

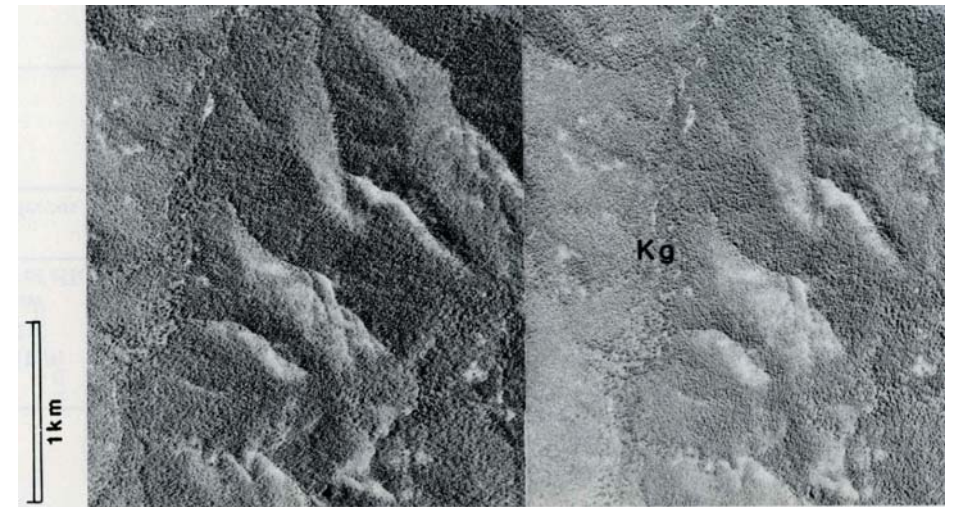
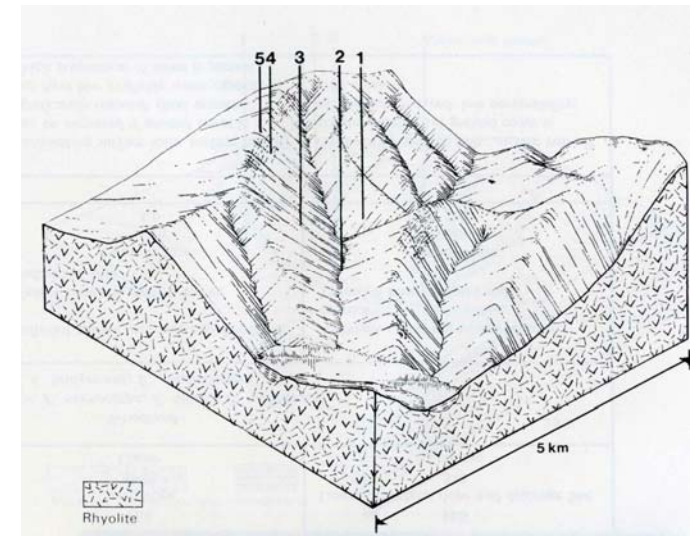
7.12 King land system

This is the area of steep slopes on Upper Devonian rhyolite and rhyodacite on the main branches of the King River south of Whitfield and headwaters of Middle, Fifteen Mile and Boggy Creek. Rainfall ranges from moderate in the north to high in the south; and temperatures, both in the warm to hot summers and the cool to cold winters, are generally lower in the south.

Soils the steep slopes are mainly friable brown gradational soils. They may be quite shallow and stony, and stony loam soils are common the steeper slopes.

The predominant native vegetation is open forest of *Eucalyptus radiata* with *E. rubida*, *E. viminalis* and *E. dives*. However, the headwaters area of the King River carries extensive stands of tall open forest of *E. delegatensis*, which at the upper limit of that species change to *E. dalrympleana* and *E. pauciflora*.

Except for logging of the *E. delegatensis* forests in the south, the area remains largely undisturbed. The soils are moderately erodible and the slopes are typically very steep; however, under undisturbed conditions, the area appears to be quite stable.



KING LAND SYSTEM Area 188 sq km

CLIMATE Rainfall, mean (mm) Temperature, mean (°C) Seasonal growth limitations	Annual 800-1400; lowest January (45-55), highest July (125-180) Annual 12-13; lowest July (5-7), highest January (18-20) Temperature – less than 10°C (av): May – August Precipitation – months less than 50% frequency of effective rain: January – February					
GEOLOGY Age, lithology	Upper Devonian; rhyolite and rhyodacite					
PHYSIOGRAPHY Landscape Elevation range (m) Relative relief (m)	Mountains 600-900 500					
LAND COMPONENT Percentage of land system	1 15	2 8	3 50	4 10	5 15	6 2
PHYSIOGRAPHY Land form Position on land form Slope range (%) Slope shape	Valley bottom Footslope 10-15 Linear-Concave	Valley bottom Drainage line 5 Linear	Mountain slope Main slope 15-40 Linear	Mountain slope Main slope 15-40 Linear	Mountain slope Exposed upper slope 15-40 Convex	Mountain slope Rock face 30-45 Linear
NATIVE VEGETATION Structure Dominant species	Open forest III (to II in driest areas) <i>E. radiata</i> , <i>E. rubida</i> , <i>E. dives</i>	Open forest III <i>E. radiata</i> , <i>E. rubida</i> , <i>E. dives</i>	Open forest III <i>E. radiata</i> , <i>E. rubida</i> , <i>E. dives</i>	Open forest IV <i>E. delegatensis</i>	Open heath to low shrubland <i>Leptospermum</i> <i>myrtifolium</i> , <i>Kunzea</i> <i>parvifolia</i>	Bare (lichen)
SOIL Parent material Description Surface texture Permeability Depth (m)	Colluvial mantle over weathered bedrock Reddish brown gradational soils with rough ped fabric Sandy clay loam High 2.0	Alluvium Undifferentiated sand and loam soils Sandy loam High 1.5	Colluvial mantle over weathered bedrock Friable brown gradational soils Sandy loam High 1.0	Colluvial mantle over weathered bedrock Friable brown gradational soils Sandy loam High 1.0	Colluvial mantle over weathered bedrock Stony loam soils Stony loam High 1.0	- - - 0.3
LAND USE	Uncleared; timber production in north, more extensive in south; forest grazing				Unused	Unused
SOIL DETERIORATION HAZARD Critical land features, processes, forms	Soils on intensive- use areas produce high surface run-off; track and sheet erosion	High water table for much of the year; occasional flooding; stream-bank or gully erosion	Steep slopes and relatively shallow soils are common; soils on intensive use areas and produce high surface run-off; track and sheet erosion	Shallow soil; low available water capacity; high run-off; sheet erosion	High run-off	