

504131

THE GREAT BEND

A similarity of rock types relates The Great Bend to the previous land system. However, here pelitic parent materials predominate and occupy the ridge crests and upper slopes and only a small proportion of metaquartzites are evident round the footslopes. The Great Bend system occurs in one restricted area south of Latrobe, near a section of the Mersey River known as the The Great Bend.

The gravelly soils are strong brown on the crest, becoming redder and deeper on the steeper side

slopes. A coarse grey sand has developed on the metaquartzites.

An open forest vegetation is dominated by black peppermint and stringybark on the crests. Stringybark assumes ascendancy on the steeper slopes but it absent from the community on the sandy soils.

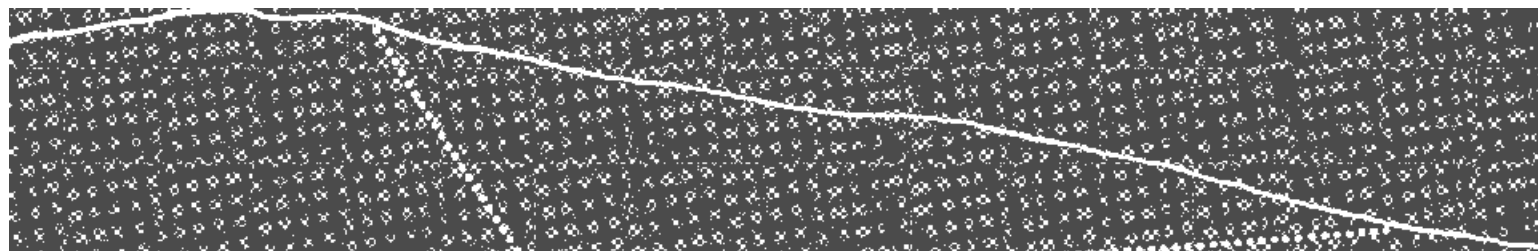
Forestry is the principal land use and a small quarry has been operated at one site for the removal of quartzitic sand and gravel.

Sheet, rill and gully erosion are likely on disturbed areas, particularly in the highly erodible sandy soils, which are subject to runoff from the higher slopes.

LAND SYSTEM

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The Great Bend



COMPONENT	1	2	3
PROPORTION %	25	65	10
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 000-1 250 mm		
GEOLOGY	Precambrian pelitic sequences		Precambrian metaquartzites
TOPOGRAPHY			
Land form		Low hills	
Position	Crests	Midslopes	Footslopes
Average Sideslope °	7	15	10
NATIVE VEGETATION Structure		Open forest	
Association	Black peppermint, stringybark, <i>Casuarina</i> sp, native cherry, bitter leaf, sunshine wattle	Stringybark, black peppermint, <i>Casuarina</i> sp, sunshine wattle, native cherry, guitar plant	Black peppermint, <i>Casuarina</i> sp, bracken, <i>Leucopogon australis</i> , heath, sunshine wattle
SOIL	Gravelly, strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) gradational soil	Gravelly, yellowish red (5 YR 4/8) gradational soil	Gravelly, light grey (10 YR 7/1) coarse sand soil, uniform texture
Surface Texture	Gravelly clay loam		Loamy sand
Permeability	Moderate		
Average Depth m	0.6	>1.8	1.3
PRESENT LAND USE	Forestry, gravel quarrying		
HAZARDS	Low sheet erosion	Moderate sheet and rill erosion	High rill and gully erosion