

## DETERMINING THE NON-ARABLE LAND CLASSES

You only need to conduct Steps 5 to 8 in the areas you established as being non-arable in Step 4.

# 5 step

### DETERMINING THE PERCENTAGE OF ROCK OUTCROP AND SURFACE STONE

Conducted in the paddock or home

In this step you will identify Land Classes 6 and 7:

**Land Class 6:** Land suitable for grazing or farm forestry. Low capability to resist land disturbance such as cultivation due to physical features of the land and erosion risk. Good management required to preserve vegetative cover.

**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.

#### You will need:

Property plan  
Overlay 2  
Red permanent marker

Refer to the areas you outlined on Overlay 2 as being non-arable. For this exercise rock is defined as greater than 20 cm in diameter and surface stone is defined as less than 20 cm in diameter.

Large amounts of surface rock and stone can occur on any slope. Surface rock outcropping is more common with certain types of geologies, mainly basalt, granite and sedimentary rock.

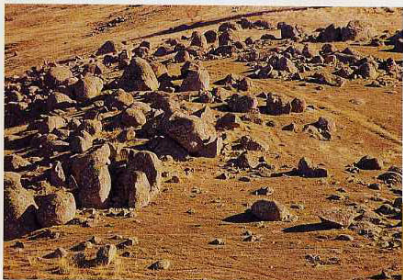
The amount of rock outcrop is the limiting factor. Greater than 50% rock outcrop makes agriculture difficult for anything but low density grazing or low intensity farm forestry (Land Class 7).



**Figure 7** Less than 20% rock outcrop is not a major impediment to agriculture.



**Figure 8** Between 20% and 50% rock outcrop is limiting for agriculture due to access problems with machinery (Land Class 6).



**Figure 9** High amounts of stone (greater than 40%) at or near the surface of the soil is not only an impediment to machinery, it also limits the water and nutrient holding capacity of the soil.

On the plan, mark out the boundary and label with the appropriate land class code the following areas using the red marker:

- Greater than 70% rock outcrop (rocky) - 7R
- 20-50% rock outcrop (partially rocky) - 6PR
- Greater than 40% surface stone - 6St
- Less than 40% surface stone - continue
- Less than 20% rock outcrop - continue
- No rock outcrop - continue
- No surface stone - continue



**Figure 10** Step 5: Marking out and labelling areas of high rock outcrop or surface stone on the plan.