

Spinifex sandplains



Photo: S2 (Athelstane) Land System

General description	Flat sandplains supporting wooded spinifex grassland on alluvial clay depressions and occasional low rises, of deep sandy red earths. Often internally drain into clay swamps and adjacent to soft mulga.
Landform	Flat sandplains.
Woody vegetation	Western bloodwood, beefwood, mulga and eastern dead finish, occasionally with Normanton box on harder country, coolibah and river red gum fringing swamps with lignum within the swamps. Generally with a well developed shrub layer of turkey bush, hakea, broom bush, native cotton and false sandalwood.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Soft spinifex, desert bluegrass, kangaroo grass.
Intermediate	Lovegrasses, buck spinifex.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses.
Annual grasses	Bottlewasher grasses.
Common forbs	Tarvine, silky bluebush, sida, potato bush, narrow-leaved indigo.
Suitable sown pastures	Not suitable for sown pastures.
Introduced weeds	Harrisia cactus.
Soil	Deep sandy red earths and sandy texture contrast soils with minor desert loams associated with rock shelves and shallow grey clays in swamps.
Description	Surface: Loose; Surface texture: sand to sandy loam; Subsoil texture: sand to sandy loam.
Features	Ironstone gravel, lime and manganese inclusions in the profile.

Water availability

Low to moderate.

Rooting depth

Deep

Infiltration

High to very high in deep sands, low to moderate in texture contrast soils. High runoff following 5 mm of rain on texture contrast soils. Estimates based on low to moderate intensity storm rain.

Fertility

Moderate to low.

Salinity

Non-saline

Sodicity

Non-sodic

pH

Slightly acid to moderately 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 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	320 - 340	15%	57 - 61
	2 TBA 5 FPC	160 - 170	15%	115 – 122

Enterprise

Breeding and wool production.

Land use and management recommendations

- Suitable for grazing of native pastures.
- Provides shade and limited top feed.
- In texture contrast soils, maximise surface cover, particularly with standing pasture, to increase infiltration and increase pasture production.
- Maximise ground cover to reduce soil erosion.
- Mosaic burning to increase spinifex palatability and availability of green forage.

Land use limitations

- Low fertility soils limit production.
- Livestock may need phosphorus supplements.
- Texture contrast soils are prone to scalding and sheet erosion.
- Some erosion and thickening.

Conservation features and related management

- Spinifex areas are potential habitat for rare bird, pictorella mannikin.
- Spinifex needs patch burning regime to maintain diversity and reduce risk of extensive wildfires.

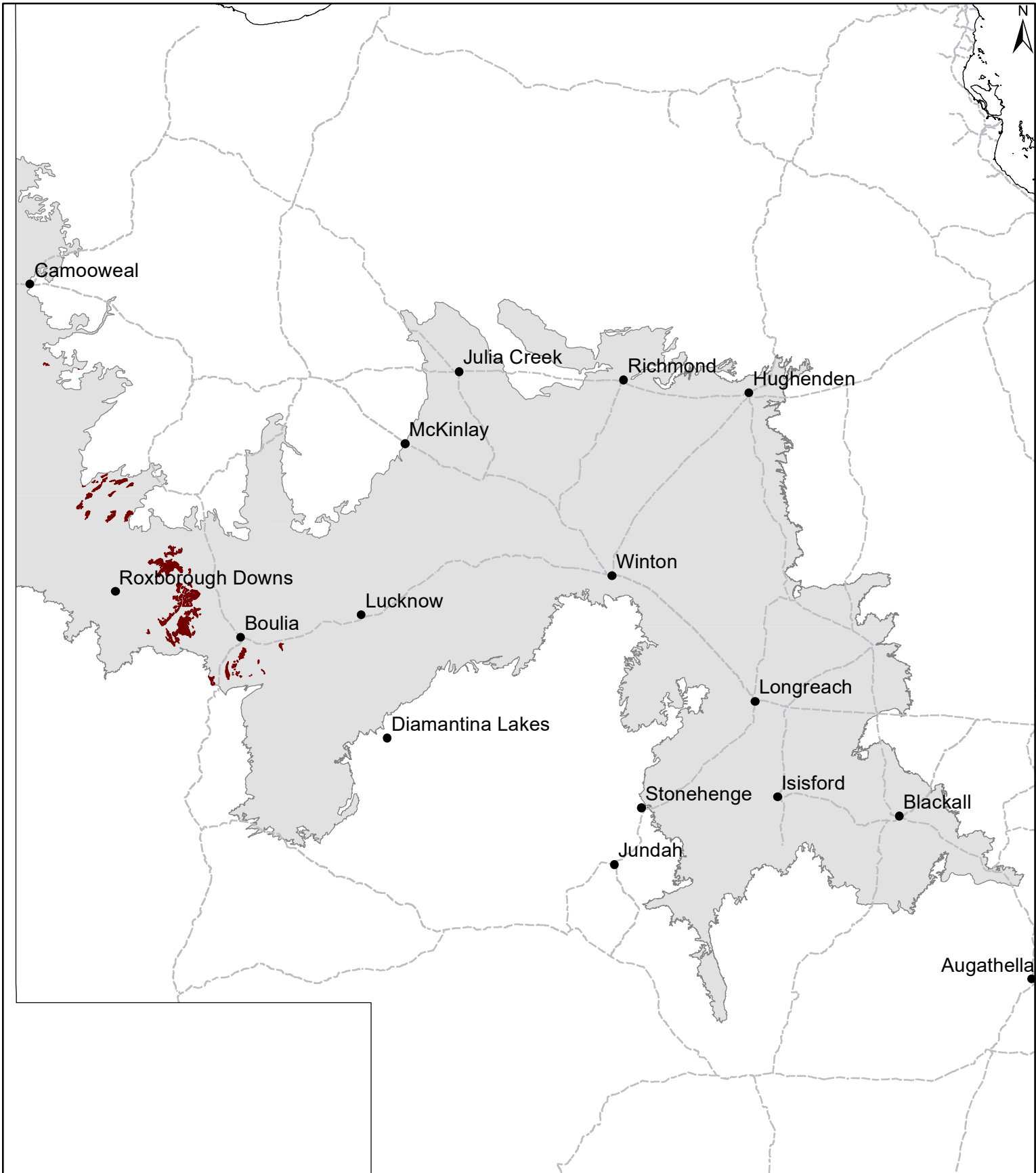
Regional Ecosystems

4.5.8, 4.5.8x1, 4.5.8x60.

WARLUS land systems

I	II	III	IV	V	VI
	S2, S4, S6	S2, N1		S2	S1, S2

MGD12 Spinifex sandplains



Area of land type in region: 0.4%
Median rainfall (region): 233 – 494 mm
Average rainfall (region): 253 – 533 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 18%
Median FPC: 5%
Median TBA: 2 m²/ha



**Queensland
Government**