step 3

DETERMINING YOUR SLOPE CLASSES

Conducted in the paddock

In this step you will identify Land Classes 7 and 8

Land Class 7: Land suitable for low density grazing or low intensity farm forestry. Very low capability of supporting a diverse range of agriculture. Good management required to preserve vegetation cover.

Land Class 8: Land incapable of sustaining agricultural production. May be suitable for activities such as low intensity farm forestry, revegetation or wildlife shelters.

You will need:
Clinometer (at back of booklet)
Red permanent marker
Overlay sheet
Black permanent marker
Property plan

When allocating different land classes to your property, consider the limitations of slope for machinery and also erosion risk. Severity of erosion risk is linked to the slope gradient, geology type, soil type and climate. Refer to the Land Degradation Hazard Regions you identified in Step 1.

The slope becomes limiting for agriculture when:

- it is steep or very steep,
- there is a high land degradation hazard, or
- there are limitations for machinery.

Moderate and gentle slopes become limiting when they are combined with shallow soils. You will mark the moderate slopes on an overlay.

Step 3: Slope Classing

1. Use your clinometer to establish the slope classes.

2. If the slope is generally consistent throughout the property, test one or two slopes then mark the whole area as the one slope class.

3. Refer to Table 1 for the slope ranges and slope class definition relevant to your Land Degradation Hazard Region.

You will need to refer to the overlay in the steps following.

On the plan, mark out the boundary of any steep (7S) or very steep (8VS) slopes and label with the appropriate land class code using a red marker:

If you have moderate slopes attach one of the overlay sheets over your plan with the adhesive tape. Mark out your property boundary so that you can orientate the overlay correctly if it comes away. Label this 'Overlay 1'.

On the overlay mark out the moderate slope boundary and label '*mod*' using the black marker and continue. If you have gentle slopes leave these blank and continue.

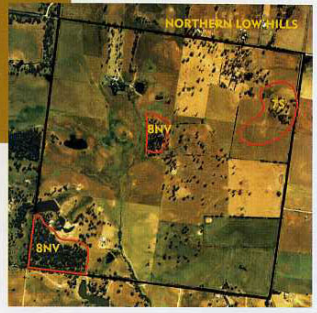

Figure 4 *Step 3: Marking out and labelling the steep slopes on the plan.*

Table 1 *Slope ranges and land class codes for each Land Degradation Hazard Region.*

LAND DEGRADATION HAZARD REGION	Very steep slope 8VS on Plan	Steep slope 7S on Plan	Moderate slope Mod on overlay (continue)	Gentle slope (continue)
Southern Plains and Hills South Western Plains and Low Hills Eastern Mountains and Hills East Gippsland	>40% (≥22°)	30-40% (≈ 17°-22°)	20-30% (≈ 11°-17°)	<20% (≤11°)
Northern Low Hills Northern Riverine Plains Southern Hills	>40% (≥22°)	30-40% (≈ 17°-22°)	10-30% (≈ 6°-17°)	<10% (≤6°)
Wimmera Plains	>30% (≥17°)	15-30% (≈ 11°-17°)	8-15% (≈ 5°-11°)	<8% (≤5°)
Mallee North Western Sands	>30% (≥17°)	15-30% (≈ 9°-17°)	5-15% (≈ 3°-9°)	<5% (≤3°)

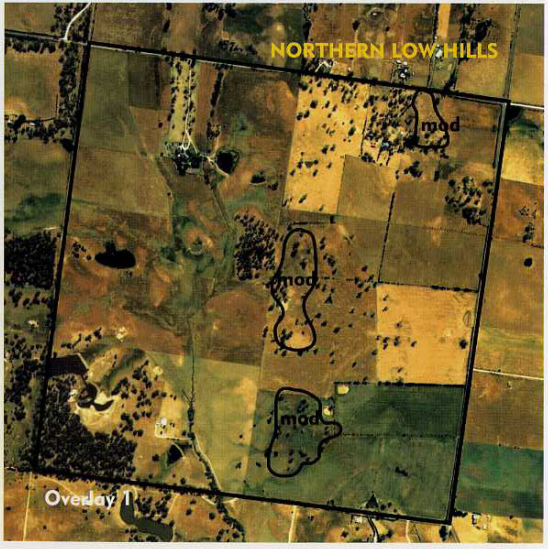

Figure 5 *Marking out and labelling the moderate slopes on Overlay 1.*