

## 2.9 PgB1 PLAINS – gently undulating, BASALTIC, type 1

This gently undulating plain has formed on a lava flow that emanated from a small volcano near Woodstock and flowed in a north-westerly direction as far as Bridgewater. The soils are typically gradational and are characterised by a bright orange-red subsoil. The vegetation has been largely cleared, and grazing on introduced pastures and cropping are the main land uses. Surface rock is common, especially on the gentle crests, and in these areas land use is limited to grazing. Rock picking has been carried out on some of the marginal areas to allow cropping.

**Geology** Qvn – Quaternary basalt

**Rainfall** 400-450 mm per annum

**Slope Average** 1%; range 0-10%(volcanic hill)

**Dominant landform element** (90%) Plain, gently crest – often rocky, gentle slope

**Minor landform elements** (10%) Drainage depression, closed depression, scarp, scarp footslope, volcanic cone

**Soils** Dominant: Gn3.12, Gn4.12. Red gradational soils predominate, generally with weak structure and with a characteristic orange-red coloured neutral subsoil; depth is variable, ranging from shallow on the stony crests to moderately deep in the stone-free areas

Minor: Um. Red-brown loams of uniform texture on some of the rockier crests and on the slopes of Bald Hill

**Native vegetation** The remaining trees indicate that *E. microcarpa* and *Casuarina luehmannii* most probably dominated woodland II to open woodland II formation. *E. melliodora* is a commonly associated species

**Stone-rock outcrop** average 10%; range 0-40%

**Pans** Nil or not observed

**Land use** Predominantly grazing on introduced pasture with some cropping of cereals on the gentle rock-free slopes

**Observed land deterioration** Usually minimal, and restricted to minor sheet erosion on the rocky crests, and the slopes of Bald Hill

Susceptibility to land deterioration

Wind erosion (low)

Sheet erosion (low – crests and scarps)



*Surface rock is common on many crests, thus confining cropping to the deeper soils of the intervening slopes and depressions.*