

## 533251

### DIAL RANGE

As with other land systems formed on predominantly siliceous Ordovician parent material, Dial Range land system is a prominent feature of the skyline. It occurs as scattered ridges in the north-east of Region 3, the main area being the Dial Range, south of Penguin.

Most of the area is covered by very gravelly, shallow soils supporting a peppermint forest with an understorey of manuka and some honeysuckle and heath.

Only pockets of soil occur on the peaks and very steep upper slopes and bare rock predominates. The paucity of the soil of this component has not

prevented some tree growth, however, and black peppermint and stringybark form a woodland. Native cherry, Australian blackthorn and sags constitute an understorey and mosses and lichens grow on the exposures of rock.

Greyish brown and yellowish brown, stony gradational soils have developed on the more argillaceous rocks. These support a forest of stringybark and some stringy gum with an understorey of dogwood, prickly mimosa and tall bracken.

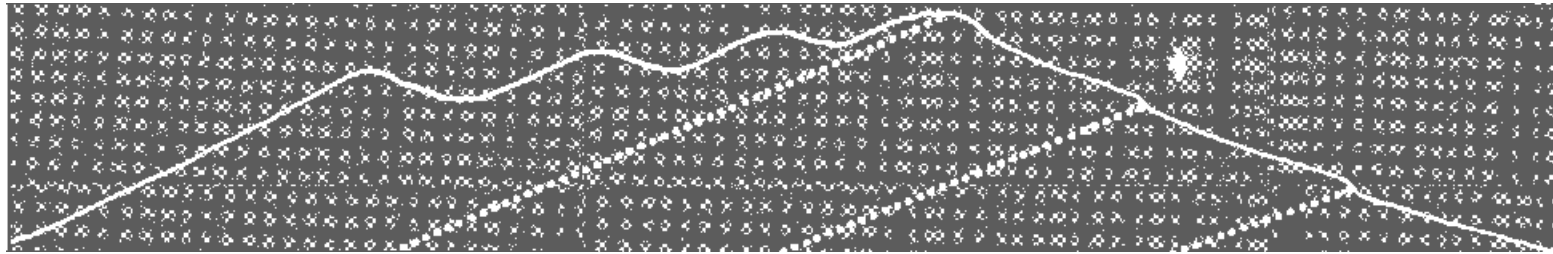
Forestry and gravel stripping are the principal land uses, but rugged topography and poor quality soils have largely prevented exploitation.

The long steep slopes, which are so much a feature of this land system, mainly account for the high erosion hazard.

**LAND SYSTEM**

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Dial Range



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4
PROPORTION %	60	15	10	15
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 000-1 250 mm			
GEOLOGY	Ordovician siliceous terrestrial conglomerate, marine quartzwacke and siltstone			
TOPOGRAPHY				
Land form	Mainly mountainous ridges trending approximately N-S			
Position	Steep slopes	Peaks, very steep upper ridges	Very steep midslopes	Steep lower slopes
Average Sideslope °	20	55	45	20
NATIVE VEGETATION				
Structure	Open forest	Woodland	Open forest	
Association	Black peppermint, manuka, honey suckle, heath	Black peppermint, stringybark, native cherry, Australian black thorn, prickly beauty, saggs, lichens, mosses	Strmgybark, stringy gum, dogwood, prickly mimosa, bracken	
SOIL	Very gravelly black peaty loam, uniform texture	Gravelly, very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) gradational soil, rock outcrop predominant	Stony, very gravelly, greyish brown (10 YR 5/2) gradational soil, rock outcrop scattered	Stony, very gravelly yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4) gradational soil
Surface Texture	Gravelly peat	Peaty loam	Gravelly peat	
Permeability	High	Moderate	High	
Average Depth m	0 3	Skeletal	0 4+	0 7+
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation, forestry, gravel stripping			
HAZARDS	High rill and gully erosion	High sheet erosion, moderate rock falls	High sheet and gully erosion	