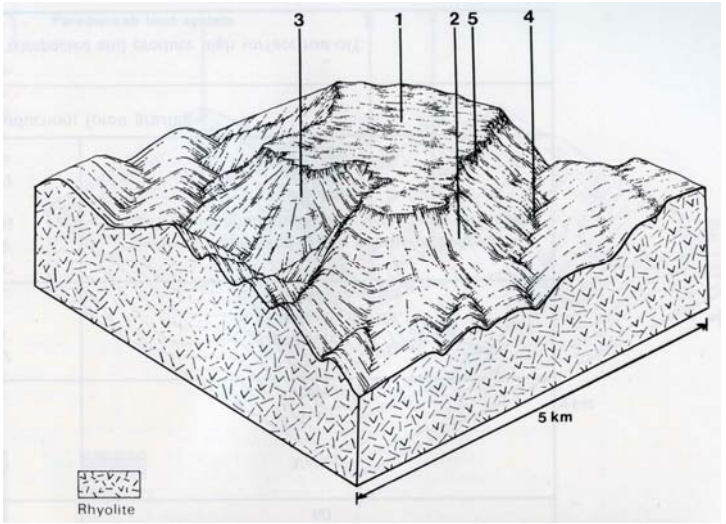
7.8 Drum Top land system

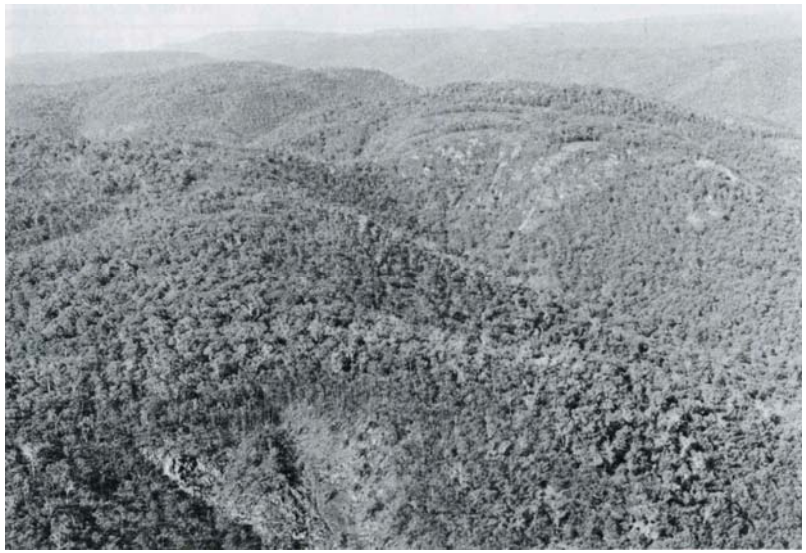
The Drum Top land system lies on the western side of the study area, where Upper Devonian rhyolite and rhyodacite have been dissected by Middle Creek, Fifteen Mile Creek and Boggy Creek. It consists mainly of steep to very steep slopes, rising to small irregular plateaux and broad-topped ridges. Annual rainfall is moderate. Summers are warm and winters cool to cold. Winter frosts and occasional light snow on the higher areas are typical features.

