SUMMARY

A land capability study was undertaken in the Cathedral Range - Acheron River valley. Twenty-four land units were identified according to geology and topography of the land using aerial photo interpretation, geological mapping and field inspection of the soils, the vegetation and physiography. A base map at a scale of 1:25,000 was used to superimpose the land unit boundaries.

For each land unit a number of soil profile and land characteristics were recorded and used to determine the capability of that area to sustain a number of specific land uses.

Capability ratings of 1 to 5 were given for the following land uses:

a) Agriculture
b) Building foundations
c) Effluent disposal
d) Farm dams
e) Rural residential
f) Urban residential
g) Secondary roads
h) Scenic value

Refer to Table 1.1 for a summary of land capability ratings for all land units.

A rating of 1 represents essentially no constraints to the proposed land use, whilst a rating of 5 indicates the area has a very low capability to sustain the land use - a very high level of management would be required to prevent major land degradation. Land capability ratings for all the above land uses, together with information on areas with high scenic value, have been entered into the DNRE Geographic Information System and should be available for potential users at the Alexandra Regional Office.

Land capability information can be used by planners to assist in the preparation of planning strategies and to encourage the most appropriate land uses and management practices so that a sustainable level of productivity is maintained and land degradation, in the short term and long term, is minimised.

Table 1.1 Summary of land capability ratings

Note: The reader is referred to the land capability rating tables (Tables 2.2 - 2.7), the land unit description sheets (pp 14 to 61) and the tables that summarise the ratings of individual parameters influencing a specific land use (Appendix 2) for a full explanation on how the final rating of a land unit is derived. A map showing the location of all land units has also been produced to accompany this report.

LAND UNIT		LAND CAPABILITY RATING								
Symbol	**Description**	**Agriculture: C=Climate T=Topography S=Soil**	**Building foundations slabs**	**stumps**	**Effluent disposal**	**Farm dams**	**Rural residential**	**Urban residential**	**Secondary roads**	**Scenic value***
Dga	Devonian granodiorite, narrow crest	C3 T3 S5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	2
Dgb1	Devonian granodiorite, very steep slope	C3 T5 S4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	2
Dgb2	Devonian granodiorite, steep slope	C3 T5 S5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	2 & 3
Dgc2	Devonian granodiorite, moderate slope	C3 T4 S4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	3
Dgd	Devonian granodiorite, gentle crest	C3 T2 S4	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	4
Dge	Devonian granodiorite, gentle slope	C3 T3 S5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	3 & 4
Dgf	Devonian granodiorite, very gentle slope	C3 T2 S5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3
Dgg	Devonian granodiorite, drainage depression	C3 T3 S5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3
Dsa	Devonian sediments, narrow ridge & crest	C3 T3 S5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	1 & 2
Dsb1	Devonian sediments, very steep slope	C3 T5 S5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	1
Dsb2	Devonian sediments, steep slope	C3 T5 S5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	1 & 2
Dsc1	Devonian sediments, upper moderate slope	C3 T4 S4	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	2 & 3
Dsc2	Devonian sediments, lower moderate slope	C3 T4 S3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3 & 4
Dsd	Devonian sediments, gentle broad crest	C3 T2 S4	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	3 & 4
Dse	Devonian sediments, gentle slope	C3 T3 S4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3, 4 & 5
Dsg	Devonian sediments, drainage depression	C3 T3 S5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3, 4 & 5
Tfc1	Tertiary fan, upper moderate slope	C3 T4 S4	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	3 & 4
Tfc2	Tertiary fan, lower moderate slope	C3 T4 S3	4	4	3	5	5	4	4	3 & 4
Tfe	Tertiary fan, gentle slope	C3 T3 S3	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	3
Tff	Tertiary fan, very gentle slope	C3 T2 S5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	3
Tfg	Tertiary fan, drainage depression	C3 T2 S5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3, 4 & 5
Qam	Quaternary alluvium, minor river terrace	C3 T2 S5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	2 & 3
Qa1	Quaternary alluvium, upper terrace	C3 T2 S4	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	3 & 4
Qa2	Quaternary alluvium, present flood plain	C3 T1 S5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	1 & 2

* For an explanation of multiple ratings, refer to P.81 - Scenic value summary table showing assessment of individual parameters