

Brigalow



Landform

Flat alluvial plains in south-east, to gently undulating to undulating plains, low hills and lower slopes of scarps (slopes 2–8%) in north and north-east.

Woody vegetation

Brigalow low open woodlands to tall shrublands occurring variably with gidgee, belah, Dawson gum and mountain yapunyah, and scattered boonaree, whitewood and leopardwood. False sandalwood and wilga commonly form a shrubby understorey.

Expected pasture composition

* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.

Preferred

Mitchell grasses (curly, hoop), buffel grass* (naturalised), Queensland bluegrass, cotton panic, umbrella/blowaway grass, neverfail.

Intermediate

Bottlewasher grasses, curly windmill grass, brigalow grass, box grass, fairy/yakka grass, katoora, five-minute grass.

Non-preferred

Wiregrasses (e.g. dark, many-headed, feathertop).

Annual grasses

Native couch, comb chloris, button grass, small Flinders grass.

Common forbs

Red spinach, common prickly pear, daisies (e.g. yellow everlasting) daisy burrs, ruby saltbush, saltbushes, burrs, soft roly poly, black roly poly, sedges, *Abutilon* spp., sidas (e.g. flannel, high, pin), speedy weed, pigweed.

Suitable sown pastures

Buffel grass.

Introduced weeds

Tree pear, parkinsonia and African boxthorn around water points.

Soil

Moderately deep to very deep grey, reddish brown and brown cracking clays and texture contrast soils, with variable light cover of gravel/stone and gilgai development.

Description

Surface: Weak crusts over weak to moderate self-mulching; some hard-setting; **Surface texture:** sandy clay or light to medium clay; **Subsoil texture:** medium-heavy clays at depth.

Features

Moderately self-mulching; some hard-setting.

Water availability

Rooting depth

Infiltration

Fertility

Salinity

Sodicity

pH

Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)

High

Sodicity or alkalinity of soils at >60 cm depth limits effective soil depth.

Cracking clays high when dry, becoming rapidly less as soils become saturated; slow on hard-setting soils.

Moderate; low to very fair carbon and nitrogen, low acid phosphorus.

Non-saline; some soils have saline subsoils.

Non-sodic at surface; sodic to strongly sodic at depth.

Variable; ranging from slightly acid to strongly alkaline at surface, often increasing down profile.

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 358 – 504 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	1970 - 2650	20%	5.5 – 7.4
	6 TBA 15 FPC	1730 - 1080	20%	8.4 – 14
Buffel		3120 - 4300	25%	2.7 – 3.7

Enterprise

Breeding sheep and cows.

Land use and management recommendations

- Pastures are of low productivity but high quality and respond well to clearing operations but regrowth needs controlling.
- Pasture on texture contrast soils responds to light falls of rain; heavier falls (>30 mm) are needed for a response on cracking clays.
- The drier areas are suitable for short-term cropping only as a precursor to permanent pasture establishment.
- Non-continuous winter cropping with rotational periods under pasture in areas that receive sufficient rainfall.
- Use of contour banks, grassed waterways and conservation cropping needed to minimise runoff and soil erosion on more steeply sloping land (>1% slope).
- Slopes greater than 6% should not be cultivated.

Land use limitations

- Dense brigalow and false sandalwood regrowth can severely limit productivity.
- Secondary salinity may be a problem if surrounding high country has been cleared.
- Low drought grazing capacity unless buffel well established.

