

LAND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE SHIRE OF TOWONG - COVERING THE FORMER SHIRE OF TALLANGATTA

July 1999

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ABSTRACT

Land resource assessment has been undertaken in the catchment of Lake Hume over an area of approximately 4000 km² that extends south as far as Mt Wills. The area encompasses the former Shire of Tallangatta which is now incorporated within the Shire of Towong. The study was undertaken to provide land resource information useful for catchment planning. The different land types have been identified, primarily on the basis of landform and lithology, and mapped at a scale of 1:100 000. Climatic variation is noted within the descriptions of the land types but has not been mapped due to on-ground complexity. Major soil and vegetation components of the various land types have also been described, and the land types assessed for susceptibility to water erosion. Soil types in the higher rainfall areas generally seem to vary less with lithology than in the drier areas, a finding which has implications for land degradation but which needs further investigation.

1 INTRODUCTION

Land resource assessment and mapping has been undertaken in the Victorian catchment of Lake Hume. The aim was to provide an inventory of land types and an understanding of their inherent land processes as a basis for sound land use and land management decisions. While land management that maintains the quality of land and water resources is necessary in all areas, it is particularly important in this region if the utility of the water resources of Lake Hume and Dartmouth Dam are to be maintained.

The appraisal and mapping in this project were for the former Shire of Tallangatta which covered an area of approximately 4000 km². Between completion of the resource assessment and mapping, and publication of the maps and report, the Shire of Tallangatta was amalgamated with the Shire of Upper Murray to form the Shire of Towong. The part of Towong Shire encompassed by this report and accompanying map, the former Shire of Tallangatta, are shown in Figure 1.1.

Land within the Shire of Tallangatta was classified into Land Systems at 1:100 000 scale by Rowe (1967). Since then, more detailed geological mapping has become available and revision of the land system mapping to incorporate this additional data was considered necessary. Consequently, additional survey work was undertaken during 1985 and is the basis for this report and map.

The importance of water quality in the region has had some bearing on land classification, with emphasis being given to those land features considered particularly important in water movement. Broad physiographic regions, regarded as basically similar in their hydrology, have been delineated. These have been further subdivided into land types on the basis of geology and landform.

This report gives a brief outline of the natural environment of the area covered by the former Shire of Tallangatta, descriptions of the broad physiographic regions, and tabulated data on the land characteristics for each land type. The enclosed map shows land types at 1:100 000 scale. A 1:100 000 scale map of the physiographic regions is available on request from the Centre for Land Protection Research. For more detailed information on climate, geology, soils and vegetation, the reader is referred to Adams (1997), Bolger (1984), Bureau of Meteorology (1974), Land Conservation Council (1984, 1977), Imhof *et al.* (1996) and Rowe (1967, 1994).

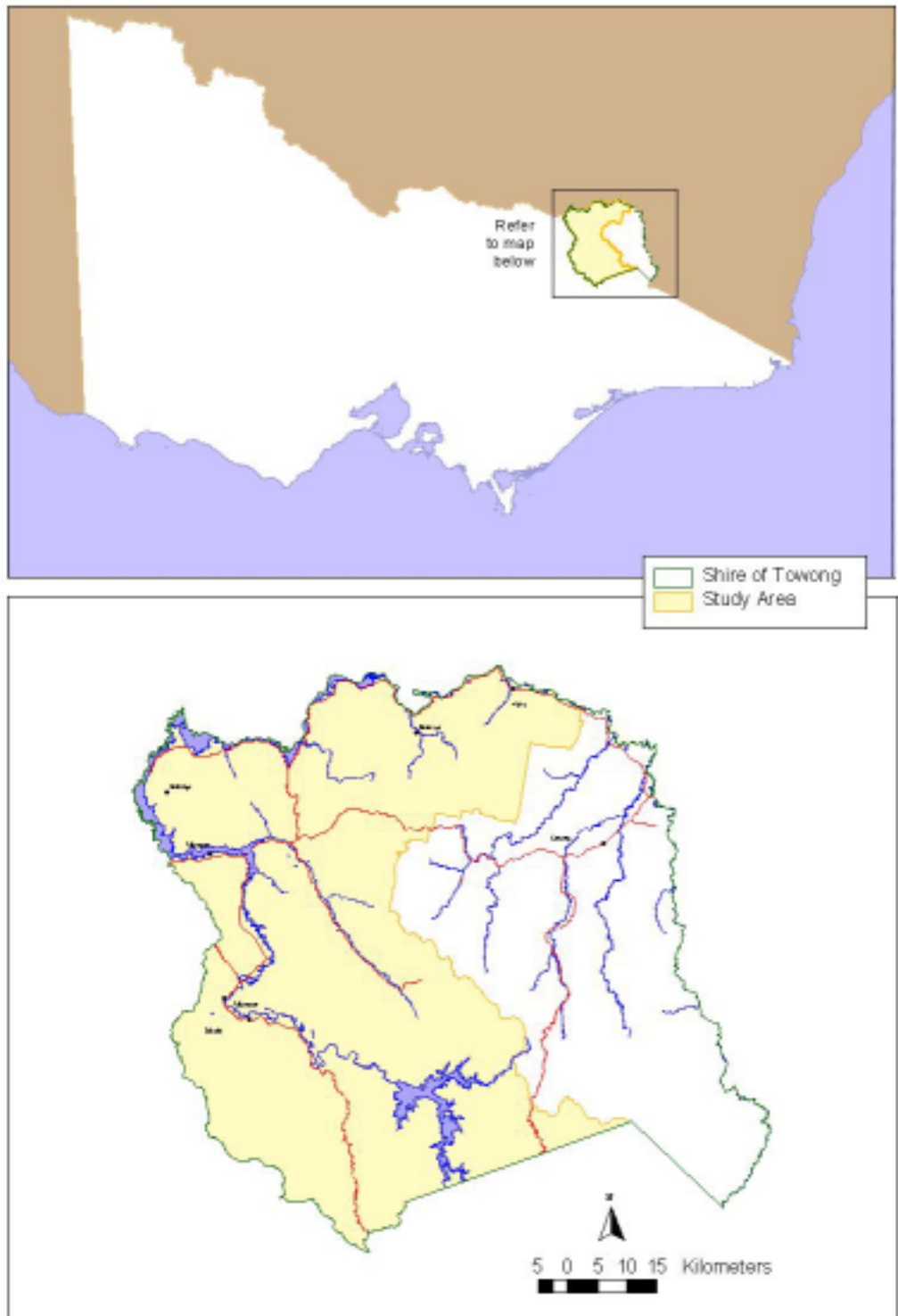


Figure 1.1 Location of Shire of Towong and study area