

482131

BLUFF POINT

On the north-west tip of Region 3, at Mt Cameron West and on Trefoil Island and The Doughboys, coastal bluffs rise steeply from the sea. The scarp slopes give way abruptly to plateau-like crests, 80-100 m above sea level, which on the landward side pass into rolling hills and gently undulating footslopes.

Although derived from Tertiary basalt, the grey and brown duplex soils recorded here are quite distinct from the well drained, reddish gradational profiles normally associated with the far more extensive areas of the same parent material found elsewhere within the Region. The sand evident

in the surface horizons of some profiles is probably of aeolian origin and derived from adjacent sandy deposits.

Vegetation on the seaward scarps and cliff tops is severely wind pruned, a feature absent in the lee of the bluffs. Paperbark dominates the associations on most sites but eucalypts and bracken seem to occupy areas of better drained soils. Areas have been cleared for grazing but the native vegetation largely remains.

Gully erosion is present, mainly associated with drainage from access tracks through the developed areas. Soil erosion is a hazard which should be considered in the future management of Bluff Point land system.

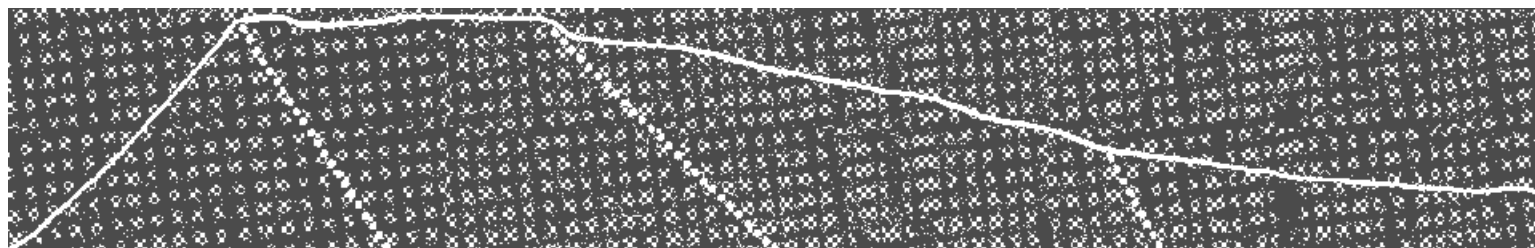


Coastal bluffs abruptly give way to plateau-like crests. The Doughboys are in the left background. Note the wind pruned vegetation in the right foreground.

LAND SYSTEM

482131

Bluff Point



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4
PROPORTION %	15	20	35	30
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 750-1 000 mm			
GEOLOGY	Tertiary basalt			
TOPOGRAPHY	Coastal cliffs and low hills			
Land form	Coastal cliffs and low hills			
Position	Seaward scarp	Plateau	Upper slopes	Footslopes
Average Sideslope °	30	3	7	4
NATIVE VEGETATION				
Structure	Closed scrub	Closed heath	Low open forest	Closed scrub
Association	Paperbark, <i>Leucopogon australis</i> , Australian blackthorn, honeysuckle		Smithton peppermint, swamp gum, bracken	Paperbark, Australian blackthorn, honeysuckle
SOIL	Gravelly, dark greyish brown (10 YR 4/2) gradational sod	Stony, mottled dark greyish brown (2.5 Y 4/2), yellowish brown (10 YR 5/8) duplex soil	Mottled strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8), pale brown (10 YR 6/3) gradational soil	Mottled dark grey (5 Y 4/1), yellowish brown (10 YR 5/8) duplex soil, coarse structure, gravelly at depth
Surface Texture	Clay loam			
Permeability	Moderate			Low
Average Depth m	0.4		>1.8	
PRESENT LAND USE	Grazing, nature conservation			
HAZARDS	High sheet and rill erosion	Low sheet erosion		