372141

DEDDINGTON

Dissected hills on Jurassic dolerite are found mainly to the north and east of the South Esk River between Deddington and Avoca. This is the lower and drier counterpart of the Ben Stewart System (472241) which it adjoins. Nicolls (1958) previously described parts of this system.

The gradational soils are all stony and relatively shallow, especially on the upper components. Patches of dolerite soil have been covered by locally derived windblown sand. The open-forest on the upper components and the woodland on the lower component are dominated by white gum, black peppermint, cabbage gum and silver wattle. Kangaroo grass is common throughout the system, in some areas forming the major ground cover.

Most of the area remains undeveloped, although some areas have been partially cleared and used for rough grazing by sheep and cattle.

Sheet erosion is the main hazard and wind poses an erosion problem on sandy areas.



COMPONENT	1	2	3
PROPORTION %	25	45	30
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 625-750 mm		
GEOLOGY	Jurassic dolerite-		
TOPOGRAPHY			
Land form		Hills	
Position	Crests	Upper slopes	Lower slopes
Average Sideslope °	10	7	8
NATIVE VEGETATION		·	
Structure	Open-forest		Woodland
Association	White gum, black peppermint, bull-oak, silver wattle	Cabbage gum, black peppermint, silver wattle	White gum, black peppermint, silver wattle
SOIL	Shallow, stony dark reddish brown (5 YR 3/3) gradational soil	Stony, dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) gradational soil	Stony, light olive brown (2.5 Y 5/4) gradational soil
Surface Texture Permeability	Gravelly clay loam	Clay loam Moderate	Gravelly clay loam
Average Depth m	0.3	0.5	1.0
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation, grazing, forestry		
HAZARDS	Moderate sheet erosion and low wind erosion		Low sheet erosion