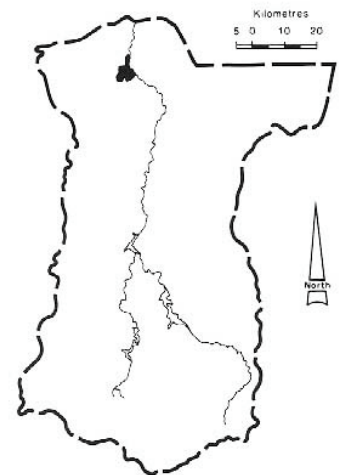


2.2 PIA2 PLAINS – level, ALLUVIAL, type 2

A poorly drained alluvial plain to the north-east of Mount Korong, adjoining the Loddon River, lie between the well drained plains of map unit PIA5. The leveed banks of the Loddon River appear to have prevented free drainage of the plain into the river system, and this map unit has many features of a backplain. Uniform cracking clay soils predominate and gilgaied micro-relief is common. The native vegetation has mostly been cleared.



Geology Qs – Quaternary alluvium

Rainfall 400-450 mm per annum

Slope Average 0%; range 0-1%

Dominant landform element (95%) Plain

Minor landform elements (5%) Levee, drainage depression

Soils Dominant: Ug5.2, Ug5.3, Dr2 (complex). A gilgaied complex of soils covers this unit throughout: grey brown self-mulching cracking clays occur on the puffs, with red-brown duplex soils in the shallow intervening depressions and heavy massive cracking clays in the lowest and poorest-drained parts of the plain: the soils frequently vary over short distances and influence pasture or crop growth, often giving a 'patchy' appearance to the paddocks.

Native vegetation Isolated trees of *E. microcarpa* remain: the original forest was probably quite sparse, with a grassy open woodland II to woodland II most likely

Stone-rock outcrop Nil

Pans Not present or not observed.

Land use Predominantly grazing or cereal-cropping

Observed land deterioration Surface sealing and compaction of soils common, except on the self-mulching clays of the puffs

Susceptibility to land deterioration

Inundation (moderate)

Compaction (moderate)

Surface sealing (moderate)



These poorly drained plains to the west of the tree-lined Loddon River (background) support grazing.