

OPEN SANDPLAIN WITH MULGA

Gently undulating plain with sandy soil supporting isolated mulga trees (usually dead due to fire) over woollybutt and annual grasses.

SOIL MANAGEMENT

- The coarse textured soils have low water erosion potential.
- Stable roads and cleared lines can be constructed on this land unit using appropriate construction techniques.
- Wind erosion can be a problem if vegetative cover is seriously reduced by excessive grazing or fire.

The best approach when constructing cleared lines is to remove surface vegetation without too much disturbance to the surface soil so that windrow development is minimised. Any windrows should be run out and whoa-boys may be required to disperse runoff from the cleared line where channelling of water occurs.

MAIN PASTURE SPECIES

common name	PERENNIAL	
	scientific name	palatability ranking(1-5)*
Woollybutt	<i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i>	2
ANNUAL		
Bunched kerosene grass	<i>Aristida contorta</i>	4
Erect kerosene grass	<i>Aristida holathora</i>	3
Oatgrass	<i>Enneapogon avenaceus</i>	5

* palatability rank based on Dept. Primary Industries and Fisheries estimates for green plant material, 1 = least palatable, 5 = most palatable

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

- The pastures are moderately productive with a useful perennial component.

The annual grasses are the preferred fodder species, but woollybutt is a robust perennial grass which serves to protect the soil during dry periods when the annual vegetation is depleted. Cattle make use of it in times of drought. However, annual vegetation dominates the pastures and care must be taken to avoid excessive depletion of the ground cover, which could lead to wind erosion and long-term pasture decline.

A gradual decline in the more palatable grasses and forbs and their replacement with less palatable annual species is common where pastures have been over utilised, and woollybutt may become more abundant. Degraded pastures become infested with turnip weed which forms dense stands to the exclusion of other species. Turnip weed is unpalatable and short lived, the dry seed heads are piled up against fences by the wind and can push them over.

Spelling of this land unit from time to time after good rains should be considered to allow seed set and maintenance of the more palatable species.