

B.2 MAPPING METHODOLOGY

The map units described in this report are broad areas of land delineated primarily on the basis of perceived differences in landform pattern and geology. Some distinctions have also been made considering one or more of the following features - climate, soils, native vegetation, land use and land deterioration.

The techniques and aids employed to delineate map units were:

- stereo interpretation of 1:80,000 black and white aerial photographs covering the entire area;
- 1:250,000 geology maps
1:100,000 topographic maps
- climatic data, mainly from the Bureau of Meteorology and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources;
- published works covering various aspects relevant to the study area;
- personal communications within and outside the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources;
- field traverses on which information on a variety of land characteristics was collected;
- site information, recorded on a standardised site card and to be stored in a computer data-base system, used to sort, compare, retrieve and print the data as required.

This section presents a description of the characteristic features of each map unit beginning with a general description. The geological type, range in average annual rainfall (mm) and slope (%), and dominant and minor landform elements then follow. The soils are classified according to Northcote (1979), and a written description of the soils, with an indication of the relative soil abundance, accompanies the Factual Key. Reference is also made to the Australian Soil Classification (Isbell, 1995).

Soil features noted include colour, texture, structure, mottling pH, inclusions and soil drainage. Other aspects of the surrounding terrain described include site drainage, presence and nature of hardpans, depth to hardpan or bedrock, land deterioration, land use and native vegetation species and structure.

The map units are named using a system derived from McDonald *et al*, 1984. Each map unit has been given a symbol based on its predominant landform pattern, slope, geology, number (separated on features such as location, soil type, vegetation structure and composition, land use and land deterioration) and rainfall class. The derivation and range of the map unit symbols is explained in the following tables.

The study area has been divided up and has an accompanying key map and legend.

Examples: LuTm1 - **L**ow hills, **u**ndulating (3-10% slope), **T**ertiary geology, **m**oderately humid climate (700-1000 mm av. annual rainfall), **Type 1** (soil types with predominantly duplex profiles; greater clay at depth).

RPguKml. **R**ise and **P**lain terrain complex, **g**entle to **u**ndulating slope (1-10%), coarse (**K**), unconsolidated sediments, **m**oderately humid climate, **Type 1** (only one type differentiated).



Undulating Tertiary terrain, cleared, Sandy surface.