gidgee



Area of land type in region: 3%
Median rainfall (region): 233 – 494 mm
Average rainfall (region): 253 – 533 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 55%
Median FPC: 10%
Median TBA: 4 m²/ha



**Queensland
Government**