

2.8 PI/gA PLAINS – level to gently undulating, ALLUVIAL

Gently undulating plains occur along many of the major streams throughout the catchment. They are frequently narrow, being restricted in extent by the surrounding sloping terrain. One or more terraces may be present, and the higher ones may be partially dissected. A narrow floodplain typically lines the watercourse. Soils vary depending on the age of the terrace, ranging from duplex on the older terraces to uniform sands or loams on the recent floodplains. *E. camaldulensis* lines the watercourses. This unit merges with the PIA units and the boundary is represented as a broken line.



Geology Qs, Qra – Quaternary alluvium, gravels, sands, silts and clays

Rainfall 400-600 mm per annum

Slope Average 1%; range 0-3%

Dominant landform element (90%) Terrace, floodplain

Minor landform elements (10%) Stream channel, minor drainage depression

Soils Older terraces: Dr2.13, Dr2.22, Dr2.23, Dr2.4, Dy3.42, Dy3. Whole-coloured red duplex soils predominate, with mottled-yellow duplex soils occurring less frequently; a bleached A₂ may be present, and the commonly neutral subsoils tend alkaline in the north; a sandy wash layer may overlie the topsoil; soil depth generally exceeds, 1 m, and generally sandy alluvium occurs beneath the clayey subsoils

Recent terraces and floodplain: Uc1.43, Um5.5. Uniform sandy, shallow to moderately deep or loamy soils usually occur on the lower terraces and narrow floodplain, frequently with little profile development, and lenses of alluvial material visible throughout the profile; they are usually apedal or weakly structured and neutral at depth; the underlying recent sandy alluvium exhibits depositional layering

Native vegetation Most area, with the exception of the streambanks, cleared for agricultural use, although an open forest II or woodland II probably once occurred: *E. camaldulensis* is the most common tree, lining the major watercourses and scattered across the narrow floodplain; the higher, better-drained terraces may carry *E. microcarpa* and *E. melliodora*, and *E. leucoxyton* occurs on well-drained older terraces to the north of the study area

Stone-rock outcrop Nil

Pans Nil or not observed

Land use Mainly grazing, with limited cropping of cereal and horticultural crops; the native vegetation is often retained on the streambanks

Observed land deterioration Salting occasionally occurs – for example, in the Timor West area; streambank erosion is common in many areas, and gullying of the older terraces also occurs; surface compaction may follow stock trafficking, and cultivation may induce a compacted layer beneath the cultivated zone

Susceptibility to land deterioration

Salting (low to moderate)

Streambank erosion (moderate)

Gully erosion (low to moderate)

Compaction (moderate to high)



Narrow alluvial plains and river red gums along the creeks provide an attractive scene.