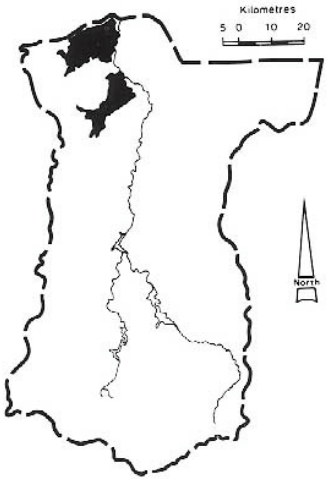
2.5 PlA5 PLAINS – level, ALLUVIAL, type 5



Well-drained, gently sloping plains occur to the north-east and west of Wedderburn. They have developed on alluvium-colluvium derived from granitic and sedimentary sources, and are relatively featureless except for a pattern of shallow drainage depressions flowing in north-easterly direction. The surrounding hills and rises frequently merge into the plain, and a clear distinction between where the plain ends and the rises or hills begin is not always obvious. Red duplex soils predominate and *E. microcarpa* is the main tree species.

Geology Qs – Quaternary alluvium

Rainfall 350-450 mm per annum

Slope Average 0%; range 0-1%

Dominant landform element (95%) Plain

Minor landform elements (5%) Drainage depression

Soils Dominant: Dr2.12, Dr2.22, Dr2.43. Red duplex soils dominate, with whole-coloured red clay subsoils, and A_2 horizons that, if present, are pale or bleached: the topsoils – moderately deep poorly, structured sandy loams – may seal after cultivation and rain; subsoils are neutral to alkaline

Minor: Uc. Youthful uniform sandy soils with obvious alluvial layering and little profile development in some of the drainage depressions

Native vegetation Mostly cleared apart from along drainage depressions, where numerous native trees remain; *E. microcarpa* is predominant on the plain, with *E. camaldulensis* and *E.melliodora* restricted to the drainage depressions

Stone-rock outcrop Nil

Pans Weakly cemented hardpans observed in some drainage depressions; however, their extent across the unit is unknown

Land use Predominantly cereal-cropping and grazing on introduced pastures

Observed land deterioration Gully erosion in some drainage depressions

Susceptibility to land deterioration
Gully erosion (moderate)
Wind erosion (moderate)
Compaction, surface sealing (moderate)

These well-drained plains, typically with red duplex soils, are grazed or cropped.