

LAND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT FOR THE GLENELG HOPKINS REGION

October 2001

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PREFACE

The purpose of this study has been to guide further agricultural development across the Glenelg Hopkins region. This has necessitated the production of soil and landform information at a scale of 1:100 000. The detail available in current datasets is good for this scale but is not sufficient to provide landscape analysis at finer scales. The results of this study should not therefore be used to plan land use strategies at more detailed scales (1:25 000 and larger) unless additional soil and land survey is implemented to enhance map line work and subdivide the map units presented here.

This study has combined survey work carried out in 1999-2001 with previously available older survey information to determine soil-landform units at 1:100 000 scale for the Glenelg Hopkins region. These soil-landform units were unique for their geology, soil and land forming processes. Units have been further refined to complement the variability in landform characteristics (e.g. relief and slope) across these units.

The base information (soils, geology, slope, aspect, climate) has been used to determine the broad capability of the region's landscape to support different land uses. This determination has been carried out by analysing the physical requirements of each land use and using a geographical information system (GIS) to locate high, moderate and low matches between landscape attributes (and hazards) and land use requirements.

At the map scale presented here, map units are not homogeneous. For each defined soil-landform unit, dominant soil types were identified prior to assessing their capability to support various enterprises. Often a co-dominant and minor soil type have been described as part of this process. Importantly it should be noted that soil parameters (soil depth, depth to/abundance of calcareous segregations, sodicity, pH, etc.) are expected to vary between acquired soil sites.

Because the variability of soil parameters across map units is difficult to predict, it is important to note that representative soils should only be used as a guide. Site specific mapping and soil analysis is essential prior to establishment of any new development or enterprise.

Map unit and detailed soil profile information can be accessed in the Adobe Acrobat *.pdf files included on this CD-ROM via the [home.pdf](#) file. Landform refinements to map units and primary soils information can however be interrogated via Arc Explorer and the Glenelg.aep file located on this CD-ROM.