

Hard mulga



Landform	Gently undulating to undulating plains with variable stone and gravel cover (slopes 1–6%). Often occur on scarp retreats and back slopes of residuals.
Woody vegetation	Sparse mulga shrublands to mulga low woodlands, some areas associated with poplar box, bastard mulga and western bloodwood, and variable shrubby understorey of cassia, hobbush or turkey bushes. Areas of heathlands and spinifex patches occur on ridges.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native “Expected Pasture Composition” species.</i>
Preferred	Cotton panic, mulga oats, kangaroo grass, mulga Mitchell.
Intermediate	Dwarf mulga grass, bottlewasher grasses, purple lovegrass, woollybutt wanderrie grass, mountain wanderrie grass, five-minute grass.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses (e.g. Jericho, brush threeawn, dark, erect kerosene).
Annual grasses	Hairy armgrass, button grass, pretty wanderrie grass, rare panic. Bunched kerosene (non-preferred).
Common forbs	Caustic vine, daisy burrs, silvertail, green pussytail, green crumbweed, burrs, smooth goodenia, hill hibiscus, sidas (e.g. corrugated, ridge), mulga nettle, soft roly poly (western form), potato bushes.
Suitable sown pastures	Not suitable for sown pastures.
Introduced weeds	None of significance known to occur.
Soil	Shallow to moderately deep (30–90 cm), stony or gravely loamy red earths with areas of ironstone and stone throughout the profile.

Description

Surface: Loamy hard surfaces; **Surface texture:** Sandy clay loam to clay loam; **Subsoil texture:** Clay content may increase down profile to light clay; ironstone gravel common throughout profile.

Features

Hard-setting; high runoff zone.

Water availability

Low to medium.

Rooting depth

Shallow

Fertility

Very low to low (phosphorus, nitrogen, carbon).

Salinity

Very low

Sodicity

Non-sodic

pH

Very acid to slightly acid throughout profile.

Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 184 – 494 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	430 - 950	15%	21 - 45
	2 TBA 5 FPC	250 - 750	15%	26 – 78

Enterprise

Mixed dry sheep and cattle, or adult wethers only.

Land use and management recommendations

- Stock lightly during dry periods and post drought to maintain ground cover.
- Mulga fodder provides drought protein reserves.
- Wiregrasses often predominate in areas cleared of mulga.
- Opportunistic use of fire as management tool to control woody weeds (e.g. turkey bush, hopbush, cassias and mint bush).
- Maintain ground cover to minimise water and wind erosion and maximise rainfall capture. Any grass cover is better than none.
- Strip clearing is preferable to clearing of large areas to minimise erosion and degradation.

Land use limitations

- Fragile grazing lands.
- Difficult to reclaim if degraded by either soil erosion or woody weed domination.
- Poor surface structure, soil acidity and stoniness limit mechanical treatment options.

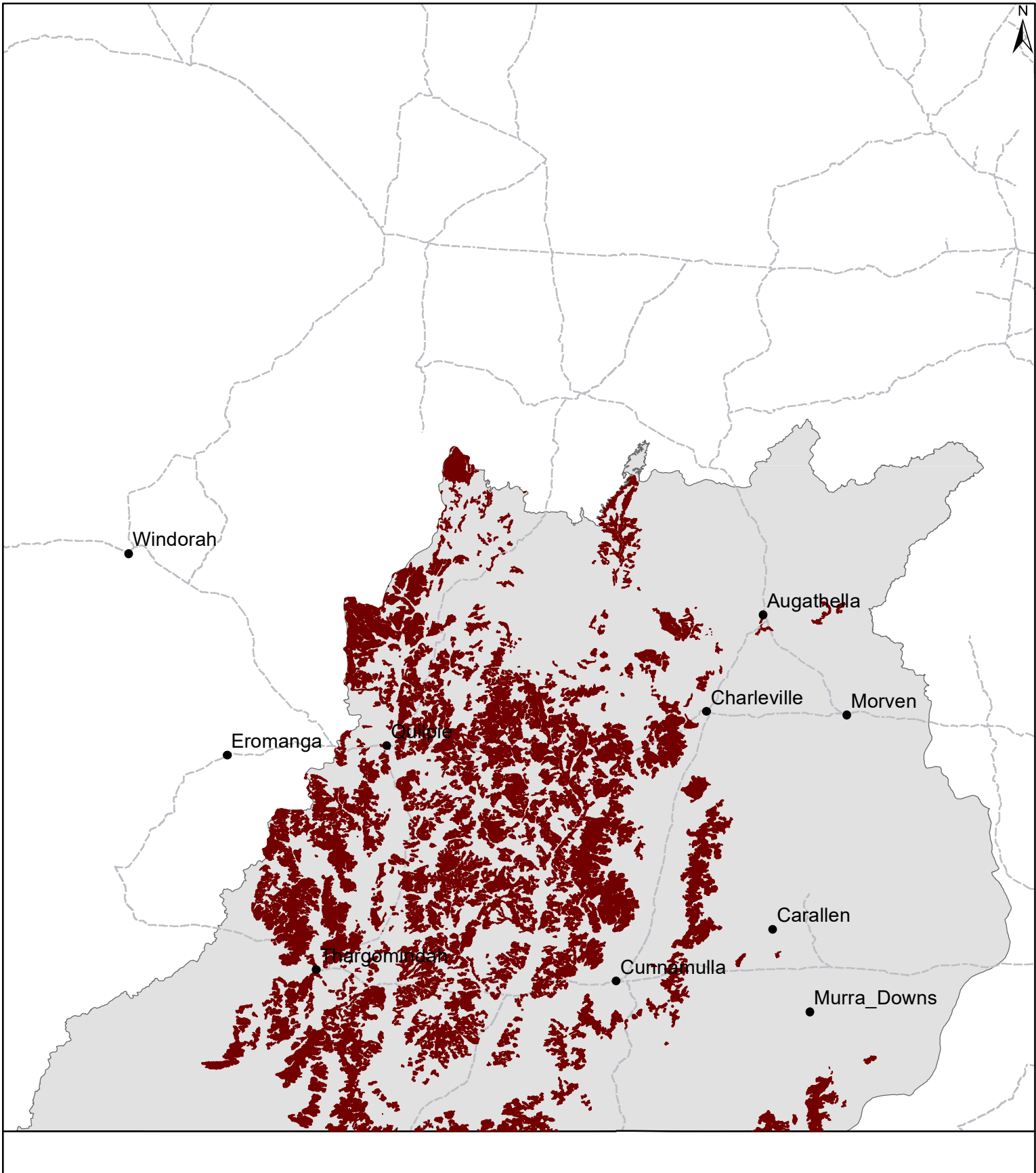
Conservation features and related management

- These areas provide potential habitat for rare and threatened fauna (pink cockatoo, red-throat, yellow-footed rock-wallaby, woma python) and flora (climbing caustic, *Euphorbia sarcostemmoides*).
- Maintenance of ground cover will minimise extensive loss of topsoil and degradation of these areas.

Regional Ecosystems

6.7.9, 6.7.10, 6.7.11, 6.7.12, 6.5.16, 6.5.16a.

MU04 Hard mulga



Area of land type in region: 15%
Median rainfall (region): 253 – 504 mm
Average rainfall (region): 299 – 533 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 67%
Median FPC: 5%
Median TBA: 2 m²/ha



**Queensland
Government**