

503141

PORCUPINE HILL

Steep-sided ridges typify the few, small, scattered areas of this land system which occur west of Devonport.

Infertile, shallow, gravelly soils formed on quartzitic rocks on the upper slopes contrast with the much deeper, friable red soils developed on pelitic parent materials around the footslopes.

The contrast in the soil types is reflected in the vegetation. An open forest and scrub of black

peppermint, honeysuckle and manuka occurs on the poorer sites, while the better quality soils support a tall forest, where stringybark is co-dominant with the black peppermint.

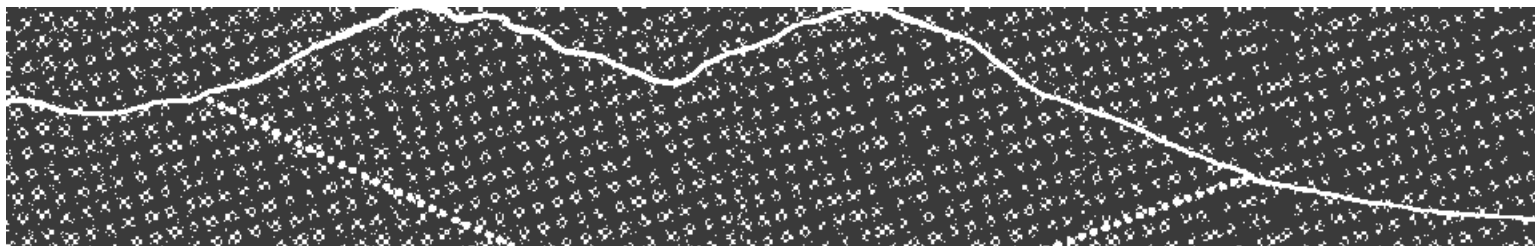
Most of Porcupine Hill land system is still timbered, but major disturbance has been caused by gravel stripping operations along the ridge crests.

The nature of the soils and the steepness of the slopes confer a high rill and gully erosion hazard on these areas.

LAND SYSTEM

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Porcupine Hill



COMPONENT	1	2	3
PROPORTION %	15	65	20
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 000-1 250 mm		
GEOLOGY	Precambrian metaquartzites, pelitic sequences		
TOPOGRAPHY			
Land form	Hills		
Position	Swales, gentle higher slopes	Crests, steep slopes	Moderate footslopes
Average Sideslope °	7	18	10
NATIVE VEGETATION			
Structure	Open forest and scrub		Tall open forest
Association	Black peppermint, honeysuckle, manuka, <i>Leucopogon australis</i> , heath, bracken		Black peppermint, stringybark, prickly mimosa, bracken
SOIL	Gravelly, dark grey (5 YR 4/1) sand soil, uniform texture	Gravelly, light brownish grey (2.5 Y 6/2) sand soil, uniform texture	Gravelly, friable, red (2.5 YR 4/6) gradational soil
Surface Texture	Peaty sand		Gravelly loam
Permeability	High		
Average Depth m	0.5		1.3
PRESENT LAND USE	Gravel stripping, nature conservation		
HAZARDS	High rill and gully erosion		Moderate sheet and gully erosion