

## 2.45 HrS2 HILLS – rolling, SEDIMENTARY, type 2

Dissected hills on sedimentary rocks occur in the higher-rainfall areas near Daylesford. The hilly topography is partially due to uplift along the Muckleford Fault and subsequent stream dissection. Yellow gradational soils predominate. The higher rainfall is reflected in the vegetation composition and structure, which is typically an open forest III of *E. obliqua* and *E. rubida*.

Forestry, either of softwoods or hardwoods, is the main land use. This map unit merges with the adjacent HrS1 unit, which has a generally drier vegetation type and shallower soils.

**Geology** Ol-m Ordovician shale, slate and sandstone

**Rainfall** 750-1000 mm per annum

**Slope** Average 15%; range 5-30%

**Dominant landform element** (95%) Crest, slope

**Minor landform elements** (5%) Drainage depression, saddle, alluvial flat

**Soils** Dominant: Gn3.74, gn3.94, Gn3.84, gn3.91. Pale yellowish gradational soil with deep grey loamy A<sub>1</sub> horizons over a pale or occasionally bleached A<sub>2</sub>, which is poorly structured to massive; on steeper slopes where an A<sub>2</sub> is less pronounced the soils may be shallow and friable throughout: the yellowish clay or clay loam subsoil may be non-mottled or contain small reddish mottles; it is usually acidic and grades into weathered sedimentary bedrock at depths often greater than 1 m

Minor: Dy3.41, dy2.21. Yellowish brown and greyish yellow duplex soils on some of the gentle slopes; acidic subsoils are mottled or non-mottled, and massive A<sub>2</sub> horizons, which may be bleached, are usually present

**Native vegetation** Approximately half of it has been cleared for softwood plantations: the remaining open forest III contains *E. obliqua*, *E. rubida* and less commonly *E. radiata* and *E. viminalis*; understorey shrubs include *Acacia melanoxylon* and *A. Dealbata*

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

**Pans** Nil or not observed

**Land use** Softwood plantation of *Pinus radiata* covers approximately half of the map unit; the native forest is utilised for timber products, and also provides a suitable venue for recreational activities such as picnicking, trail-bike riding, gold prospecting and orienteering

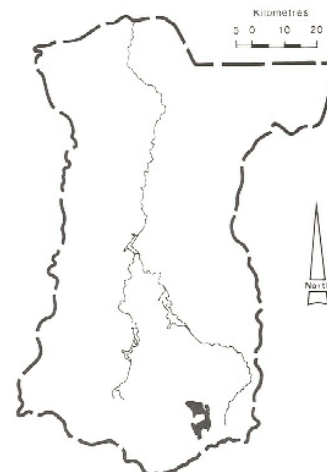
**Observed land deterioration** Gully erosion in some of the larger drainage depressions; also track erosion, most notably in areas cleared for pine plantations where the tracks head straight down the slopes

### Susceptibility to land deterioration

Compaction (moderate)

Gully erosion (moderate)

Sheet erosion (moderate)



*Softwood plantations of radiata pine – a common land use.*



*The forested valley below Sailor's Falls.*