493111

ST HELENS

Two relatively small areas of plains and river flats formed on Quaternary sands and clays are found in the far east of the Region near St Helens and the Scamander River. Very small areas of mud flats at the mouths of the George and Scamander Rivers have been mapped in this system.

The soils are deep. A mottled duplex soil has developed on the upper slopes. The poorly drained uniform clay soil on the lower terraces and river flats overlays a gravel at about 1-3 metres depth.

The open-scrub on the upper component is predominantly paperbark, prickly mimosa and manuka. No remnants of vegetation were found on the lower component.

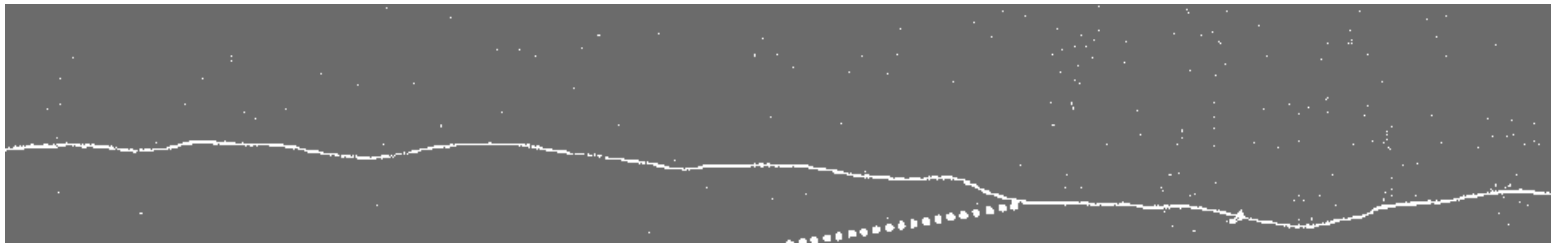
Almost the entire area remains undeveloped although some areas of the upper terrace are used for grazing. The township of St Helens occupies a large part of this system.

Rill erosion, streambank erosion, waterlogging and flooding are the main hazards. A large part of the system is very flat and subject to frequent inundation. Silt deposits at the mouth of the George River are the result of severe erosion of old mine workings in the catchment area of this river.

LAND SYSTEM

493111

St Helens



COMPONENT	1	2
PROPORTION %	65	35
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 750-1 000 mm	
GEOLOGY	Quaternary sands and clays	
TOPOGRAPHY		
Land form	Plains and river flats	
Position	Upper terrace	Lower terrace and drainage lines
Average Sideslope °	1	1
NATIVE VEGETATION Structure	Open-scrub	No remnants
Association	Paperbark, prickly mimosa, manuka	
SOIL	Mottled dark grey (10 YR 4/1) strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) duplex soil	Black (5 YR 2/1) clay soil, uniform texture, overlaying gravel
Surface Texture	Sandy loam	Sandy light clay
Permeability	Moderate	Low
Average Depth m	>2.0	
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation, grazing	
HAZARDS	Low rilling	Low streambank erosion, waterlogging, flooding