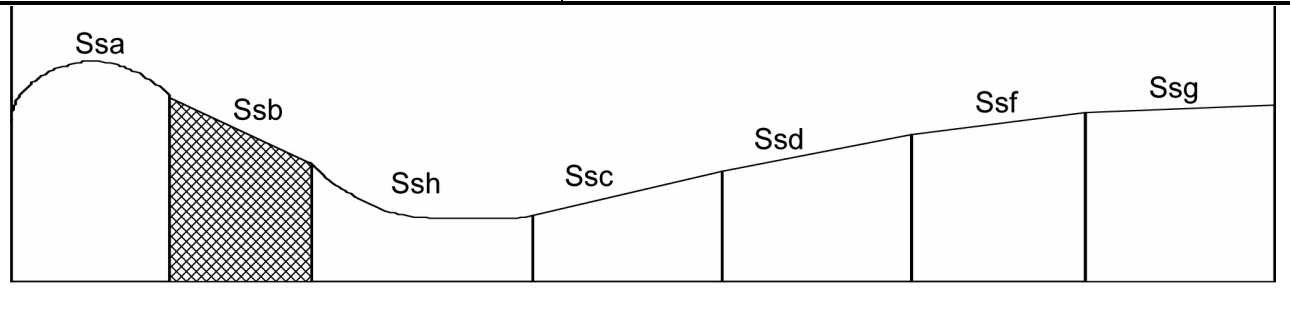


MAP UNIT SYMBOL: Ssb

Area: 25 683 ha

MAP UNIT: Silurian sediments, steep slope



A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The steep slopes on the sedimentary material commonly have shallow uniform soils. These shallow soils are often found on the steep slopes extending down to the deeply incised creeks. On some of the steep slopes off the crests, the soils can be deeper and more developed. The light textured shallow topsoils combined with the steep slopes makes this component highly susceptible to sheet and rill erosion. Although the soils are shallow, the potential recharge to groundwater is moderate, as the runoff potential is very high due to the slope.

SITE CHARACTERISTICS

Parent Material Age:	Silurian/Ordovician	Depth to Seas. Watertable:	>5.0 m
Parent Material Lithology:	Sedimentary	Flooding Risk:	Nil
Landform Pattern:	Steep Hills	Drainage:	Rapidly drained
Landform Element:	Hillslope	Rock Outcrop:	0-20%
Slope a) common:	48%	Depth to Hard Rock:	0.45 m
Slope b) range:	33-56%	Present Land Use:	Grazing, forested
Potential Recharge to Groundwater: Moderate			
Major Native Vegetation Species: Narrow-leaved Peppermint, Blackwood, Long-leaved Box, Silver Wattle			

LAND DEGRADATION

Land Degradation	Water Erosion		Wind Erosion	Mass Movement	Salting	Acidification
	sheet/rill	gully				
Susceptibility	Very high	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Very low	Moderate
Incidence	High-mod.	Moderate	Low	Low	Nil	Not available

B. SOIL PROFILE

PROFILE DESCRIPTION

A1	0-150 mm	Brown (7.5YR4/2) sandy clay loam, moderate subangular blocky structure, peds 2-5 mm, rough fabric, very weak consistence, fine subangular sedimentary and quartz gravel fragments are common, pH 6.0. Abrupt transition to:
B21	150-280 mm	Brown (7.5YR4/2) clay loam with coarse sand, weak subangular blocky structure, peds 2- 5 mm, rough fabric, very weak consistence, many fine subangular sedimentary and quartz gravel fragments, pH 6.0. Gradual transition to:
B22	280-445 mm	Brown (7.5YR5/2) clay loam, moderate subangular blocky structure, peds 5-10 mm, rough fabric, very weak consistence, many fine subangular sedimentary and quartz gravel fragments, pH 6.0. Clear transition to:
R	445 mm+	Sedimentary rock.

CLASSIFICATION

Factual Key:	Um6.14 (major)
Australian Soil Classification:	Haplic, Eutrophic, Grey Dermosol; medium, gravely, clay loamy/clay loamy, shallow
Unified Soil Group:	ML

INTERPRETATION OF LABORATORY ANALYSIS*

Horizon	pH (CaCl ₂)	% Gravel	E.C. (salts)	Nutrient Status	P	K	Al	Organic matter	Dispersibility
A1	4.8	17.7	VL	L	D	D	S	H	L
B21	5.2	41.4	VL	VL	D	D	S	M	M
B22	5.2	34.3	VL	VL	D	D	S	L	M

VL: Very Low L: Low M: Moderate H: High VH: Very High D: Deficient S: Satisfactory
 T: Potentially Toxic NA: Not Available * see appendix D for analytical results * Strongly Acidic

SOIL PROFILE CHARACTERISTICS:

Permeability: Rapid (estimate)
Available Water Capacity: Low (56 mm H ₂ O)
Linear Shrinkage (B horizon): Very Low (2%)

C. LAND CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

Land Use	Class	Major Limiting Feature(s)/Land Use
Agriculture	C ₂ T ₅ S ₅	Slope, depth to hard rock, susceptibility to sheet and rill erosion
Effluent Disposal (septic tanks)	5	Slope, depth to hard rock
Farm Dams	5	Slope, suitability of subsoil, depth to hard rock
Building Foundations slab stumps/footings	5 5	Slope Slope