384121

CRESSY — LONGFORD

Undulating plains formed on Tertiary clays and gravels occur in the Cressy-Longford area. The main occurrence stretches from Hagley and Carrick southwards to Cressy and Bracknell. Smaller areas are found to the east, between Evandale and Avoca. Nicolls (1958) previously described some of these areas.

The soils are deep. Mottled duplex soils have developed on the residual surfaces and dissected plains. Platy ironstone and ironstone gravel occur throughout the profiles. The mottled clay soil found in the flat valley bottoms has ferruginous gravel throughout the profile. Red mottlings were evident at depth in most profiles. Along the western side of the system are pockets of dark red gradational soils resembling those found on basalt in the Deloraine Land System (482133). Scattered small areas of locally derived windblown sands were found on all three components.

Most soils have undergone repeated cultivation resulting in the partial destruction of soil structure. Soils in the flat valley bottoms, and to some extent those on the other components, are poorly drained as a result of this poor structure.

Black peppermint, white gum and silver wattle dominate the open forest and open woodland of the residual surfaces and dissected plains respectively. No remnants of native vegetation were found on component 3.

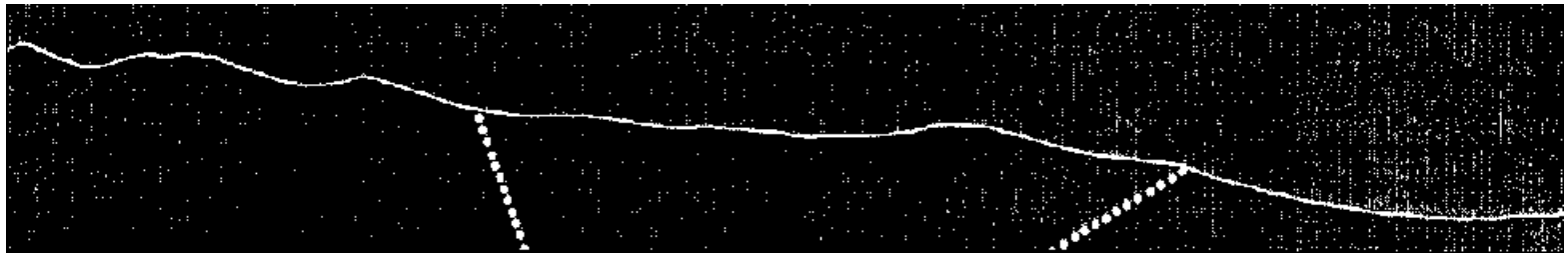
This area is used extensively for grazing and cropping. Large areas are now served by the Cressy-Longford Irrigation Scheme which, coupled with the good soils, makes it one of the most important systems, agriculturally, in Region 4. Cereals, vegetables and oil poppies are the major crops grown. Wool, prime lamb and cattle production are the main livestock enterprises.

Wind and rill erosion and salting are the main hazards. Salting is a problem in some areas, especially on the residual surfaces and dissected plains, and could be aggravated by the irrational use of irrigation.

LAND SYSTEM

384121

Cressy—Longford



COMPONENT	1	2	3
PROPORTION %	30	45	25
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 625-750 mm		
GEOLOGY	Tertiary clays and gravels		
TOPOGRAPHY			
Land form		Undulating plains	
Position	Residual surface	Dissected plain	Flat valley bottom
Average Sideslope	2	1	1
NATIVE VEGETATION			
Structure	Open -forest	Open-woodland	No remnants
Association	Black peppermint, white gum, silver wattle, bull-oak, blackwood, native cherry, honeysuckle, bracken fern	White gum, silver wattle, black pepermint, bracken fern	
SOIL	Mottled strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) light brownish grey (10 YR 6/2) duplex soil	Mottled yellowish red (5 YR 5/6) grey (10 YR 5/1) duplex soil	Mottled grey (10 YR 5/1) strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) clay soil, uniform texture
Surface Texture	Gravelly sandy loam	Gravelly clay loam	Gravelly light clay
Permeability	Moderate		Low
Average Depth m	1.9	1.8	>2.0
PRESENT LAND USE	Grazing, cropping, nature conservation		
HAZARDS			
	Moderate wind and rill erosion and low salting		