

# 514121

## BEACOM HILLS

Beacom Hills land system is an undulating plain developed on Precambrian mudstones and quartzites and which stretches along the north coast from Rocky Cape, westward to the Black River. Two smaller areas extend the range to near Smithton. It spreads up to nine kilometres inland, where it gives way to the slightly steeper topography of Kellys Knob land system.

Yellow duplex soils on the broad crests are deep but elsewhere soils are fairly shallow. Scattered on the upper slopes are areas of siliceous gravel with a shallow peat surface. In the swales and on the lower slopes are gravelly, grey to light olive brown gradational soils. Sometimes on the lower slopes, the grey soils have a yellow B2 or C horizon which may comprise most of the solum. The lowest catena member consists of flats and gentle slopes of greyish brown sand.

An open forest of stringybark and Smithton peppermint occurs on the crests and lower slopes. This gives way to a closed scrub of paperbark, manuka, and cutting grass in the swales. A heath community covers the areas of gravel and is characterised by *Melaleuca squarrosa*, *Bauera* sp., heath and scattered peppermint. An association of button grasses, *Juncus* sp., *Calorophus minor* and coastal sword sedge constitute an open sedge-land on the sandy flats.

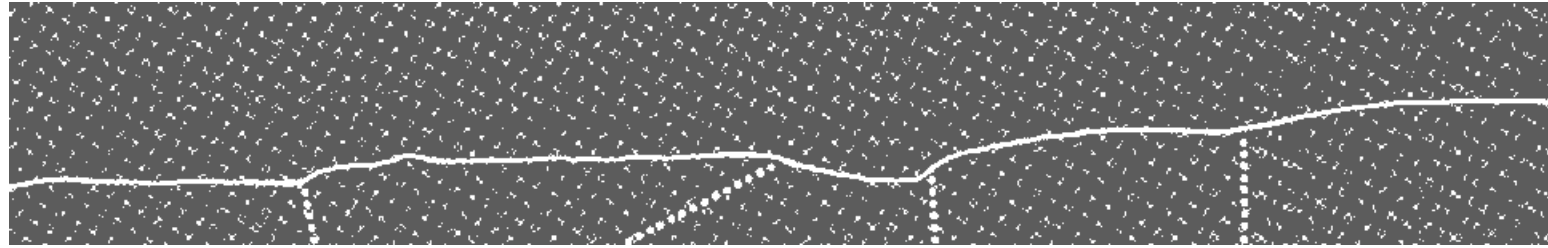
Forestry and nature conservation are the principal land uses. Bush grazing is practised to a limited extent. Gravel has been stripped from several sites, and there is a gravel quarry on the Beacom Hills near Smithton.

High sheet and nil erosion is a hazard on the areas of gravel. Sheet and rill erosion represent a low hazard on the crests and lower slopes. Water-logging and minor flooding are likely to occur on the poorly drained sand flats.

**LAND SYSTEM**

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Beacom Hills



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4	5
PROPORTION %	20	30	10	20	20
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 000-1 250 mm				
GEOLOGY	Precambrian mudstones, quartzites				
TOPOGRAPHY					
Land form			Undulating plain		
Position	Flats	Lower slopes	Swales	Areas of gravel	Broad crests
Average Sideslope °	0		L		2
NATIVE VEGETATION					
Structure	Sedgeland	Open forest	Closed scrub	Open heath	Open forest
Association	Button grass, <i>Juncus</i> sp, <i>Calorophus minor</i> , coast sword sedge, manuka, <i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i>	Stringybark, <i>Acacia mucronata</i> , manuka, heath, saggas	Paperbark, <i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> , prickly mimosa, manuka, cutting grass	<i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> , <i>Bauera</i> sp, heath, <i>Sprengelia incarnata</i> , Smithton peppermint	Stringybark, Smithton peppermint, manuka* <i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> , <i>Acacia mucronata</i> , honeysuckle
SOIL	Greyish brown ( 10 YR 5/2 ) sand soil, uniform texture	Gravelly, grey ( 10 YR 6/1 ) gradational soil	Gravelly, light olive brown (2 5 Y 5/4) gradational soil	Very gravelly, greyish brown (10 YR 5/2) soils, uniform texture	Brownish yellow (10 YR 6/6) duplex soil, hard setting A2 horizon
Surface Texture	Peat	Gravelly clay loam	Peaty clay loam	Peat	Loam
Permeability	High	Moderate		High	Moderate
Average Depth m	0 4	0 5	0 4		>1 8
PRESENT LAND USE	Forestry, nature conservation, grazing, gravel quarrying				
HAZARDS	Moderate waterlogging	Low sheet erosion		High sheet, rill erosion	Low sheet, rill erosion