

2. Burnbank Slopes Unit

Undulating terrain on weathered sedimentary rock occurs in the valleys of the Burnbank and Bet Bet Creeks. The characteristic feature of the unit is the severe gully erosion.

Geology: Ordovician sandstone and shale

Slope: Average 3-10%

Landforms: 90% slopes
10% gully, depressions

Soils:

Dominant: Dy3.41, Dy2.41, Dy4.41, Dy3.42, Dy2.42, Dy3.21, Db1.81. Mottled or whole-coloured yellow-brown duplex soils, frequently with red subsoils; a pale or bleached A₂ especially on the lower slopes and depressions, is usually present and may contain quartz and/or buckshot.

Gn3.74, Gn3.14. The upper slopes carry shallower soils usually a faintly mottled yellow-brown or red-brown gradational soil with a thin pale A horizon containing quartz and/or buckshot.

See appendix 3 for a typical soil profile description from this unit.

Stone rock outcrop: Nil

Pans: Weakly cemented hardpans occur in some drainage depressions.

Land use: Predominantly grazing.

Observed land deterioration: Severe gully erosion. Minor patches of salting in flatter areas contained within this unit.

Susceptibility to land deterioration:

Gully erosion (high)

Salting (low)

Sheet erosion (moderate)

Compaction (low to moderate)

Land capability classification:

Generally, land capability class 2 and 3 with soil type and drainage as the determinant factors (see Table 1). However, the soil salinity status in this Unit is similar to that for the Burnbank Plains Unit and as such the land capability classes in this Unit range up to 5, with the class 4 and 5 areas being located in some of the drainage lines and depressions.