

GATHERING GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PROPERTY

step

ESTABLISHING YOUR LAND DEGRADATION HAZARD REGION

Conducted in the home

You will not identify any land classes in this step

You will need:

Property plan with boundary marked out in black permanent marker
Permanent marker (any colour)

Land use and the potential for land degradation is largely determined by climate, geology and land types.

Land Degradation Hazard Regions (LDHR) combine areas with similar climate, geology, soil and land types that are likely to have the same land degradation hazard. For example, the Wimmera LDHR is an area of lower rainfall and has a short growing season. In combination with erodible soils, the Wimmera LDHR is susceptible to water erosion on much gentler slopes than the Eastern Mountains and Hills LDHR that is a higher rainfall area with a longer growing season.

Map 1 on the following pages, shows the Land Degradation Hazard Regions of Victoria.

Step 1: Land Degradation Hazard Region

Locate where your property is on Map 1. If you are located near a boundary between the units, refer to the definitions of the areas and establish which one best suits your area.

Write on your plan (outside the property boundary) the land degradation hazard region. You can use any colour.



Figure 2 Step 1: Labelling the Land Degradation Hazard Region. Note the property boundary has been marked out in black on the property plan.

MAP 1

LAND DEGRADATION HAZARD REGIONS

North Western Sands LDHR

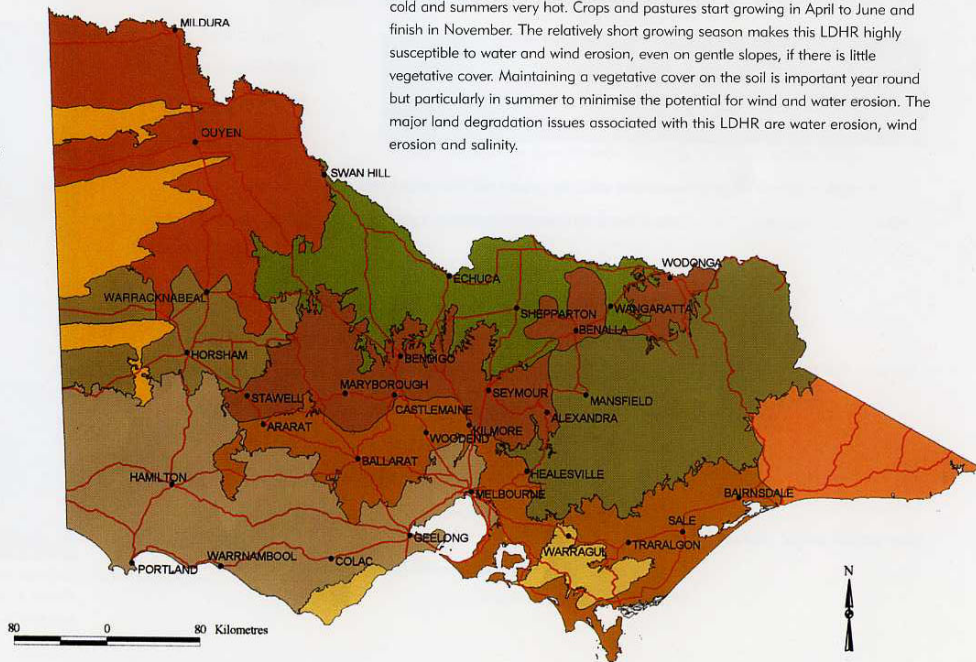
This region consists of the sand dune country in and around the Big and Little Desert national parks. The main land uses are cropping, grazing and horticulture. Annual rainfall is generally 300-450 mm, and the winters are cold and the summers very hot. The growing season for crops commences in May or June and finishes in October. Due to the dry climate, very short growing season and sandy soils this LDHR is highly susceptible to land degradation, even on very gentle slopes. Therefore the maintenance of a vegetative cover of the soil is essential year round. The major land degradation issue associated with this LDHR is wind erosion.

Southern Hills LDHR

This region incorporates the steep terrain of the Strzelecki and Otway ranges. Annual rainfall is high (700-1 400 mm), and the winters are cold and the summers are warm. The growing season for crops and pastures can be year round. The deep soils combined with the steep slopes and high rainfall constitute a landslide hazard, which requires the strategic planting of trees. The climate, steep terrain and erodible soil type also constitutes a water erosion hazard and requires the maintenance of vegetative cover of the soil year round. The major land degradation issues associated with this LDHR are water erosion and mass movement (landslips).

