

### 2.36 LuS LOW HILLS – undulating, SEDIMENTARY

Undulating low hills on sedimentary rocks occur in the Wombat State Forest in the south-east of the sturdy area. The native vegetation reflects the high rainfall, with *E. obliqua*, *E. radiata* and *E. viminalis* common in an open forest III. The undulating landscape has been protected from dissection by the basaltic rises from Creswick through Daylesford to Glenlyon. Further to the north, where stream incision is less restricted, more steeply dissected, sedimentary terrain is common. Despite the general lack of steep slopes, the major part of the area has been retained as native forest and provides a valuable resource of millable hardwood timbers



**Geology** O1 – Ordovician sandstones, shales and slates

**Rainfall** 850-1200 mm per annum

**Slope** Average 8%; range 4-20%

**Dominant landform element** (75%) Broad crest, gentle slope

**Minor landform elements** (25%) Drainage depression, steeper crest and slope

**Soils** Dominant: Gn3.71, Gn3.74. Acidic friable yellow gradational soils, frequently stony depth, on the slopes and broad crests; the brown and loamy topsoils grade into a whole-coloured or faintly red-brown mottled yellowish brown clay at about 30 cm; depth is usually between 0.6 and 1.2 m, with soils grading into weathered bedrock below this depth' subsoils pH is between 4.5 and 6.5

Minor: Gn4.11, reddish-brown friable gradational soils on some narrow crests and steeper slopes

Gn3.91. Greyish-brown gradational soils, occasionally with a pale A<sub>2</sub> horizon, in some drainage depressions

**Native vegetation** An open forest II to II of *E. obliqua*, *E. radiata*, *E. viminalis* and, less frequently, *E. rubida*; *E.ovata* also occurs in major drainage depressions

**Stone-rock outcrop** Average 1%; range 0-10%

**Pans** Nil or nor observed

**Land use** Most of the area is under native forest, which supplies valuable timber products including sawn timber and poles; forest-based recreational activities include picnicking, driving, bushwalking and orienteering: the limited areas cleared for agriculture support grazing on introduced or native pastures

**Observed land deterioration** Minor sheet erosion and compaction, especially after forestry or roading activities

#### **Susceptibility to land deterioration**

Sheet erosion (low to moderate)

Compaction (moderate)

Gully erosion (low to moderate)



*A few sawmills, such as this one south of Daylesford, convert locally felled eucalypts into sawn timber products.*



*A typical productive messmate-gum forest.*