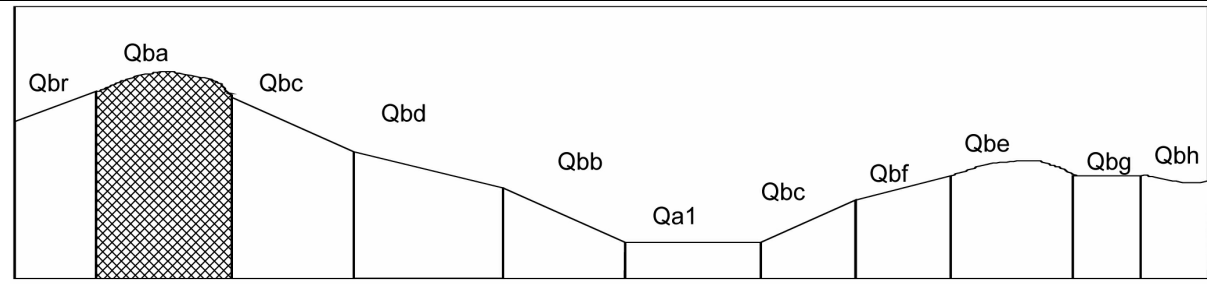


**MAP UNIT SYMBOL: Qba**

Area: 15 232 ha

**MAP UNIT: Quaternary basalt, steep crest**



**A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The soils on the basalt cones are commonly shallow, although there are pockets of deeper soils up to 1 metre in depth. The B horizon often has a very high percentage of weathered basalt and is usually a transitional layer to the C horizon. The soils are commonly uniform silty loams to silty clay loams although gradational soils with clay subsoils do occur.

**SITE CHARACTERISTICS**

<b>Parent Material Age:</b>	Quaternary	<b>Depth to Seas. Watertable:</b>	>5.0 m
<b>Parent Material Lithology:</b>	Basalt	<b>Flooding Risk:</b>	Nil
<b>Landform Pattern:</b>	Lava plain/rolling low hills	<b>Drainage:</b>	Well drained
<b>Landform Element:</b>	Cone	<b>Rock Outcrop:</b>	50-60%
<b>Slope a) common:</b>	1%	<b>Depth to Hard Rock:</b>	0.5-1.0 m (variable)
<b>Slope b) range:</b>	0-2%	<b>Present Land Use:</b>	Grazing
<b>Potential Recharge to Groundwater:</b> High			
<b>Major Native Vegetation Species:</b> Manna Gum, Narrow-leaved Peppermint, Blackwood			

**LAND DEGRADATION**

Land Degradation	Water Erosion	Wind Erosion		Mass Movement	Salting	Acidification
		sheet/rill	gully			
<b>Susceptibility</b>	Moderate	Low	High	Very low	Very low	Moderate
<b>Incidence</b>	Low	Low	Low	Very low	Nil	Not available

**B. SOIL PROFILE**

**PROFILE DESCRIPTION**

- A1** 0-60 mm Very dark grey (10YR3/1) silty loam, weak subangular blocky structure, peds 2-5 mm, rough fabric, very weak consistence, a few fine subangular basalt gravel fragments, pH 6.0. Clear transition to:
- A3** 60-275 mm Dark reddish brown (5YR2.5/2) silty loam, weak subangular blocky structure, peds 2-5 mm, rough fabric, very weak consistence, abundant subrounded basalt cobbles, pH 5.0. Clear transition to:
- B3** 275-550 mm+ Dark reddish brown (5YR3/3) silty loam, weak subangular blocky structure, peds 2-5 mm, rough fabric, abundant subangular basalt cobbles, pH 6.0.

**CLASSIFICATION**

<b>Factual Key:</b>	Um1.41 (major), Gn4.41(minor)
<b>Australian Soil Classification:</b>	Lithic, Leptic, Rudosols; slightly gravely, silty, shallow
<b>Unified Soil Group:</b>	ML

## INTERPRETATION OF LABORATORY ANALYSIS\*

Horizon	pH (CaCl <sub>2</sub> )	% Gravel	E.C. (salts)	Nutrient Status	P	K	Al	Organic matter	Dispersibility
A1	4.5	3.6	VL	M	S	S	T	H	L
A3	4.5	94.3	VL	M	D	S	S	H	L
B3	5.1	83.5	VL	M	D	S	S	H	L

VL: Very Low L: Low M: Moderate H: High VH: Very High D: Deficient S: Satisfactory  
 T: Potentially Toxic NA: Not Available \* see appendix D for analytical results \*\* Strongly Acidic

### SOIL PROFILE CHARACTERISTICS:

<b>Permeability:</b>	Rapid (average 1,400 mm/day, range 740-1,950 mm/day)
<b>Available Water Capacity:</b>	Very low (21 mm H <sub>2</sub> O)
<b>Linear Shrinkage (B horizon):</b>	Very low (6%)

## C. LAND CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

Land Use	Class	Major Limiting Feature(s)/Land Use
<b>Agriculture</b>	C <sub>2</sub> T <sub>1</sub> S <sub>5</sub>	Available water capacity, gravel and boulder content
<b>Effluent Disposal (septic tanks)</b>	4	Depth to hard rock
<b>Farm Dams</b>	5	Suitability of subsoil, depth to hardrock
<b>Building Foundations slab</b>	5	Stone and boulder content
<b>stumps/footings</b>	5	Stone and boulder content