Northern Low Hills LDHR

This region is located in northern Victoria and includes the low hills on the northern slopes of the Great Dividing Range. It is generally a grazing area with occasional cropping and horticulture. Annual rainfall is generally less than 600 mm, winters are cold and summers very hot. Crops and pastures start growing in April to June and finish in November. The relatively short growing season makes this LDHR highly susceptible to water and wind erosion, even on gentle slopes, if there is little vegetative cover. Maintaining a vegetative cover on the soil is important year round but particularly in summer to minimise the potential for wind and water erosion. The major land degradation issues associated with this LDHR are water erosion, wind erosion and salinity.



-  **Northern Low Hills**
-  **Northern Riverine Plains**
-  **Southern Hills**
-  **Southern Plains and Hills**
-  **South Western Plains and Low Hills**
-  **East Gippsland**
-  **Eastern Mountains and Hills**
-  **Wimmera Clay Plains**
-  **Mallee**
-  **North Western Sands**

Use this legend as a guide for the Land Degradation Hazard Regions Map on the previous page



Mallee LDHR

This region incorporates the plains and rises of the Mallee region in the north-west of the state. The Mallee is a cropping, grazing and horticultural area. Annual rainfall is generally 300-450 mm, and the winters are cold and the summers very hot. The growing season for crops commences in May or June and finishes in October. Due to the dry climate, very short growing season, and sandy soils, this LDHR is highly susceptible to land degradation, even on very gentle slopes. Therefore the maintenance of a vegetative cover of the soil is essential year round. The major land degradation issues associated with this LDHR are wind erosion, water erosion and salinity.

Wimmera Plains LDHR

This region incorporates the clay plains as well as the sandy rises of the Wimmera region in the west of the State. The Wimmera is a cropping and grazing area. Annual rainfall is generally 450-650 mm, and the winters are cold and the summers very hot. The growing season for crops and pastures commences in April to June and finishes in November. The clay plains are susceptible to soil structure decline. The maintenance of vegetative cover of the soil is important year round but particularly in summer to minimise the potential for wind and water erosion. The major land degradation issues associated with this LDHR are soil structure decline, water erosion, wind erosion and salinity.

South Western Plains and Low Hills LDHR

This region incorporates the extensive basalt plains of western Victoria and the low hills associated with the plain, the dissected Dundas Tablelands and the mountainous Grampians. Main land use is grazing, with increasing areas under farm forestry. Annual rainfall is generally 600-800 mm. The winters are cold and the summers are warm to hot. Crops and pastures start growing from April to June and finish in December or January. The high rainfall, hilly terrain and soil types constitute a water erosion hazard and the sandy topsoils, particularly in the far western areas, are susceptible to wind erosion. The whole of this LDHR requires the maintenance of vegetative cover of the soil year round. The major land degradation issues associated with this LDHR are water erosion, salinity, wind erosion (far western areas) and land slips (Dundas Tablelands).



Northern Riverine Plains LDHR

This region incorporates the plains in the north of the state. It is mainly a cropping, grazing and horticultural area. The annual rainfall is generally less than 600 mm, with cold winters and very hot summers. The growing season for dryland crops and pastures commences in April to June and finishes in November. The major land degradation issues associated with this LDHR are soil structure decline, water erosion and salinity.

Southern Plains and Hills LDHR

This region incorporates undulating and hilly areas on and south of the Great Dividing Range and the northern foothills in the north-east. Main land use is grazing, with increasing areas under farm forestry. Annual rainfall is generally 600-1 000 mm. The winters are cold and summers are warm to hot. Soils range from deep red well drained soils to yellow imperfectly drained soils. The growing season commences in April to June and finishes in December or January. The high rainfall, hilly terrain and erodible soil types constitute a water erosion hazard and require the maintenance of vegetative cover of the soil year round. The major land degradation issues associated with this LDHR are water erosion, salinity, wind erosion and land slips.

Eastern Mountains and Hills LDHR

This region incorporates the steep mountains and tablelands of the Great Dividing Range in the east of the State. Annual rainfall is generally greater than 1 000 mm and winters are very cold and summers cool to warm. Peak rainfall intensities can occur over the summer months and constitute a water erosion hazard on steep bare slopes. The maintenance of vegetative cover of the soil is important year round. The major land degradation issues associated with this LDHR are water erosion and land slips.

East Gippsland LDHR

This region incorporates the plains and hills of East Gippsland where the climate is often variable with extreme rainfall events occurring during the summer months. It is generally a grazing and horticultural area. Annual rainfall is generally 700-1 000 mm, and the winters are mild and the summers warm to hot. Extreme rainfall events, hilly terrain and soil types all constitute a water erosion hazard requiring the maintenance of vegetative cover of the soil year round. The major land degradation issues associated with this LDHR are water erosion, salinity and wind erosion.