

Mulga sandplains



Landform	Flat to gently undulating sandplains (slopes up to 2%) that generally occur east of Bulloo river. Occasional small claypans occur throughout and sometimes interspersed with linear sandhills.
Woody vegetation	Mulga low open forest to woodlands sometimes associated with poplar box, Clarkson's bloodwoods, beefwood, ironwood and gundabluie. Some areas may be dominated by whipstick mulga, eastern dead finish, hopbush or turpentine.
Expected pasture composition	<p>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</p>
Preferred	Buffel grass* (naturalised), cotton panic, silky umbrella grass, mulga oats, hairy panic, kangaroo grass, mulga Mitchell.
Intermediate	Bottlewasher grasses, woollybutt, purple lovegrass, woollybutt wanderrie grass, mountain wanderrie grass, native millet, purple plume grass.
Non-preferred	Greybeard grass, cane panic, wiregrasses (e.g. two-gland, prickly threeawn, brush threeawn, Jericho, erect kerosene, dark).
Annual grasses	Three-awn wanderrie grass, comet grass, small burr grass. Bunched kerosene (non-preferred).
Common forbs	Pussytails, foxtails, wild parsnip, sidas (e.g. shrub, fine, spiked, lifesaver), tropical speedwell, daisies (e.g. native, clustered copperwire, yellow everlasting), sunrays, daisy burrs, galvanised burr, green crumbweed, billy buttons, caustic weed, small-leaved darling pea, smooth goodenia, smooth velleia, mulga fern, broadleaf parakeelya.
Suitable sown pastures	Buffel grass.
Introduced weeds	Mesquite, parkinsonia and African boxthorn around water points.
Soil	Moderately deep to deep (80–220 cm) sandy red earths, minor areas of earthy sands.
Description	Surface: Hard-setting, occasionally loose; Surface texture: Predominantly light sandy loam to sandy-clay loam; Subsoil texture: Texture uniform or may increase at depth to sandy-clay or light clay; hardpans are present in some areas.

Features

Water availability

Rooting depth

Infiltration

Fertility

Salinity

Sodicity

Salinity

pH

Sandy surfaces limit runoff, have high infiltration rate, and enable growth response to lighter falls of rain.

Low to very low.

Generally deep; limited by hardpans (120 cm) in some areas.

High

Low to very low.

Very low.

Non-sodic

Very low.

Acid, sometimes extremely acid (pH <4.0); alkaline soils due to iron hardpans in south.

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 – 461 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	520 - 950	15%	21 - 38
	3 TBA 8 FPC	210 - 550	15%	35 – 93

Enterprise

Mixed sheep and cattle.

Land use and management recommendations

- Stable, when vegetated, country that responds well to light rain (25 mm).
- High infiltration rates minimise runoff.
- Mulga fodder provides drought protein reserves.
- Use fire regularly (4–5 year) as management tool to control woody weeds.
- Buffel grass establishment is possible in some areas of better pH.
- Strip clearing is preferable to clearing of large areas to minimise erosion, regrowth and associated degradation.

Land use limitations

- Mulga, turkey bush, turpentine, cassias or hopbush densities can become very high, limit production and reduce carrying capacity.
- Susceptible to wind and water erosion if tree cover is too low.

