

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOILS OF PART OF THE KALKEE PLAINS

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SECTION 1 - SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATION

1.1 Introduction

This report describes soil survey of an area representing approximately 1,500 square kilometres bounded by Dimboola, Horsham, Rupanyup and Warracknabeal, in the Wimmera Region of Victoria (see Figure 1). The region produces about 40 per cent of the State's crop every year, with an average yield of approximately two tonnes per hectare.

General information, including location, climate and vegetation of the area, is outlined in some detail. Land use and management, with particular reference to soil fertility-crop rotation relationships and the extent to which soil properties in the area affect land use, are considered briefly. Special attention has been given to the significance of microscale variation and complexity of soil type in the area.

A total of 12 soil types, minor soil types and main variants are discussed in the text and are represented by eight mapping units on the soil type map. A total of 19 minor variations recorded in the survey are listed in the soil type section. Survey methods used are given in Appendix IV Analytical data are presented and soil classification is discussed.

1.2 Purpose and Use

The main purpose of the investigation was to describe the soils and their distribution on the Kalkee plains (see Appendix II) and thereby to assist research staff and advisory officers in locating and identifying soils with known or suspected problems associated with agronomy.