

Bluegrass browntop plains



Landform	Open grassland, flat to gently undulating, practically treeless and possesses an overall appearance of uniformity. Flood plains on quaternary alluvium.
Woody vegetation	Scattered occurrences of coolibah, gidgee, bauhinia, beefwood, guttapercha and whitewood.
Expected pasture composition	* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Mitchell grass (bull, hoop), gulf bluegrass, silky browntop, forest bluegrass, desert bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass.
Intermediate	Native millet, golden beard grass, windmill grasses, bottlewashers, Australian wild rice, tassel bluegrass, cup grass/spring grass, pitted bluegrass.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses, e.g. feathertop.
Annual grasses	Flinders grass, button grass, pepper grass, Annual sorghum, native couch, Australian dropseed, summer grass. Non-preferred annual species include asbestos grass.
Common forbs	Sesbania pea, onion vine/paper rose, Ipomoea/cow vine, tarvine, rhynchosia.
Suitable sown pastures	Not suitable for sown pastures.
Introduced weeds	Calotrope, mesquite, prickly acacia, parkinsonia, and rubber vine and bellyache bush in associated riparian areas.
Soil	Cracking grey and brown clays (vertisols). Commonly interspersed with alluvial soils along stream, river, and creek beds.
Description	Surface: Generally self-mulching, a thin crust may be present, minor areas of hard setting soils; Surface texture: light to medium to heavy clay; Subsoil texture: medium to heavy clay.

Features

Predominantly self-mulching and deep cracking with some hard-setting areas. Carbonate nodules may occur throughout the profile. Gilgai's can occur as both melon holes and linear gilgai.

Water availability

Moderate to high with low to moderate internal drainage depending on the sodicity at depths.

Rooting depth

Moderate to high.

Infiltration

High initially on a dry soil profile, slowing to moderate levels after 50 mm of rain as cracks close and to low levels after 75-100 mm of rain.

Areas of hard setting soils will have extremely limited infiltration rates. Estimates based on low to moderate intensity storm rain. Good soaking rain or flooding required to wet the soil profile.

Fertility

Moderate. Tendency to be marginal in Phosphorous.

Salinity

Low but increasing with depth.

Sodicity

Patches of sodicity; increasing with depth, particularly in poorly drained areas.

pH

Neutral to alkaline (gravelly areas may be slightly acidic).

Long-term carrying capacity information (A condition)

Based on fully watered area for 1AE = 450 kg animal consuming 8kg DM/day				
Median annual rainfall 391 – 831 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	700 - 3390	22%	3.9 - 19
	6 TBA 15 FPC	400 - 1990	22%	6.7 – 33

Enterprise

Breeding and fattening.

Land use and management recommendations

- Use fire judiciously as a management tool to control woody weeds.
- Maintenance of ground cover to minimise shrub invasion and wind and water (gully) erosion.

Land use limitations

- Areas of asbestos grass.
- Productivity can be limited by thickening of native timber and woody weeds (guttapercha, parkinsonism, mimosa).

Conservation features and related management

- No urgent or immediate conservation concerns.

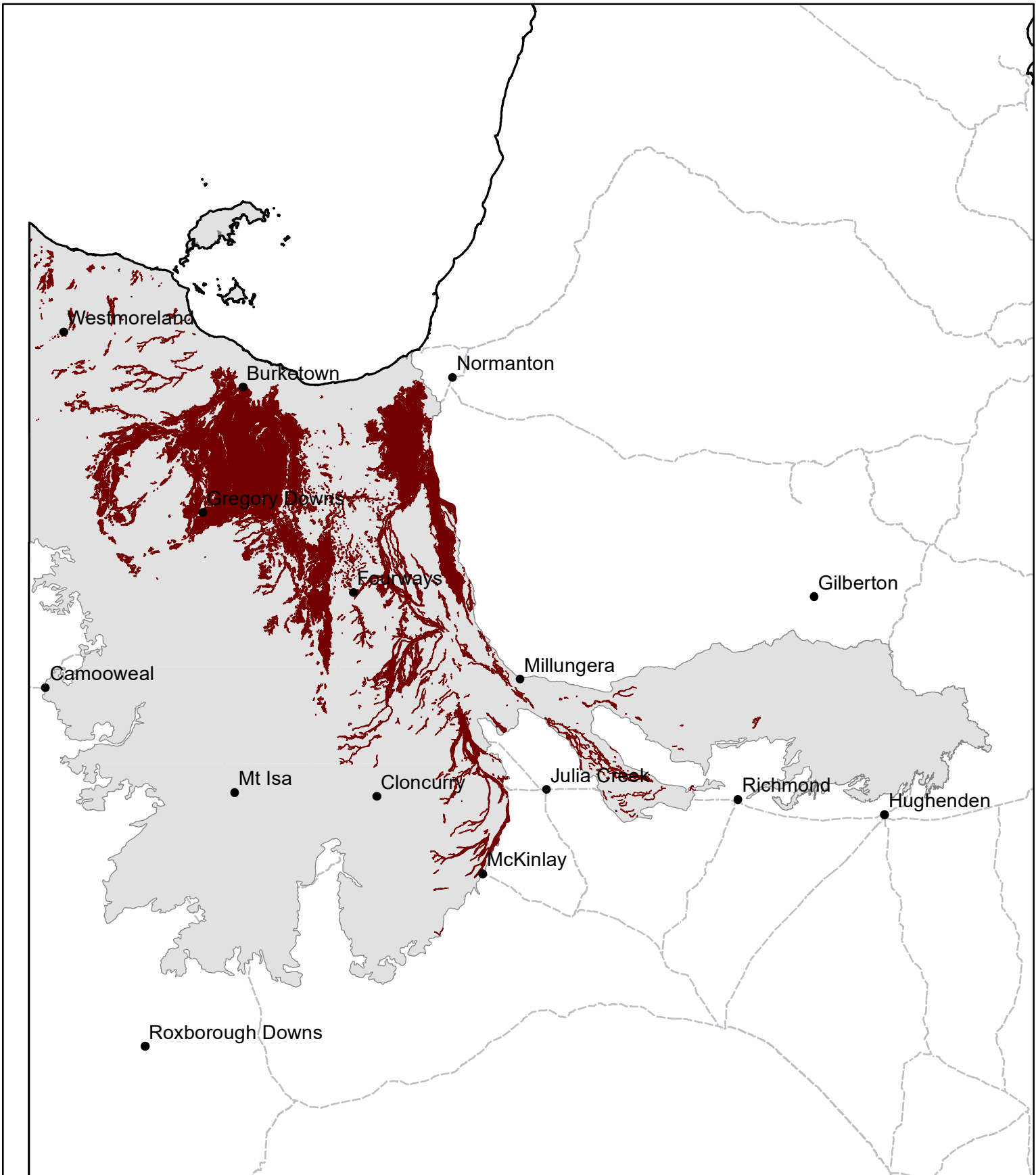
Regional Ecosystems

2.3.12, 2.3.1a, 2.3.3, 2.3.4, 2.3.43, 2.3.44a-e, 2.3.67, 2.4.1a-c, 2.9.2, 2.9.2x3, 4.3.19.

Land Systems

Donors (28), Donaldson (29), Balbirini (48), Glenore (50), Georgina (55) (Perry 1964).

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Area of land type in region: 10%
Median rainfall (region): 233 – 831 mm
Average rainfall (region): 271 – 952 mm
Area of land type with FPC: 31%
Median FPC: 15%
Median TBA: 6 m²/ha



Queensland
Government