

393124

CAPE PORTLAND

Stretching from Anderson Bay to Cape Naturaliste in the far north-east of Region 4 are undulating plains formed on Quaternary siliceous marine sands and clays. These plains are generally found directly behind the present coastal dunes of the Waterhouse Beach Land System (395161), but in some cases form the coastline itself. The system has an average altitude of about 60 metres and is generally poorly drained with numerous intermittent lakes and small creeks scattered throughout. Also scattered throughout the system are small patches of Jurassic dolerite, the soils and vegetation of which are the same as those described for the Low Head Land System (372132).

The soils are deep. Ridges of pale yellow sand are generally found close to the coastline and are sometimes in the form of low coastal dunes. The

sand soil on the flats has an iron-organic layer at depth, while sands on the gently sloping plains are mottled. A duplex soil with an iron-organic B horizon has developed in the drainage lines.

White gum, swamp gum and black peppermint dominate the open-forest vegetation on the two upper components. The open-scrub on component 3 is predominantly yacca and honeysuckle, while white gum, swamp gum and black peppermint are the major eucalypts of the woodland vegetation in the drainage lines.

Most of the area is either sown to improved pasture and used for grazing, or remains unimproved. Small areas are used for recreational purposes.

The major hazards are moderate wind, gully and streambank erosion.

Areas of this system have been previously described by Hubble (1946), Dimmock (1960) and Stephens and Cane (1937).

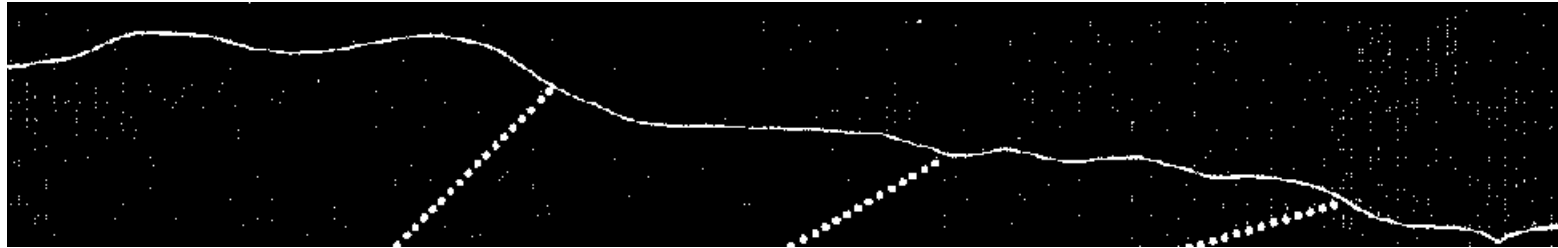


Erosion in the drainage lines.

LAND SYSTEM

393124

Cape Portland



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4
PROPORTION %	35	25	25	15
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 625-750 mm			
GEOLOGY	Quaternary sands and clays			
TOPOGRAPHY				
Land form	Undulating plains			
Position	Ridges	Flats	Gently sloping plains	Drainage lines
Average Sideslope °	4	1	2	2
NATIVE VEGETATION	Open-forest		Open-scrub	Woodland
Structure				
Association	White gum, black peppermint, honeysuckle, coast wattle, <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> , <i>Leucopogon virgatus</i> , bracken fern, golden pea	Cabbage gum, white gum, honeysuckle, <i>Leucopogon virgatus</i> , heath, <i>Patersonia longiscapa</i> , <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> , bracken fern	Yacca, honeysuckle, bracken fern	White gum, swamp gum, black peppermint, honeysuckle, bracken fern
SOIL	Pale yellow (2.5 Y 8/4) sand soil, uniform texture	Grey (10 YR 6/1) sand soil, uniform texture, with iron-organic layer	Mottled yellow (2.5 Y 7/6) light brownish grey (10 YR 6/2) sand soil	Dark reddish grey (10 R 3/1) duplex soil, with iron-organic B horizon
Surface Texture	Sand		Loamy sand	
Permeability	High		Moderate	
Average Depth m		>2.0		
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation, grazing, recreation			
HAZARDS	Moderate wind and gully erosion			Streambank erosion