472241

BEN STEWART

A series of rugged hills formed on Jurassic dolerite and trending north-west/south-east stretch from the Nile River to just north of Avoca. The Ben Lomond Rivulet, Buffalo Brook and many small creeks originating from the foothills of Ben Lomond, traverse the system. Ben Stewart (640 m) and Mount Christie (650 m) are the two highest points in the system.

Stony gradational soils have developed on all three components. Dolerite stone and gravel are evident throughout the soil profiles, with numerous dolerite boulders scattered on the surface of most soils. Rock outcrops are common on the crests and upper slopes.

The vegetation is dominated by stringybark, black peppermint and white gum. Understorey plants include silver wattle, native cherry and sunshine wattle.

Land use is limited to some extent by the stony soils and rugged terrain. The major uses are forestry and grazing, with large areas undeveloped. Extensive areas have been logged for woodchips and saw-logs.

The main hazards are sheet and gully erosion.

LAND SYSTEM

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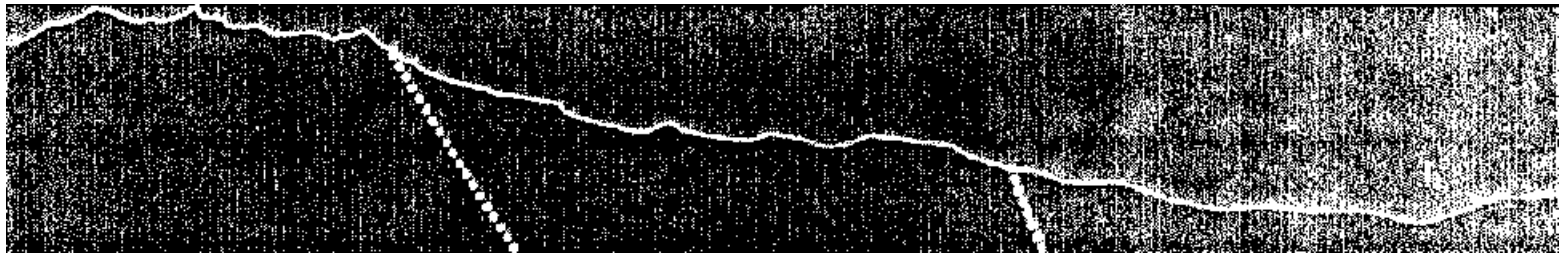
Ben Stewart



COMPONENT	1	2	3
PROPORTION %	25	40	35
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 750-1 000 mm		
GEOLOGY	Jurassic dolerite		Colluvium
TOPOGRAPHY			
Land form		Rugged hills	
Position	Crests and upper slopes	Mm slopes	Gentle lower slopes and swales
Average Sideslope °	10	6	3
NATIVE VEGETATION Structure	Tall open-forest	Open-forest	
Association	Stringybark, black peppermint, white gum silver wattle, native cherry, sunshine wattle, varnished wattle, heath	Stringybark, black peppermint, white gum, silver wattle, native cherry, heath, bracken fern	White gum, Stringybark, black peppermint, black wattle, bracken fern
SOIL	Stony, brown (7.5 YR 5/4) gradational soil	Stony, yellowish red (5 YR 5/8) gradational soil	Stony, dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4/6) gradational soil
Surface Texture		Clay loam	
Permeability		Moderate	
Average Depth m	0.5	0.8	1.0
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation, forestry, grazing		
HAZARDS	High sheet erosion	Moderate sheet and gully erosion	