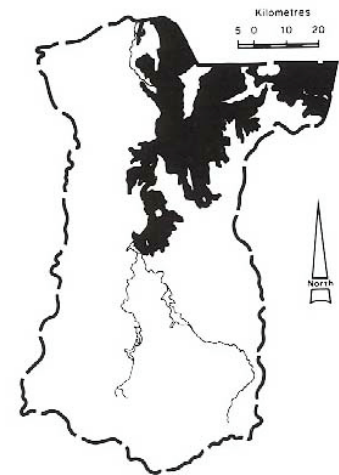


2.1 PIA1 PLAINS – level, ALLUVIAL, type 1

This map unit comprises an almost flat alluvial plain, being a southern part of the extensive riverine plain of the Murray Darling system. Surface features are uncommon; however, occasional depressions, river channels, abandoned stream channels and sandy prior stream levees do occur. Red duplex soils predominate. This unit is replaced by unit Pi/gA where the alluvium is narrowed by surrounding slopes and the broad alluvial plains are replaced by one or more narrow terraces. The boundary between the two units is often diffuse, and is represented by a broken line on the map.



Geology Qs – Quaternary alluvium

Rainfall 350-450 mm per annum

Slope Average 0%; range 0-1%

Dominant landform element (90%) Plain

Minor landform elements (10%) Channel, depression, levee

Soils Dominant: Dr21.3, Dr2.12, Dr2.3, Dr2.23. Red duplex soils (red-brown earths), typically with sandy loam to loam top-soils, across the plain; a pale A₂ horizon is usually present and the subsoil is a non-mottled neutral to alkaline red clay: red duplex soils that have sandier topsoils and bright red subsoils occur in the prior stream levees

Minor: Ug5.2, Ug5.3, Ug5. Heavy grey or brown cracking clays in minor depressions in the plain.

Uc, Um. Soils with little profile development beyond an accumulation of organic matter in the topsoil on recent loamy, silty or sandy deposits along the major stream channels.

Native vegetation Although almost totally cleared, the remaining trees indicate that a woodland II to open woodland II of *E. microcarpa* once predominated; other notable species include *Casuarina luehmannii* on the plain, *E. camaldulensis* along the major streams and *E. largiflorens* in the poorly drained depressions

Stone-rock outcrop Nil

Pans Not present or not observed.

Land use Mainly cereal-cropping and grazing, but limited irrigated pastures in the north support dairy cattle

Observed land deterioration Little deterioration occurs, apart from minor streambank erosion is some watercourses and minor wind erosion; compacted layers beneath the cultivated topsoil known as 'plough pans' may be present in areas that are regularly cropped. Surface sealing may also occur.

Susceptibility to land deterioration

Waterlogging and salting in lower lying areas, especially with irrigation (moderate)

Compaction, surface sealing (moderate)

Wind erosion (low)

Streambank erosion (low to moderate)



Alluvial plains flanking the Loddon River south of Serpentine.