Soft mulga

Photo: M1 (Tonkoro) Land System

General description	Flat to gently sloping plains of red earths and light clays with mulga low woodland to tall shrublands that are often distinctly groved. Generally drain into wooded alluvial plains and adjoin soft mulga sandridge, spinifex sandplains, hard mulga or hard gidgee.
Landform	Flat to gently sloping plains.
Woody vegetation	Mulga occurring with whitewood, and western bloodwood in some areas. Often with a cassia or turkey bush understorey. To the south of the region may occur in association with poplar box.
Expected pasture composition	** Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species*.
Preferred	Cotton panic, kangaroo grass, silky umbrella grass, mulga Mitchell.
Intermediate	Woollybutt wanderrie grass, mountain wanderrie grass, bottlewasher grasses.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses.
Annual grasses	Three-awn wanderrie grass, windmill grass.
Common forbs	Goodenia, silky bluebush, tropical speedwell, green crumbweed. Non-preferred species include copperburrs.
Suitable sown pastures	None suitable.
Introduced weeds	Mother-of-millions, cactus (snake, devil's rope, harrisia and coral).
Soil	Mostly moderately deep to deep sandy light clays, with some deep sandy red earths, overlaying clay soils.
Description	***Surface***: Loamy hard or moderately hard surfaces; ***Surface texture***: light sandy loam to clay loam; ***Subsoil texture***: clay content increasing down profile to light to medium clays.
Features	Ironstone present on soil surface and in profile. Sinkholes associated with sandy light clays.

Water availability	Low to very low.
Rooting depth	Deep
Infiltration	High to very high.
Fertility	Low to very low.
Salinity	Non-saline
Sodicity	Non-sodic
pH	Medium 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 233 – 237 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	270 - 290	15%	67 - 72
	2 TBA 5 FPC	190	15%	103

Enterprise

Breeding and wool production.

Land use and management recommendations

- Suitable for grazing of native pastures.
- Maximise ground cover to reduce soil erosion.
- These areas provide good run-off for adjacent country.
- Provides shade and useful top feed.
- Responds to small falls of rain.
- Strategic burning with hot fires may be needed to reduce thickening.

Land use limitations

- Dense mulga thickening, stone and gravel cover and infertile fragile soils limit productivity.
- Generally require phosphorus supplements for livestock.
- Little evidence of erosion.
- Woodland thickening and encroachment.

Conservation features and related management

- Mulga soils tend to have modified ground layer.
- Fencing to manage total grazing pressure and wet season spelling can be beneficial.
- Size, shape and connectivity of remnant patches will determine their biodiversity values.

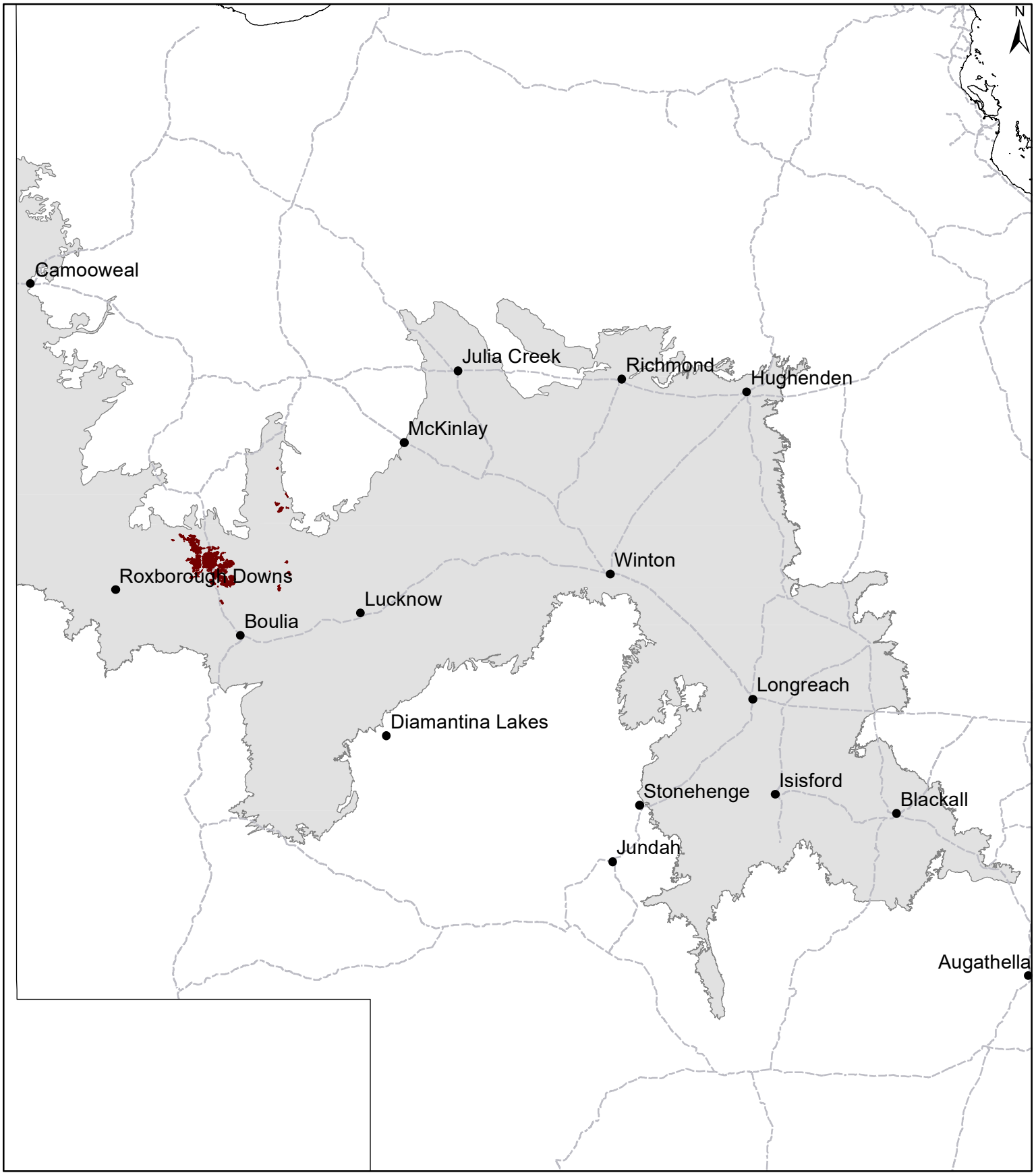
Regional Ecosystems

4.5.3a, 4.5.3x2, 4.5.4a, 4.5.5x2.

WARLUS land systems

I	II	III	IV	V	VI
M1, M2, M3, M4, M5	M1, M2, M3, M4	M1, M2, M3, M4, M5	M1, M2	M1	M1

MGD10 Soft mulga



Area of land type in region: 0.3%
Median rainfall (region): 233 – 494 mm
Average rainfall (region): 253 – 533 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 51%
Median FPC: 5%
Median TBA: 2 m2/ha

Queensland Government