

1. INTRODUCTION

The study area is located in Victoria, at Kilsyth, 30 kilometres east of the Melbourne GPO. The area is bounded by Canterbury Road, Colchester Road, Pig Lane (recently renamed Pavitt Lane) Sheffield Road, Stradbroke Road and the Knox-Lillydale Shire boundary. Location diagrams are shown in Figures 1.1 and 1.2.

The area, at the headwaters of the Dandenong Creek is approximately 850 hectares and covers the following crown allotments: 37A (in part), 37B (in part), 37C, 38, 38B, 39, 39A, 49, 50, 46, 46A, 46B, 46C, 46D, 47A, 47B, 48, 48B, 48A, Parish of Mooroolbark, Country of Mornington.

This study was requested by the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority, to provide an assessment of physical limitations of the land for urban and “rurban” development, intensive cropping and various recreational uses. The evaluation procedure is referred to as land capability assessment.

Capability assessments are applied to areas of land which are uniform with respect to land features. Recognition of such areas is a main objective of the SCA land system mapping approach; such areas are referred to as land components. Land systems are areas of land where the land components occur in consistent patterns. The map units presented in this report provide detail at the land component level.

Physical features of land, including soil type, geology, topography and climate, have been studied in the field and laboratory with the aid of maps and aerial photographs. Collation of this information has been used to rate the land according to its capability to support urban, “rurban”, intensive cropping a number of types of recreational uses.