

2.39 L/HrG LOW HILLS to HILLS – rolling, GRANITIC

Areas of rolling hills with the Harcourt granitic pluton lie close to the eastern boundary of the catchment. The hills are characterised by prominent rock outcrop and gentler rock-free slopes and saddles. In a number of areas, prominent rocky features rise above the surrounding undulating granitic slopes. Coarse sandy soils predominate on the steeper rocky slopes, as do the yellow duplex soils on the gentler slopes. Land use is restricted to grazing.

Geology Dg1, Dg2, Dg3 – Devonian granite and granodiorite

Rainfall 450-700 mm per annum

Slope Average 10%; range 2-50%

Dominant landform element (95%) Crest and upper slope – usually rocky, gentle slope and saddle – generally rock free

Minor landform elements (5%) minor drainage depression

Soils Dominant: Uc1, Uc5.21. Brown coarse sandy soils, with coarse sandy loam to loamy coarse sand surface textures occur in the steeper rocky areas; they are shallow, usually less than 0.5 m deep; available soil water capacity is low, making the soils droughty in summer

Sub-dominant: Dy3.41, dy3.42. Mottled yellow duplex soils with hard-setting coarse sandy loam topsoils with bleached A₂ horizons occur on the gentler, and generally rock-free slopes; in alluvial situations they may be overlain by a recent sandy wash layer; soil depth is variable, but usually greater than 0.5 m

Native vegetation An open woodland to woodland II persists on some of the steeper slopes, with common species including *E. microcarpa*, *E. melliodora*, *E. goniocalyx*, and *E. viminalis*; *E. camalduensis* occasionally occurs on lower slopes on the eastern boundary

Stone-rock outcrop 0-80%

Pans Nil or not observed

Land use Grazing on mainly native pastures of low productivity

Observed land deterioration Minor sheet, win or track erosion

Susceptibility to land deterioration

Sheet and track erosion (moderate)

Wind erosion (moderate to high)



Steep, boulder-strewn slopes are characteristic of this unit.

The steep, rocky slopes of this unit contrast with the gentler, rock-free lower slopes of an adjacent unit. A water channel, part of the Coliban water supply system, skirts the base of the hill.