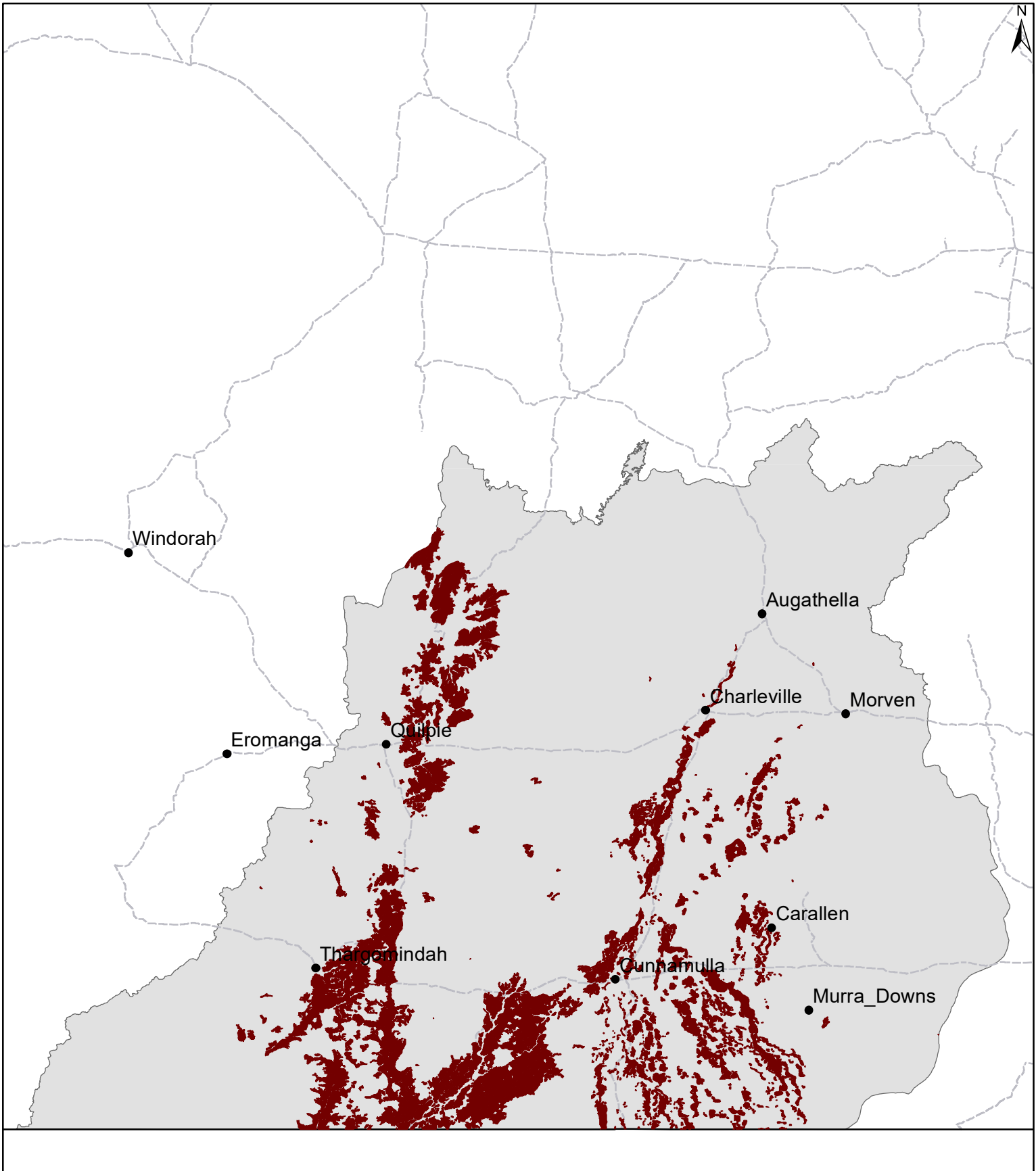
Conservation features and related management

- This land zone provides potential habitat for rare and threatened fauna (kultarr or marsupial mouse) and flora (e.g. *Acacia ammophila*), and a wide range of birds (e.g. mulga and Bourke's parrots, splendid fairy-wren, red-capped robin), mammals (e.g. sandy inland mouse) and striped skinks (e.g. royal *Ctenotus*).
- Structural and floristic compositions may be highly modified and areas threatened by high densities of woody weed.
- Use of fire could assist in controlling woody weeds and enhance productivity and habitat potential of the land zone.

Regional Ecosystems

6.3.21, 6.3.22, 6.3.23, 6.5.15, 6.5.15a, 6.5.19a, 6.6.1, 6.6.2.

MU05 Mulga sandplains



Area of land type in region: 9%
Median rainfall (region): 253 – 504 mm
Average rainfall (region): 299 – 533 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 83%
Median FPC: 8%
Median TBA: 3 m²/ha



**Queensland
Government**