FOREWORD

Sound land use planning requires consideration of the extent to which the natural features of the land limit the use, and the effect the use will have on the ability of the land to continue to support that use. The requirements for special structural design or land management to overcome limitations, or to sustain the use, need to be known.

Land capability assessment provides a means of obtaining this information.

The Soil Conservation Authority is developing land capability rating systems for a wide range of land uses which will enable land to be rated on a five-class scale. On this scale, land is rated form Class 1, with a very high capability for a specific use, through to Class 5, which has a very low capability for the same use.

Land capability assessments may be made to meet the requirements of different levels of planning. At the most detailed level, ratings are applied to areas of land which are uniform with respect to the relevant land features. These areas are referred to as land components and are mappable on large scale maps. Broader scale mapping units, known as land systems, which contain consistent combinations of land components, may be used for broader scale planning.

Before a land capability study is made, the planning objective must be known. The level of detail required for broad strategy planning, for example, differs markedly from that required for detailed urban or farm project planning.

In all assessments of land capability, even those which involve the most detailed mapping and data collection, conclusions are based on averages and other generalizations from a limited number of sites. The resulting ratings provide a sound guide for a choice of land or for a particular land use within the are assessed. They should not be used, however, as a substitute for site surveys when specific on-site information is needed.

These assessments are concerned only with the physical feature of the land, taking no account of the several other factors, such as social and economic considerations, which are necessarily involved in the ultimate decisions.

Locality Diagrams

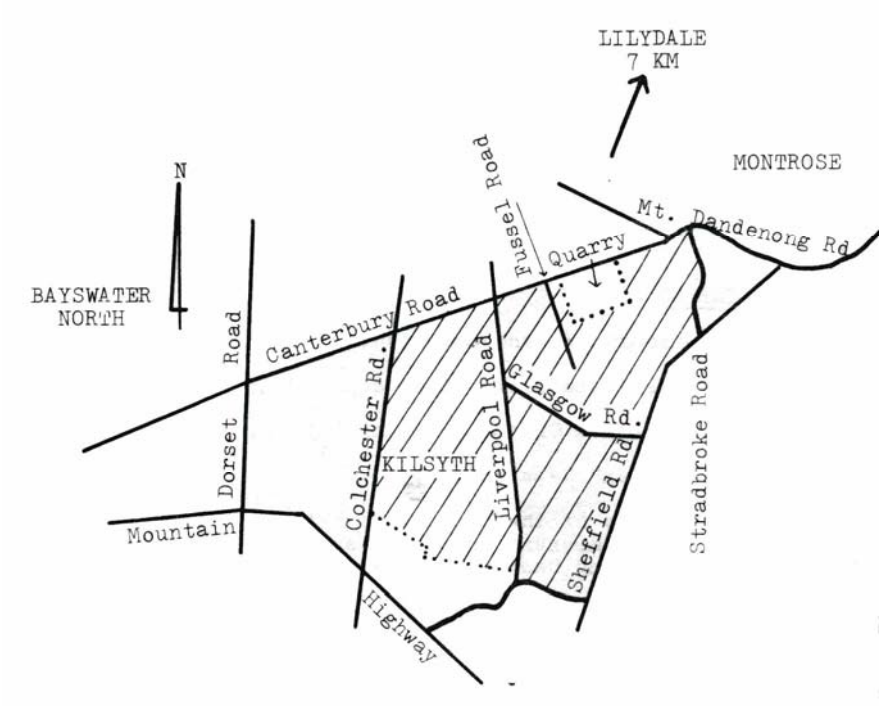

Figure 1.1 – Scale 1:55,000 approx. Kilsyth Study Area

Figure 1.2 – Scale 1:7,500,000 – Location of Kilsyth Study Area