

2.3 PIA3 PLAINS – level, ALLUVIAL, type 3

Several areas with significant densities of channels or poorly drained depressions occur within the relatively featureless and well-drained plain of map unit PIA1. The channelised areas have drainage predominantly to the north and north-east, whereas the areas with depressions have no noticeable drainage pattern. Both types of plain are characterised by heavy clay soils, a gilgaied micro-relief and a change in land use from predominantly cropping PIA1 to predominantly grazing in this unit. Many areas are seasonally inundated and some of the larger swamps provide good wildlife habitat.



Geology Qs & Qc – Quaternary alluvium

Rainfall 350-450 mm per annum

Slope Average 0%; range 0-1%

Dominant landform elements (95%) Swamp, shallow drainage depression, plain

Minor landform elements (5%) Prior stream levee

Soils Dominant: Ug5.2, Ug5.3. Uniform cracking brown or grey clays predominate; grey mottles may occur in the subsoils of the brown clays; subsoils are heavy, with smooth-ped blocky structure, and neutral to alkaline at a depth.

Minor: Dr2.13, Dr2.12. Red duplex soils, generally with loamy topsoil over non-mottled red clays subsoils, occupy the better drained parts of the mapping unit, while A₂ horizons are seldom present, the lower parts of the A₁ horizon may be slightly paler: subsoils neutral to alkaline: deeper, fine sandy loam topsoils occur on the prior stream levees

Native vegetation Although mostly cleared, some tree remain, especially in the poorer-drained areas where *E.largiflorens* and occasionally *E.camaldulensis* occur: *E. microcarpa* is also common on the plain, and isolated specimens of *Casuarina luehmannii* grow on the better-drained prior stream levees.

Stone-rock outcrop Nil

Pans Nil or not observed

Land use Predominantly grazing on native and introduced pastures, with some cropping of cereals in better-drained parts: some swampy areas remain as wildlife habitats.

Observed land deterioration Nil or not significant

Susceptibility to land deterioration

Inundation (moderate)

Salting (low to moderate)

Surface sealing and compaction (low to moderate)



Imperfect drainage is a feature of this unit, as indicated by the patches of darker and moister soil in this cultivated paddock.