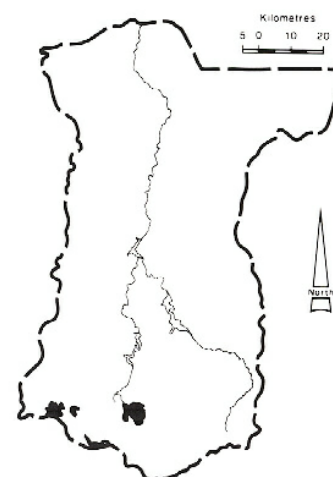


2.12 PgB4 PLAINS – gently undulating, BASALTIC, type 4

In the undulating terrain to the south the more extensive areas of the flatter and poorer-drained areas have been mapped out to form this unit. Poorly drained plains and drainage depressions comprise most of the area, although occasional rises are also included. Drainage is frequently assisted by man-made ditches and channels. The soils are typically grey uniform clays, or yellowish brown duplex soils – often containing buckshot. The native vegetation has been cleared and grazing is the predominant land use. The steep-sided valley of Birch Creek to the west of Clunes is included.



Geology Qvn – Quaternary olivine basalt

Rainfall 600-700 mm per annum

Slope Average 1%; range 0-5% - occasionally precipitous on scarps

Dominant landform element (95%) Plain - flat to gently undulating, broad drainage depression

Minor landform elements (5%) Narrow drainage depression, scarp, scarp footslope, rocky rise

Soils Dominant: Ug5.2, Ug5.3. Grey, or less commonly brown, uniform cracking clay soils, varying in depth, but typically greater than 1 m deep; cracks form as the soils dry out, and gilgai features may occur; seasonal shrinking and swelling of the soils creates difficult conditions for plant growth, and also for roads and buildings, which may require special foundations

Db1.21, Db1.11, Dy3.21, Dy3.22, Dy3.12. brown or yellow duplex soils are also common, with silty loam, grey-brown topsoils; a pale A₂ horizon is usually present, commonly containing buckshot, manganiferous concretions may also occur just above the subsoil; subsoils are clayey, brown without mottles or yellow with reddish mottles, with an acid to neutral pH

Minor Gn3.72. Yellow gradational variants of the previous soil groups occur to a minor extent: topsoils of grey-brown silty loam grade into red-mottled yellow clay subsoils, with buckshot above the subsoil

Native vegetation Almost totally cleared: *E. Viminalis* was observed at one site, and isolated specimens of *E. camaldulensis* and *E. ovata* probably remain in some depressions; shrubs of *Acacia melanoxylon* and *A. armata* were also observed

Stone-rock outcrop Average less than 1%, although a few rocky slopes with shallow soils occur in the map units west of Clunes

Pans Weakly cemented ferruginous hardpans occur beneath the clayey subsoils in some areas

Land use Primarily grazing, apart from minor cropping of cereals and oilseeds on some of the better-drained rock-free slopes

Observed land deterioration Little deterioration observed, except for limited gully erosion where man made channels have scoured out, and pugging of the topsoil during wet conditions

Susceptibility to land deterioration

Gully erosion (low)

Compaction (moderate)



The soils in this low-lying area east of Lexton are seasonally waterlogged.