

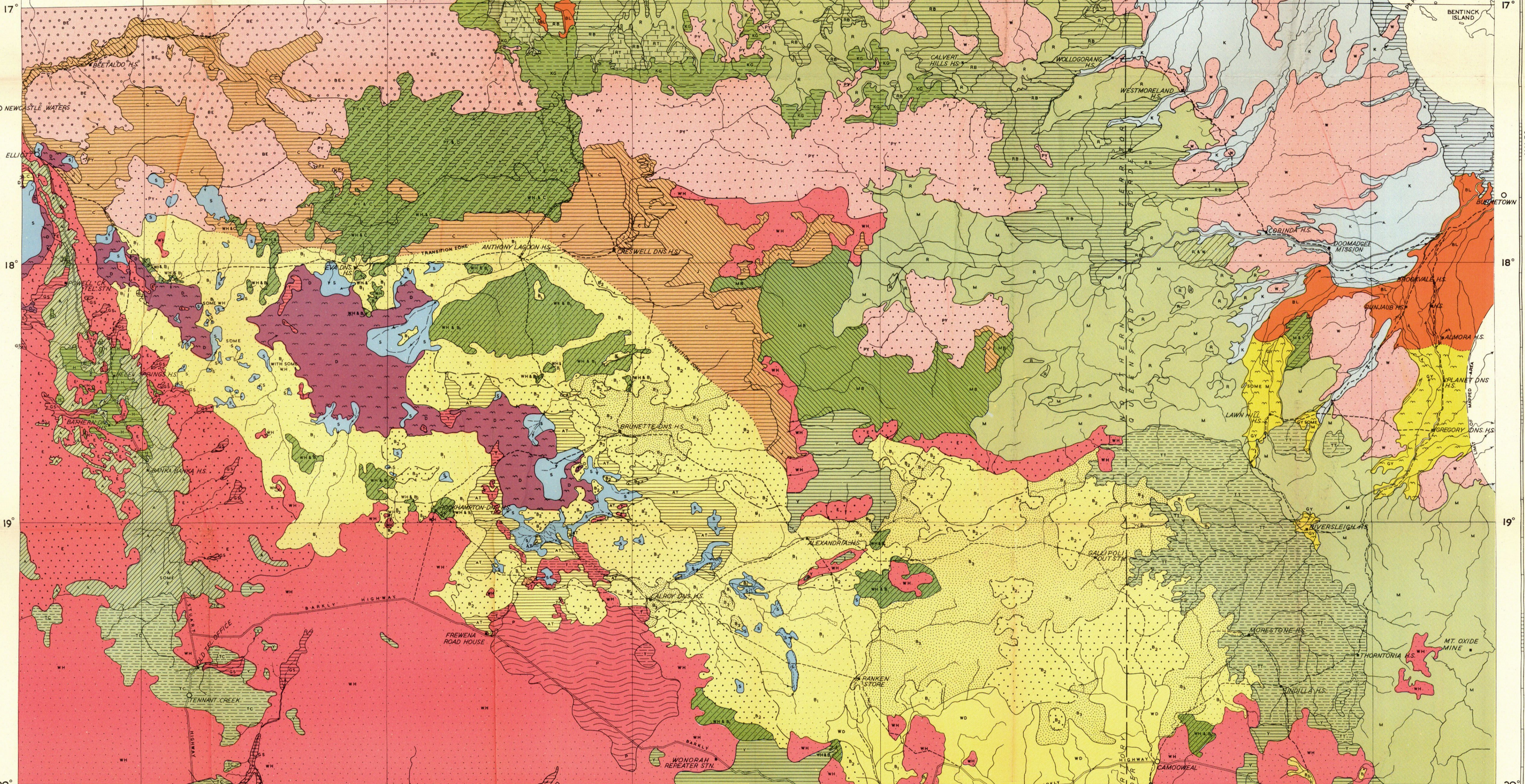
COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION  
NORTHERN AUSTRALIA REGIONAL SURVEY 1947-48

MAP SHOWING  
**LAND USE GROUPS**  
OF THE  
**BARKLY REGION**  
(INCLUDING THE BARKLY TABLELAND, GULF FALL AREAS,  
UPPER GEORGINA BASIN AND ASSOCIATED INLAND DESERT)

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COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION  
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THIS MAP HAS BEEN PREPARED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND THE TRAVERSE RECORDS OF THE SURVEY PARTY  
TOPOGRAPHICAL BASE MAPPING FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS BY NATIONAL MAPPING SERVICE, DEPT. OF INTERIOR  
MERCATOR PROJECTION

