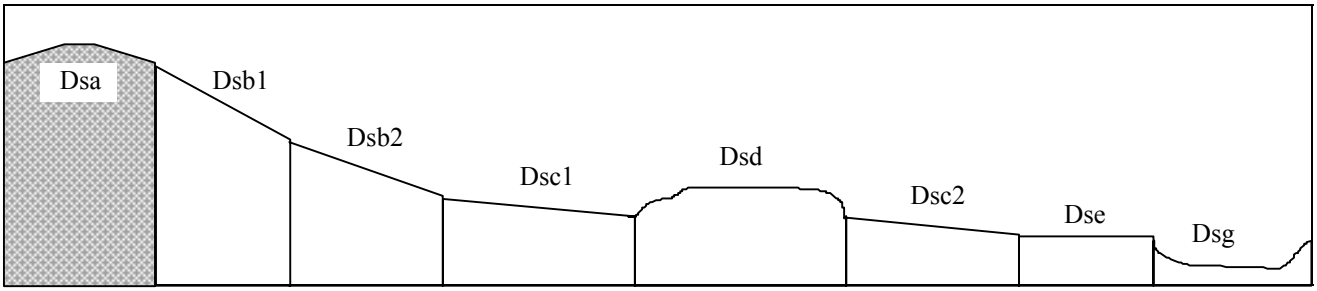
Land Unit: Devonian sediments, very steep slopes	**Land Unit symbol:** Dsb1
	% of study area: 0.7



General Description:

The precipitous scarp along the western face of the Cathedral Range and the very steep slopes immediately below provide a spectacular visual impact to travellers on the Maroondah Highway between Buxton and Taggerty - a scene that has a Very High rating on the Visual Quality scale. Rock falls, landslips and active erosion are common and part of the natural erosion processes operating within this landscape. All of this unit lies within a State Park. Requests to change land management practices or land use in the vicinity of Cathedral Range must be rejected or ensure the visual quality of the area will not be degraded.

Site characteristics: Site No. -

Parent material		Depth to seasonal watertable:	> 5 m
Age:	Devonian		
Lithology:	Sandstones and mudstones	Potential recharge to groundwater:	Very high
Landform		Flooding risk:	Nil
Pattern:	Very steep mountain	Drainage:	Rapidly drained
Element:	Upper steep slopes	Depth to hardrock:	Variable; 0 - 50 cm
Slope		Rock outcrop:	80%
Common:	70%	Annual rainfall:	1090 mm
Range:	56 - 100%		
Native vegetation:	Broad-leaf and Narrow-leaf Peppermint, Red Stringybark, Silver Wattle		
Present land use:	Nature conservation - State Park		

Land degradation:

Degradation process	Water erosion Sheet/rill	Water erosion Gully	Wind erosion	Salting	Acidification
Susceptibility	Very high	Low	Low	Low	High
Incidence	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Moderate

Soil profile characteristics:

Permeability	(measured - average, range):	-
	(estimated):	Excessive
Available water capacity:		Very low; < 50 mm H_2O (est.)
Linear Shrinkage (B horizon):		Very low; < 6% (est.)

Soil profile description:

Land Unit symbol: Dsb1

A1 0 - 5 cm Dark greyish brown (10YR4/2) loam fine sandy, weak subangular blocky structure, peds 5 mm, rough fabric, very weak consistence - moist, many angular coarse gravel fragments and cobbles, moderate organic matter, pH 5.0. Clear transition to:

AC 5 - 30 cm Pale brown (10YR6/3), fine sandy loam, apedal massive (structure), angular coarse gravel fragments and cobbles are abundant, pH 6.0.(variable). Gradual transition to:

C 30 cm^+ Weathered sandstones and mudstones

Soil classification:

Factual Key (Northcote, 1979):	Um1 - 2/1/005
Australian Soil Classification (Isbell, 1992):	Basic, Paralithic, Leptic, Rudosol, gravelly, loamy, shallow
Unified Soil Group:	ML

Interpretation of soil analyses: (see Appendix 2 for analytical results)

Horizon	pH	Gravel %	E.C. (salts)	Nutrient status	P	K	Al	Organic matter	Dispersibility
				No soil analyses done					

VL: Very Low L: Low M: Moderate H: High VH: Very High
D: Deficient S: Satisfactory T: Toxic NA: Not Available ** Acidic

Land capability ratings and limitations for specific land uses:

Land use	Rating	Major limiting factor(s)
Agriculture	$C_3T_5S_5$	Very steep slopes; very shallow soils, very low water-holding capacity, very high gravel content, highly susceptible to erosion
Building foundations - slab - stumps/footings	 5 5	 Very steep slopes, high proportion of stones, gravel and outcropping bedrock
Effluent disposal (septic tanks)	5	Very steep slopes and shallow soils, excessive permeability may result in the contamination of groundwater
Farm dams	5	Very steep slopes, very low suitability of subsoil, very shallow soils, excessive permeability
Residential - rural - urban	5 5	Very low capability for building foundations, effluent disposal, secondary roads and farm dams Very low capability for building foundations and secondary roads
Scenic value	1	-
Secondary roads	5	Very steep slopes, very high proportion of stones and outcropping bedrock, shallow soils, low suitability of subsoils