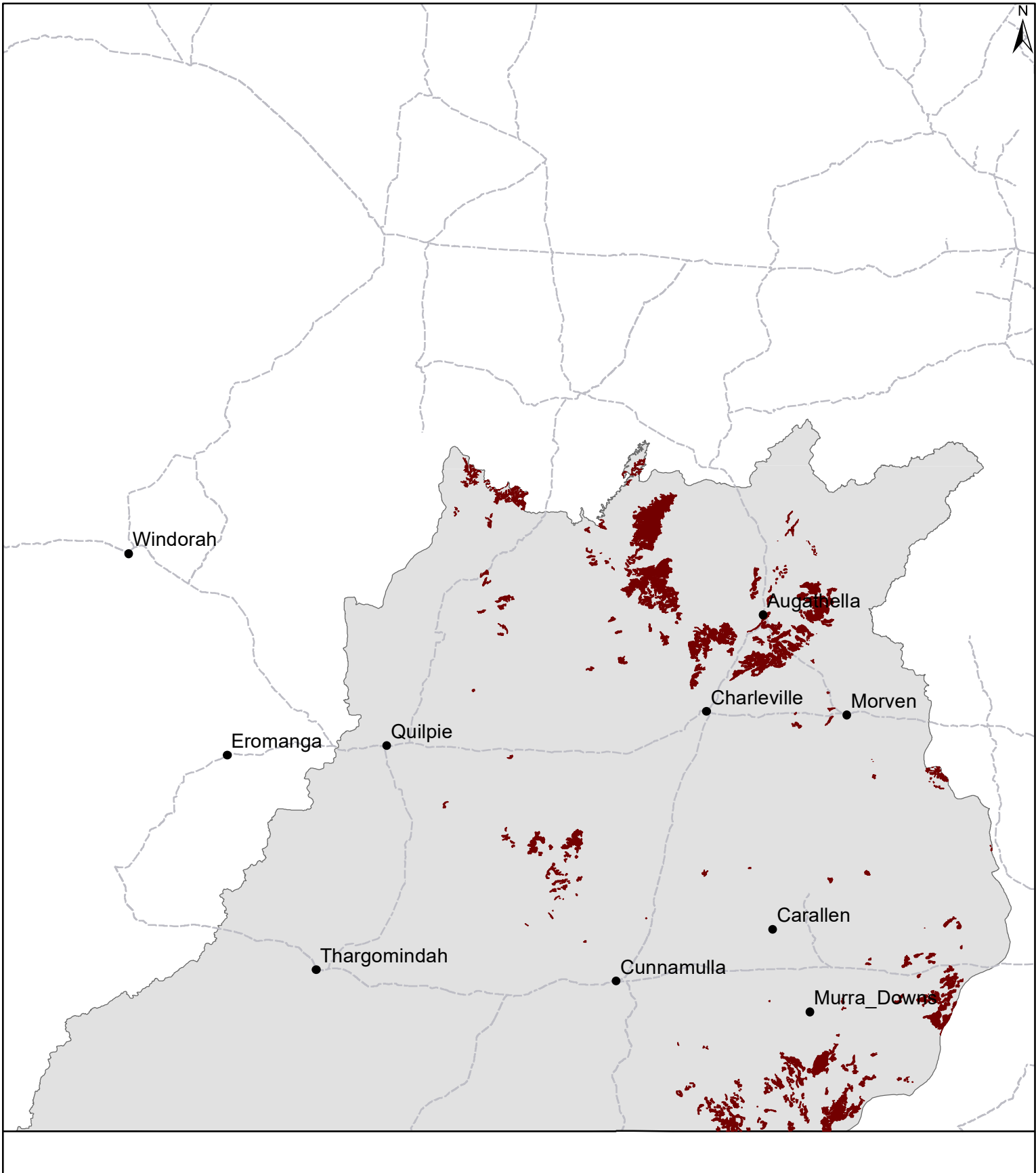
Conservation features and related management

- Brigalow, particularly in association with belah, provide potential habitat for rare and threatened fauna (e.g. painted honeyeater, black-chinned honeyeater, woma python). These areas also provide habitat for a very high diversity of birds (yellow-tailed black-cockatoo, Bourke's parrot, crested bellbird, spotted bowerbird), reptiles (eastern spiny-tailed gecko, slider and striped skinks), and insectivorous bats including the vulnerable greater long-eared bat.
- Extensive areas of brigalow have been, and are prone to being, cleared. Some areas are also prone to scalding.
- Use of a combination of soil conservation techniques will help minimise soil erosion and scalding; and use of fire to control regrowth can enhance the productivity and potential habitat of this land zone.

Regional Ecosystems

4.9.15, 4.9.17, 4.9.19, 6.3.25, 6.4.2, 6.4.4, 6.9.3, 11.3.1, 11.9.11.

MU01 Brigalow



Area of land type in region: 2%
Median rainfall (region): 253 – 504 mm
Average rainfall (region): 299 – 533 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 49%
Median FPC: 15%
Median TBA: 6 m²/ha



**Queensland
Government**