

453241

GOLDEN GATE

Characterised by sharp ridges and steep upper slopes formed on sandstone-mudstone deposits, this system is found in the south-east of the Region. These deposits are commonly referred to as the Mathinna Beds. The major occurrence of these sharp crested hills is in the Mathinna-Storvys Creek-Mangana area. A smaller occurrence is Mt Horror to the north of Branxholm. The South Esk River and River Tyne traverse the system near Mathinna.

Soils on all components are sandy gradational, ranging in colour from yellowish red to brownish yellow, although those on the mid slopes are mottled.

The tall open-forest on the crests is composed of Tasmanian ironbark and black peppermint with an understory of native cherry, bull-oak and *Hakea sericea*. Myrtle, dogwood, *Helichrysum dendroideum*, *Eedfordta salicina* and waratah are the main species in the closed-forest on the steep upper slopes. The open-forest vegetation on the mid and lower slopes, swales and drainage lines is predominantly stringy gum, stringybark and black peppermint.

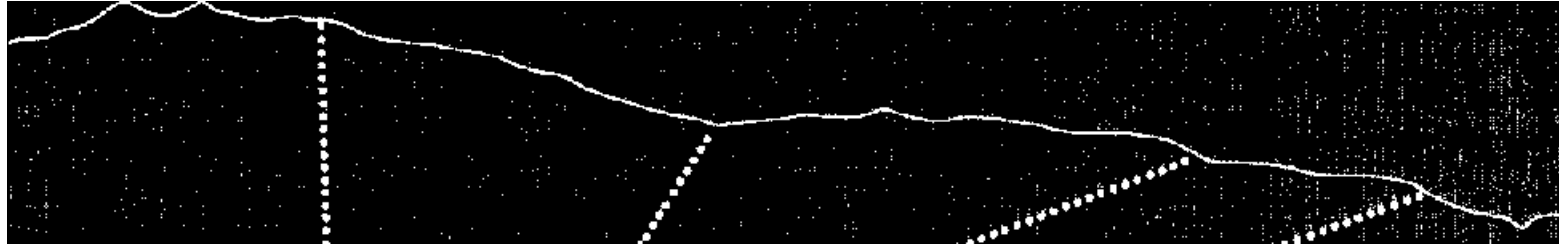
The major land uses are forestry, grazing, nature conservation and recreation. Forestry includes both hardwood and softwood stands, with considerable areas planted to radiata pine. The largest area of pines in the system is the Tower Hill Pine Plantation.

The sandy soils are prone to severe sheet, gully and rill erosion.

LAND SYSTEM

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Golden Gate



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4	5
PROPORTION %	20	25	30	15	10
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 750-1 000 mm				
GEOLOGY	Lower Devonian— Tremadocian— Cambrian (Mathinna Beds) sandstone— mudstone sequence				
TOPOGRAPHY					
Land form			Sharp-crested hills		
Position	Crests	Steep upper slopes	Mid slopes	Lower slopes	Swales and drainage lines
Average Sideslope °	7	20	6	4	2
NATIVE VEGETATION					
Structure	Tall open-forest	Closed-forest	Open-forest		
Association	Tasmanian ironbark, black peppermint, native cherry, bull-oak <i>Hakea sericea</i>	Myrtle, dogwood, <i>Helichrysum dendroideum</i> , <i>Bedfordia salicina</i> , waratah, varnished wattle, stinkwood	Stringy gum, stringybark, black peppermint, silver wattle, stinkwood, <i>Olearia lirata</i> , <i>Helichrysum dendroideum</i>	tringy gum, stringybark, <i>Bedfordia salicina</i> , <i>Helichrysum dendroideum</i> , varnished wattle, silver wattle, stinkwood	Black peppermint, white gum, stringy-bark, blackwood, black wattle, dog-wood, bracken fern
SOIL	Stony yellowish red (5 YR 4/6) duplex soil	Stony strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) gradational soil	Mottled yellowish brown (10 YR 5/8) grey (10 YR 6/1) gradational soil	Stony, dark brown (7.5 YR 4/4) gradational soil	Brownish yellow (10 YR 6/8) gradational soil
Surface Texture	Sandy loam		Sandy clay loam		Clay loam
Permeability		Moderate			Low
Average Depth m	• 0.5	0.6	1.3	1.2	1.5
PRESENT LAND USE	Forestry, nature conservation, grazing, recreation				
HAZARDS	Severe sheet, gully and rill erosion				