

SUMMARY

A land capability study was undertaken in the Shire of Newham & Woodend. Different land areas were recognised by aerial photo interpretation, field inspection and sampling, enabling a base map at a scale of 1:25,000 delineating map units to be produced.

Thirty one map units were identified and the land characteristics considered relevant for land capability assessment described in terms of geology, landform, climate, soils and vegetation. The capability of the map units for specific land uses was assessed in terms of the kind and degree of limitations.

The following landuses were assessed and given a capability rating from 1-5:

- a) On-site effluent disposal by soil absorption
- b) Building foundations
- c) Earthen dams
- d) Agriculture

A rating one represents no constraints to the proposed landuse, whilst a rating of 5 indicates the area has a low capability to sustain the landuse. A map was produced for each land use to highlight the land capability ratings together with an additional map identifying areas within the Shire that are susceptible to erosion.

Information can be used by planners to assist in the preparation of planning strategies and encourage the most appropriate land uses and management practices so that land degradation in the short term and long term is minimised, but productivity is sustained.