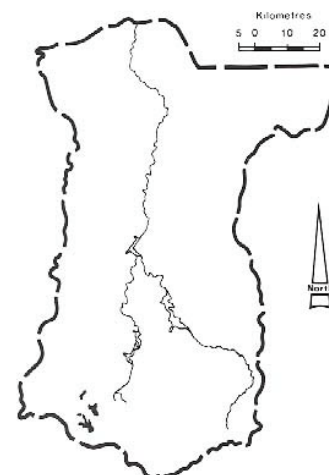


2.43 HrG3 HILLS – rolling, GRANITIC, type 3

Mount Beckworth and Mount Bolton are two prominent granitic hills that protrude from the basaltic plain near Clunes in the south-west of the study area. The slopes are steep and rock outcrop, including large boulders and rock sheets, is common. The soils are generally sallow and coarse sandy, although deeper sandy soils, which have in the past been exploited for road building materials, occur on the lower slopes. The Mount Beckworth area is managed by the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands as a scenic reserve and is used for limited recreational pursuits.



Geology Dgr – Devonian granitic rocks

Rainfall 650-700 mm per annum

Slope Average 15%; range 10-50%

Dominant landform element (95%) Slope and crest – often rocky, tor

Minor landform elements (5%) Saddle, drainage depression, cliff

Soils Dominant: Uc. Brown coarse sandy soils of uniform texture – common throughout on the steeper sand usually rocky slopes and crests – are usually shallow, with little pedological development beyond an accumulation of organic matter at the surface; deeper variants occur in rock-free areas

Minor: Dy3.2. Mottled yellow-grey duplex soil, with deep sandy A horizons that may hardset and a weakly pedal sandy clay B horizon, occur on the gentler lower slopes or in broad saddles

Native vegetation A woodland II or open woodland II of *E. viminalis* on the slopes and crests; *E. aromaphloia*, an uncommon species in the catchment, around Mount Beckworth; *E. goniocalyx* restricted to the lower slopes and the surrounding Rg/UG2 map unit: common understorey shrubs include *Acacia melanoxylon* on the upper slopes, and *A. armata* and *A. mearnsii* throughout; grasses provide the lowest stratum

Stone-rock outcrop Variable; 5-50%

Pans Nil or not observed

Land use The Mount Beckworth area is used for limited forest based recreational activities as well as nature conservation; other land uses of the unit include sand mining and grazing

Observed land deterioration In the past recreational activities such as trail-bike have aggravated the erosion on steep slopes and poorly maintained tracks, but have now been restricted

Susceptibility to land deterioration

Sheet erosion, including rilling of tracks (moderate)

Wind erosion (low to moderate)



The rocky summit of Mount Beckworth is topped by a large pine tree.



Mount Beckworth is one of a few granitic hills that protrude from the basaltic plains west of Clunes.