

YARRA METROPOLITAN PARK

INTRODUCTION

In August 1976, the Soil Conservation Authority was approached by the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works for assistance in a study of land in the proposed Yarra Metropolitan Park. Information on soils and land forms was required so that a park plan could be formulated. A consulting firm, Scott and Furphy Engineers, acting for the M. & M. B. W. would be responsible for developing the park plan, so the Soil Conservation Authority input would be essentially aimed at meeting the consultant's requirements.

Frequently, when base data is gathered by one group for interpretation by another, inefficiencies in translation occur. This is chiefly due to:-

- (i) a partial lack of common ground between disciplines, for example, data collected with an agricultural bias is then expected to be interpreted by people with engineering or geographical backgrounds, and
- (ii) many potentially valuable subjective impressions gained in the course of field work cannot be conveyed in a generalized area description and are thus unavailable to influence the user's interpretation.

It was considered that problems of data translation would be partly overcome if the data was subsequently interpreted by the surveyors in terms of a capability analysis. This would serve a two-fold purpose by firstly facilitating interpretation by the user and secondly it would simplify the data collection process by identifying only those land characteristics which were needed to assess capability.

Upon these considerations, it was decided that a land inventory combined with a capability analysis for the activities envisaged in the proposed park would be the best report format. A limitations approach expressing the interpretations was adopted following the rationale that it was more important to indicate areas of greatest environmental sensitivity than it was to choose the optimum use in a given area. It was also recognized that a considerable amount of additional data outside the scope of this study would be needed to select optimum location of activities.

In Section 1 – Land Inventory, data is presented which both characterizes the landscape in the study area and provides input for capability assessment. Section 2 – contains a summary of the limitations to the activities under consideration in each of the mapping units and identifies the limiting factors. This highlights potential problems which may arise from environmental hazards within the park. Section 3 – lays out the detailed analysis of the mapping units linking Section 1 to the capability evaluation system in Appendix 1.