

## **DISCUSSION**

The summary sheet (Table 5) lists the capability rating and most limiting features of an area for a particular activity. A few of the more important aspects and their implications are briefly discussed below.

### ***Erosion***

Sheet, rill and gully erosion are prevalent in the You Yangs. Some of the factors which combine to make this are naturally hazardous are:

- (i) Low soil binding capacities (the result of poor structure and low organic matter content).
- (ii) Hard setting A horizons, which decrease permeability and increase surface runoff
- (iii) Dispersible clay subsoils
- (iv) Low annual rainfall
- (v) Infrequent high intensity summer rains occur when the soils are both dry and devoid of vegetation.

In such a fragile environment great care must be taken to minimize the risk of accelerating erosion. Thus, before removing expanse of topsoil or vegetative cover, or before allowing extensive paths or large areas of land to become compacted, the implications of such action should be fully understood.

### ***Seasonal Moisture Variation***

The capability of the soils to sustain both vegetation and traffic, is seasonally variable. During winter, the dispersible clay B horizons are extremely puggy and roads are untrafficable unless properly formed or sealed. In summer trafficability is not a problem, however vegetative growth is severely restricted.

### ***Site Location and Conflict***

It is important to have a functional understanding of the landscape. Not only should on-site factors be considered but also those off-site. For example, if facilities are to be located in drainage limit it should be realized that this is a seasonally hazardous practice. Similarly, although the drainage lines are a good source of sand one must not lose sight of their primary function. These land use conflicts should be closely managed.

### ***Salinity***

Conductivity values in the order of 30 $\mu$ s/cm and above are sufficiently high to impair plant growth. Several of the tested samples fell into this category. It is possible that the large scale removal of ground cover could result in a salting problem.

### ***Reticulated Water***

Some time in the future there is the possibility that a reticulated water supply will be connected. It is highly likely that the soil capability for effluent disposal may be exceeded. This is because increased effluent volumes may be in excess of the carrying capacity of existing facilities.

On the other hand the connection would be extremely beneficial, not only for maintaining, but also improving vegetative cover during the dry summer months.