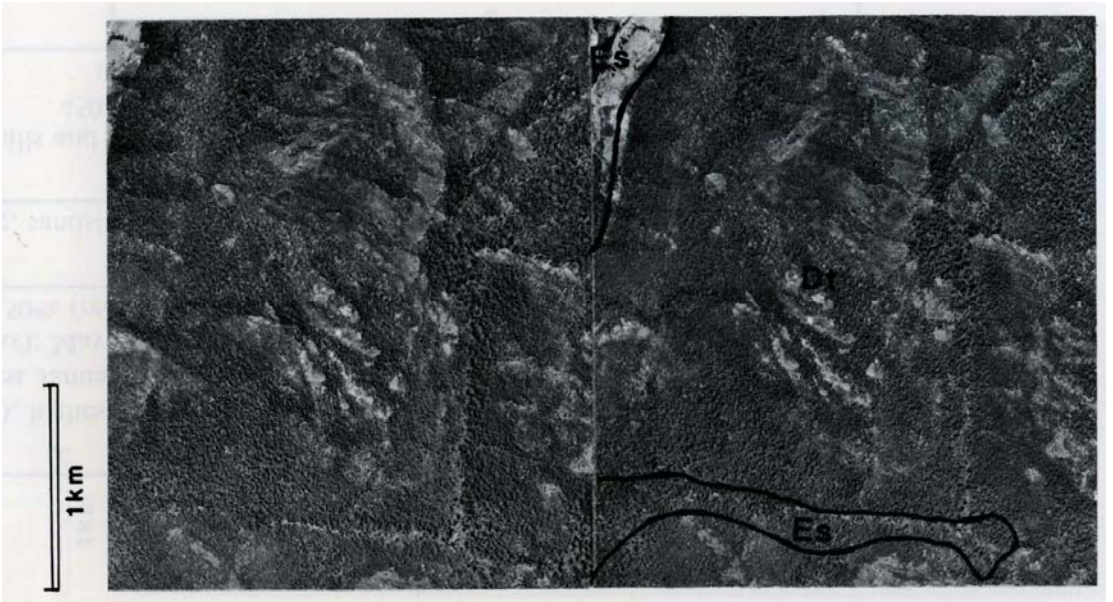


The soils are mainly friable brown gradational soils with some weakly bleached reddish brown gradational soils on the lower valley slopes. Stony loam soils occur on steep slopes, and areas of shelving bedrock have dry peat soils or are bare.

Typical native vegetation of the drier areas is open forest of Eucalyptus macrorhyncha, *E. dives*, *E. polyanthemos* and *E. goniocalyx*, *E. radiata* and *E. st-johnii* grow in the moister areas. Small patches of open heathland to low shrubland of *Calytrix tetragona* are associated with the shallow peaty soils on shelving rock.

The area is largely unused, but some of the better-quality forests have been logged. The steep slopes and shallow soils typical of much of the area impose limitations on road construction; however, the area generally has low erosion hazards.





DRUM TOP LAND SYSTEM Area 82 sq km

CLIMATE					
Rainfall, mean (mm)	Annual 750-1000; lowest January (40-50); highest June (110-130)				
Temperature, mean (^{o}C)	Annual 12-14; lowest July (6-8), highest January (20-21)				
Seasonal growth limitations	Temperature – less than 10^{o}C (av): June – August Precipitation – months less than 50% frequency of effective rain. December – February				
GEOLOGY					
Age, lithology	Upper Devonian rhyolite and rhyodacite				
PHYSIOGRAPHY					
Landscape	Steep hills with broad crests and plateaux				
Elevation range (m)	360-750				
Relative relief (m)	200				
LAND COMPONENT	1	2	3	4	5
Percentage of land system	20	45	15	15	5
PHYSIOGRAPHY					
Land form	Plateau	Hill slope	Hill slope	Valley bottom	Rocky escarpments
Position on land form	-	Dry, exposed slope	Moist, sheltered slope	-	-
Slope range (%)	5-15	25-35	20-40	5-10	>30
Slope shape	Linear	Linear	Linear-concave	Concave	Linear
NATIVE VEGETATION					
Structure	Open forest II	Open forest II	Open forest III	Open forest II	Open heath to low shrubland
Dominant species	*E. radiata, E. macrorhyncha, E. st-johnii*	*E. macrorhyncha, E. polyanthemos*	*E. radiata, E. rubida, E. st-johnii*	*E. macrorhyncha, E. goniocalyx, E. st-johnii*	*Calytrix tetragona, E. mannifera*
SOIL					
Parent material	In situ weathered rock	Colluvial mantle over bedrock	Colluvial mantle over bedrock	Colluvial-alluvial mantle over bedrock	Colluvial mantle over bedrock
Description	Friable brown gradational soils	Weakly bleached reddish brown gradational soils	Friable brown gradational soils	Yellowish brown duplex soils	Stony loam soils
Surface texture	Sandy loam	Sandy loam	Sandy loam	Sandy loam	Sandy loam
Permeability	High	High	High	Low	High
Depth (m)	1.0	1.0	1.5	2.0	0.5
LAND USE	Uncleared; limited timber production				
SOIL DETERIORATION HAZARD					
Critical land features, processes, forms	Soils often shallow winter wetness	Steep slopes; often shallow soils	Steep slopes; often shallow soils	Low soil permeability could lead to high surface run-off; gully erosion	Low available water capacity on colluvium; seasonal wetness where shelving rock is shallow