

2.19 RgB1 RISES – gently undulating, BASALTIC, type 1

Basaltic rises, characteristically with red gradational soils that are cropped, occur in the higher-rainfall southern areas, especially to the east of Creswick. The gently undulating landscape has gentle rock-free slopes with broad crests and depressions. The well-structured and well-drained soils are favoured for crops, particularly potato-growing. A number of small volcanic hills too small in area or elevation to be mapped in VB unit are included in this unit.

Geology Qvn – Quaternary olivine basalt

Rainfall 600-1100 mm per annum

Slope Average 2%; range 0-5%, rarely up to 25%

Dominant landform element (95%) Broad crest, slope, broad depression

Minor landform elements (5%) Volcanic cone, scarp

Soils Dominant: Gn3.11, Gn4.11. Moderately deep red gradational soils, common in all landscape positions except depressions, are typically well structured, with a gradual increase in clay down through the profile; in some areas fragments of basaltic stone may occur throughout the profile: the soils are acidic at the surface, and range from acidic to neutral at depth

Minor: Ug5.1, Ug5.2, Gn. Dark grey uniform cracking clay soils in drainage depressions; they frequently contain buckshot and may be underlain by a layer of ortstein: dark silty gradational soils also occur

Um/Gn3/Gn4. Shallow and frequently stony uniform to gradational red to brown soils on the occasional scarps

Native vegetation The native vegetation is totally cleared from the land unit, however *E. viminalis* and *E. obliqua* were probably common species in the higher-rainfall area, with *E. ovata* in depressions

Stone-rock outcrop Average 0%; range 0-1%

Pans A cemented layer of pisolitic ironstone (ortstein) occurs in some poorly drained areas, but its extent was not studied

Land use Chiefly cropping, especially of potatoes; other common land uses include grazing of sheep for fat lamb production, grazing of beef cattle and cropping of lucerne

Observed land deterioration The land unit is very stable and no significant land deterioration was observed

Susceptibility to land deterioration

Compaction (moderate)

Sheet erosion (low)



Rape – an important oilseed crop that thrives on the volcanic soils.



The well-drained, friable red soils of this land unit are favoured, among many things, for propagating flower bulbs such as these daffodils.