

## **17. Ercildoun Slopes Unit**

This unit is found on colluvium from both Devonian granitic rock and Quaternary basalts in the south-east region of the study area. The soils in this unit are mostly brown gradational soils or yellow duplex soils. Rock outcrop is uncommon and grazing is the main land use. The soils are often gritty.

**Geology:** Colluvium from both Devonian granite and from Quaternary basalt.

**Slope:** Average 3%

**Landform:** Gently undulating slopes with broad crests

### **Soils:**

**Dominant:** Dy3.41, Dy3.22, Dd2.41. Yellow-grey duplex soils; the frequently hard-setting topsoils usually moderately deep (greater than 20 cm) and sandy, with a well-developed pale to bleached A<sub>2</sub> horizon; the mottled yellow-grey subsoils have gritty, medium to heavy clay textures and are weakly to moderately well structured; subsoil acidic to neutral.

**Minor:** Uc. Coarse brown and generally shallow sandy soils in areas of rock outcrop.

Gn4.31, Gn4.32. Moderately structured, brown, gritty gradational soils on the slopes. The subsoils are acidic to neutral and have medium to heavy clay textures.

**Stone rock outcrop:** 0-1%

**Pans:** The duplex soils in the drainage lines often contain hard iron oxide cemented pans at around 1 metre's depth.

**Land use:** Predominantly grazing.

**Observed land deterioration:** There was some minor gullying and sheet erosion on the upper slopes of this unit.

### **Susceptibility to land deterioration:**

Compaction (moderate)

Gully erosion (low)

### **Land capability classification:**

Generally, land capability class 2 with aspect, soil type and drainage as the determinant factors (see Table 1). The areas with uniform sandy soils are class 4.