

## **PART A: Features of the land**

### ***A.1 Introduction***

This report is one of a series jointly funded by the Department of Conservation, forests and Lands and the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry. They are designed to provide basic land resource data throughout Victoria. Others in the series are;

Land Inventory of the Wimmera systems and Rocklands Water Supply catchments – a reconnaissance survey. L.A. White, P.J. Kelynack, F. Gigliotti and P.D. Cook (1985)

A Reconnaissance Survey of the Middle Reaches of the Goulburn River Catchments. L.A. White, P.J. Kelynack, F. Gigliotti and P.D. Cook eds. (in preparation).

The report covers the catchment of the Loddon River, from its source near Ballarat to Jarklin in the north. It also covers an area to the north of the Whipstick that, although not in the Loddon catchment, has been included to provide continuity with the report on the adjacent Campaspe catchment land systems (M.S. Lorimer and N.R. Schoknecht 1987). The study area totals approximately 8300sq km.

The multiple aims of the report are:

- to provide basic information, at a scale of 1:100 000, on the nature of the land in the Loddon catchment, including
  - (a) natural characteristics (i.e geology, landform, soils, climate and native vegetation)
  - (b) land use
  - (c) land deterioration
  - (d) susceptibility to processes of land deterioration
- to provide a framework for further, more detailed land inventory and assessment surveys
- to highlight complex areas and indicate where more detailed mapping would be beneficial

In pursuit of these aims, map units have been delineated and described. The map units are broad ‘packages’ of land – divided primarily on landform pattern and geology, but also after consideration of the other, and often dependent, land attributes of soil type, climate, native vegetation, land use and land deterioration.

The report consists of four parts: Part A describes the features of land in general terms, Part B describes the individual mapping units in detail, Part C gives a brief discussion and Part D comprises the appendices.

The maps and information it contains should not be used beyond the scale intended – that is, a broad reconnaissance survey. In particular, the report should not be used to predict soil or land features at a specific site in scale, and is suitable for interpretation at a regional level. Subsequent more detailed inventory or assessment surveys, using this reconnaissance survey as a guide, must be carried out as the need arises.

