

5. LAND DETERIORATION

5.1 Salting

There are nine recorded occurrence of salting in the project area. Most are small areas of one to two hectares on the lower slopes of the Black Ranges and Mt Hooghly, such as at A Wiseman's property south of Dunluce. On the northern slope of Mt Hooghly salting occurs on granitic parent material as a result of groundwater seepage from the metamorphic bedrock further upslope.

Severe salting of water courses occurs along Homebush Creek north of the Natta Yallock – Maryborough Road, in lower Emu Creek and scattered sites along Bet Bet and Carmanuel Creeks.

5.2 Erosion

The exposed slopes of the metamorphic ranges show serious land deterioration in the form of sheet erosion, landslips and gullying. Gully and sheet erosion are common on the upper slopes of the granitic country particularly to the south of Dunluce and on most of the broad colluvial slopes flanking Mt Hooghly and the Black Ranges.

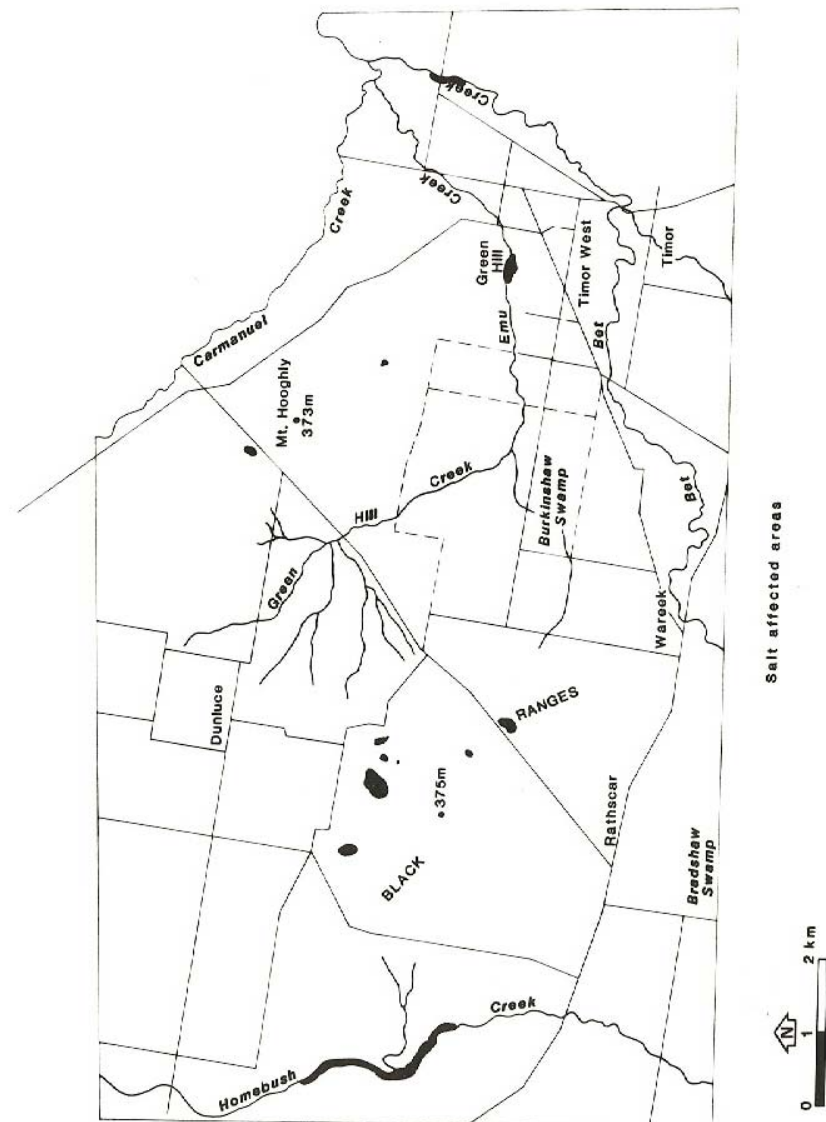


Fig 10. – Salted Areas