

HILLY TERRAIN ON SUBALPINE OF DEVONIAN PLUTONICS

Land System: *Baw Baw Bb – Public land only.*

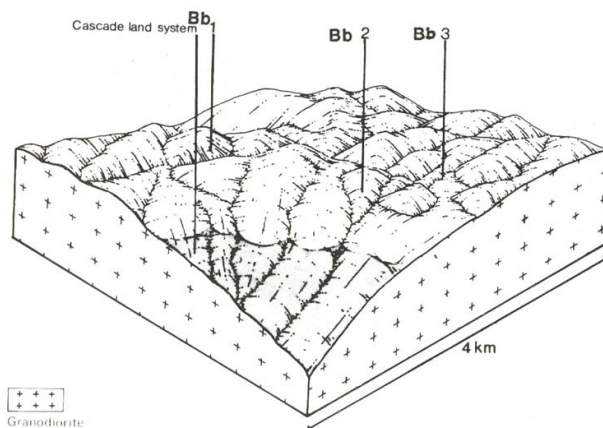
This land type occurs in the far northern, upper-most reaches of the catchment and includes the summits of Mt Toorong and Mt Baw Baw . The land consists of hilly terrain with intermittent small alluvial flats and alpine bogs, which form a plateau at high elevation above the snow line. In this landscape rock outcrop and exfoliating tors are common. The underlying geology is Devonian granodiorite (DGA, DGT) which is hard and conspicuously jointed. The rectangular landscape dissection and drainage pattern is based on this jointing.

The most common soils are well drained, shallow to moderately deep uniform loams. On the slopes and crest areas they have locally shallow and commonly stony profiles with friable black or very dark brown organic sandy loam to sandy clay loam topsoils, merging into dark brown or dark greyish brown sandy loams to sandy clay loams below. These soils are moderately erodible due to the ease at which they slake in water, and their susceptibility to diaggregation by the process of frost heave. They are classified as Alpine Humus soils and Brown Earths.

Less commonly, in the alluvial flats are peat bogs, there are black fibrous peat or muck soils of varying depth. These are classified as Acid Peats or Humic Gleys and are poorly drained.

The native vegetation is shrubby woodland of snow gum (*E. pauciflora*) in addition to open heath and closed sedgeland vegetation.

Three components have been delineated on the basis of topographic and vegetation differences. These are Bb1, the short steep slopes, Bb2 the rocky crests, and Bb3 the treeless flats, bogs and drainage floors.



Baw Baw Land System & Components (Public land only)