GULF OF CARPENTARIA



GROUP	LAND SYSTEMS	AREA SQ. MILES	DESCRIPTION	WATER SUPPLY	PRESENT LAND USE	POTENTIAL LAND USE
MITCHELL GRASS COUNTRY	Berly, Woodro Australia, Kallala, Secoria, Moona, Angadagada	28,700	Very large, undulating, heavy soil plains, mostly treeless, Barkly Mitchell grass pastures, boggy when wet; soil types generally heavy; average rainfall 10-17 in. per annum.	Widely spaced non-permanent streams, few permanent water holes, adequate sub-artesian water at less than 500 ft.	Mainly extensive beef cattle raising with production of stores and some fats; some sheep for wool in south-east corner.	Further intensification of beef cattle industry requiring additional stores and fencing, and improved transport; increased turn-off of fats possible.
NORTHERN MITCHELL GRASS COUNTRY	Gregory	900	Smaller plains, similar to above, but without gravelly ridges; average rainfall 30-50 in. per annum.	Traversed by permanently flowing streams but shallow bays or wells also necessary.	Beef cattle raising producing mainly fats.	Slight intensification of cattle industry; soils suitable for irrigation if water conservation possible, but catchment area small.
INFERIOR MITCHELL GRASS COUNTRY	Crowell, Jamnath	3,900	Flat to gently undulating, heavy soil plains with taller mixed pastures, inferior to Barkly Mitchell grass pastures; scattered coolibah trees in some areas; average rainfall approx. 30 in. per annum.	Widely spaced non-permanent streams, few permanent water holes, sub-artesian water at less than 500 ft.	Beef cattle raising; less developed than Mitchell grass country; mainly breeding.	Intensification of beef cattle industry requiring additional stores and fencing and improved transport.
NORTHERN INFERIOR MITCHELL GRASS COUNTRY	Balsirah	1,400	Flat to gently undulating, heavy soil plains, with scattered coolibah and other low trees; pastures similar to foregoing; average rainfall 25-30 in. per annum.	Fairly well watered by permanent streams or water holes.	Beef cattle raising, mostly breeding.	Possibilities of annual fodder as supplement when beef cattle industry is better developed.
BLUEBUSH SWAMPS	Sylvester	1,400	Shallow alluvial areas within Mitchell grass country receiving water from local streams, flooded for several months each year; bluebush and many herbage species provide excellent stock carrying; very heavy soils which are boggy when wet; average rainfall 12-15 in. per annum.	No permanent surface water; sub-artesian water at less than 500 ft.	Beef cattle grazing, especially for fattening, but only partially utilized at present.	Could be more fully exploited for cattle raising especially for producing fats if transport facilities were developed; additional stores required.
DRYBAG	Drylake	2,200	Nearly flat low areas of fluviol, deeply cracking soils with uneven surface; scattered coolibah and sparse pasture species; average rainfall 15-30 in. per annum.	No permanent surface water; sub-artesian water at less than 500 ft.	Small portions only used for cattle.	Much unused but cattle carrying capacity can be improved by stocking and supply of stock water.
BROKEN MITCHELL GRASS COUNTRY	Helen Springs, Mitchell, and mixed land systems	7,000	Patches of Mitchell grass country or inferior Mitchell grass country interspersed with areas of skeletal or skeletal soils carrying spinifex; average rainfall 12-20 in. per annum.	Few permanent water holes; sub-artesian water.	Better areas developed for beef cattle; remainder only partially used.	Further development of cattle raising still possible on some less accessible areas.
HILLY COUNTRY	Mt. Isa, Robinson, Thornton, Rolpat, Ashburton, Tennant Creek, Teveltoft	29,000	Mostly hilly, some rugged country, with rock outcrops and skeletal soils, some small alluvial valleys, mostly lightly timbered, much spinifex, with more useful pastures in valleys, or on some limestone areas; average rainfall varies from 10-30 in. per annum.	Valleys in northern portion served by springs and permanent waterholes, remainder poorly watered; underground water supplies variable.	Mt. Isa silver lead mines, Tennant Creek gold mines, and several small mines are worked; beef cattle are carried at low rates in better areas.	Little development possible other than mining.
SOUTHERN DESERT COUNTRY	Wondrah, Elliott, Camille, Bundella, Gosse, Prentice, Tomerney, Maverley	24,700	Undulating country with some rock outcrops; mostly light textured soils with low scrub and spinifex, but small depressions with alluvial soils and better pastures; average rainfall 10-16 in. per annum.	Surface water supply very poor; sub-artesian water generally available.	Not used except where adjacent to better cattle country.	Little development possible except as adjacent to better cattle areas.
NORTHERN DESERT COUNTRY	Basilston, Pollyarra, Westmoreland	14,700	Gently undulating lateritic country with leached soils and very poor pastures; ironwood forests of small open forest; average rainfall 17-30 in. per annum.	Few permanent water holes.	Apart from cutting of small quantities of lancewood and cypress pine this country is little used; some cattle.	Limited timber potential, unlikely to be developed for cattle industry.
COASTAL COUNTRY	Littoral, Reburn	6,100	Timbered coastal plains with leached soils and tall pastures of low nutritive values; soil moisture with useful pastures; salt flats and sand dunes; average rainfall 20-30 in. per annum.	Well watered by permanent water holes.	Only partially used for beef cattle.	Not high producing country but further exploitation by cattle industry possible if communications improved; small areas of levee soils could be developed by irrigation but remainder of soils not satisfactory.

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