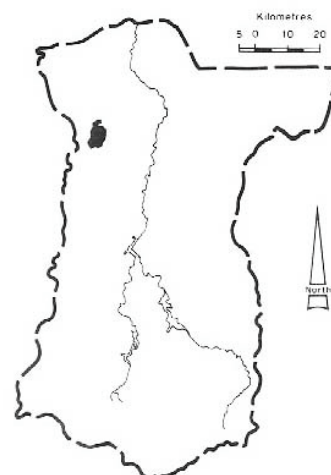


## 2.15 PgG2 PLAINS – gently undulating, GRANITIC, type 2

This gently undulating plain formed on granitic colluvial-alluvial fan material from the Mount Kooyoora area, occurs to the west of Inglewood. A common feature of this unit is the presence of a hardpan, probably silicified, at shallow depth. The resultant shallow soils of low water-holding capacity and nutrient status, particularly on the upper slopes and gentle crests, have retained the native vegetation of mallee scrub, despite a long history of clearing in the area. Agricultural land use is predominantly grazing.



**Geology** Qs – Quaternary alluvium; Dgd – Devonian granodiorite, granite

**Rainfall** 450-500 mm per annum

**Slope Average** 1%; range 0-1%

**Dominant landform element** (95%) Crest, gentle slope

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

**Soils** Dominant: Dy2.1, Db2.41. Yellow-brown-grey duplex soils, with sandy topsoils and possibly thin bleached A<sub>2</sub> horizons; subsoils may be mottled; the soils are frequently shallow due to the presence of an underlying hardpan; lenses of coarse granitic colluvium are exposed in the drainage depressions

**Native vegetation** A woodland II to open forest II of *E. microcarpa*, with *E. leucoxyton* commonly associated, and a shrubby understorey containing, among other species, *Acacia pycnantha* and *Cassinia arcuata*; patches of mallee vegetation containing *E. bhriana* and *E. polybractea* occur on some crests and slopes

**Stone-rock** outcrop Nil

**Pans** A variably cemented hardpan throughout the unit; although hard and close to the surface in areas of mallee vegetation, in general it is weakly cemented and occurs at depths of up to 1 m; silica is the probable cementing agent

**Land use** Approximately half of the unit has been cleared and supports relatively low-productivity grazing enterprises; the forest supplies limited quantities of timber for firewood, fenceposts etc; a few areas of mallee vegetation are harvested to obtain eucalyptus oil

**Observed land deterioration** Sheet erosion – common despite the gentle slopes – is most noticeable in the areas of mallee vegetation, where the disruptive leaf-harvesting process exposes the topsoil to erosion; gully erosion occurs in many depressions

Susceptibility to land deterioration

Sheet erosion (low to moderate)

Gully erosion (moderate)

Wind erosion (low)

Compaction (low to moderate)



*The mallee eucalypts that grow in parts of this land unit are harvested regularly to produce eucalyptus oil.*