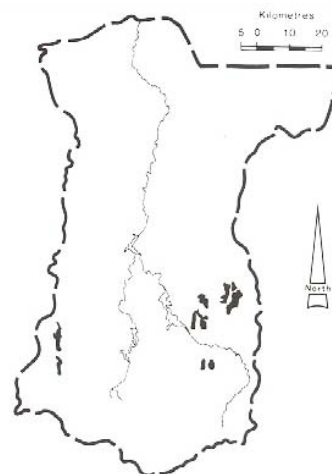


2.37 LrS1 LOW HILLS – rolling, SEDIMENTARY, type 1

Low hills, often seen as raised within gentler sedimentary terrain, occur in the central areas. The soils are often shallow and stony and the native vegetation is usually retained, reflecting the low suitability for agriculture production. Sheet erosion occurs where the vegetation has been cleared. The strike of the steeply dipping sedimentary rocks is often indicated by parallel bands of rock outcrop.



Geology O1 – Ordovician sandstones, shales and slates

Rainfall 500-600 mm per annum

Slope Average 10%; range 5-30%

Dominant landform element (90%) Crest, slope – often rocky

Minor landform elements (10%) Drainage depression

Soils Gn3.71, Gn3.74, Gn3.75. Yellowish brown soils of gradational texture trend, usually shallow (commonly less than 0.5 m deep), contain fragments of bedrock throughout the profile; topsoils are loamy and the thin A₂ horizons are pale or bleached; subsoils are acidic to neutral

Minor: Um5. Stony loam soils of uniform texture occasionally found on the steeper slopes and sharper crests, and typically very shallow, contain abundant stone fragments and have thin loamy A horizons that may be readily lost after clearing; where cleared, they support only low-yielding pastures due to low soil water-storage capacity, low inherent fertility and excessive drainage

Dy3.21, Dy3.41, Dy3.22. Red mottled yellow duplex soils, restricted to the gentler slopes and in depressions, have brown and loamy topsoils, and pale to bleached horizons that may contain some buckshot or stone fragments; soil depth generally exceeds 0.7 m

Native vegetation Retained in about half the areas; common species, usually in an open forest I to II formation, are *E. macrorrhyncha*, *E. goniocalyx*, *E. microcarpa*, *E. leucoxyton* and *E. polyanthemos*, with *E. melliodora* and occasionally *E. camaldulensis* occurs on the lower slopes and in depressions

Stone-rock outcrop 0-20%, often in parallel bands

Pans Not present or not observed

Land use The native vegetation – retained in about half the areas – supplies limited quantities of timber for firewood, posts etc; the forests are also used for limited recreation, gold mining and apiculture; the slopes, where cleared, support agriculture pursuits of low productivity, most notably grazing

Observed land deterioration Sheet erosion occurs in cleared areas that are overgrazed, and the increased run-off following clearing contributes to gully erosion in adjacent map units; the slopes and crests may also be recharge sites for the groundwaters, and the cleared areas may contribute to the salting problems in adjacent lower-lying areas

Susceptibility to land deterioration

On-site Sheet erosion (moderate)

Off-site Gully erosion (moderate)

Salting (moderate)



Parallel outcropping of the steeply dipping sandstone layers is evident on this hillside.