

2.13 PgB5 PLAINS – gently undulating, BASALTIC, type 5

A gently undulating basaltic plain occurs on the south-western catchment divide running north from Mount Mitchell, near Lexton, to Wareek. The unit is characterised by grey calcareous cracking clays and a gilgaied micro-relief. The high shrink-well characteristics of the clays provide difficult conditions for plant growth and the construction of buildings and roads. To the north a steep and rocky scarp, cause by the lateral incision of Bet Bet Creek, occurs along the eastern boundary.

E.camaldulensis and *E. microcarpa* are found scattered across the plain, which is mostly grazed

Geology Qvn – Quaternary olivine basalt

Rainfall 450-600 mm per annum

Slope Average 1%; range 0-3% on plain, but up to 100% on scarps

Dominant landform element (75%) Plain, flat to gently undulating

Minor landform elements (25%) Rocky rise, drainage depressions, scarp, scarp footslope

Soils Dominant: Ug5.2, Ug5.4. Grey, or less commonly brown, calcareous cracking clay soils predominate, commonly with gilgaied micro-relief; surface texture ranges from clay on the puffs to clay loam in the hollows where fine surface rootline mottling is apparent; subsoils, usually calcareous, have a coarse angular blocky structure: the soils seasonally shrink and swell causing waterlogging problems in winter and physical disruption to plant roots in summer: soil depth is variable, with rock exposure common in the shallower soils

Minor: Gn3.12, Gn4.1. Shallow, stony, reddish gradational soils on the scarps and occasional rocky rises in the plain, typically well structured and well drained

Gn4.4. Dark-coloured gradational soils in some drainage occasionally occur on the scarps

Native vegetation Numerous scattered specimens of *E. camaldulensis* and *E. microcarpa* grow on the plain; *E. camaldulensis* occurs in the drainage depressions

Stone-rock outcrop Generally less than 1%, although significant rock outcrop does occur on the scarp

Pans Nil or not observed

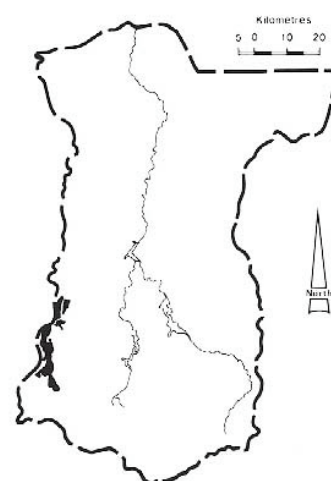
Land use Mainly grazing on native rock and introduced pastures, with limited cropping in the rock-free parts of the plain

Observed land deterioration Minor sheet erosion on the steeper scarps; seasonal waterlogging, although not strictly a form of deterioration, occurs on parts of the plain and limits agricultural production

Susceptibility to land deterioration
Sheet erosion (moderate – scarp)
Gully erosion (low)
Waterlogging (moderate – plain)
Compaction (low to moderate)



The cracking clay soils common in this unit give rise to a gilgaied micro-relief.



Bedrock is usually close to the surface, as indicated by the basaltic boulders in the excavated dam-bank material.