

564132

LATROBE

Latrobe land system consists of areas of low hills formed on Permian, Upper Carboniferous sediments. It occurs in the lower catchment of the Mersey River, mainly around Railton and Latrobe, and its distribution extends into Region 4.

There is a great deal of variation in the soils within this land system. They include sandy soils with hard pans, deeper sands, sandy gradational, and duplex profiles with dense mottled B horizons. Within the separate components there is also a degree of variation in colouring, in the amount of mottling and in the occurrence of gravel within the profiles.

Eucalypts dominate the open forest vegetation. Black peppermint is the principal among these but swamp gum, white gum and stringybark are also prominent. The understorey on the poorly drained swales and floodplains is comprised of woolly tea-tree, paperbark and cutting grass. On better drained sites *Casuarina monilifera* and a mixture of wattles form a tall understorey and guitar plant, saggs and heath constitute a lower layer.

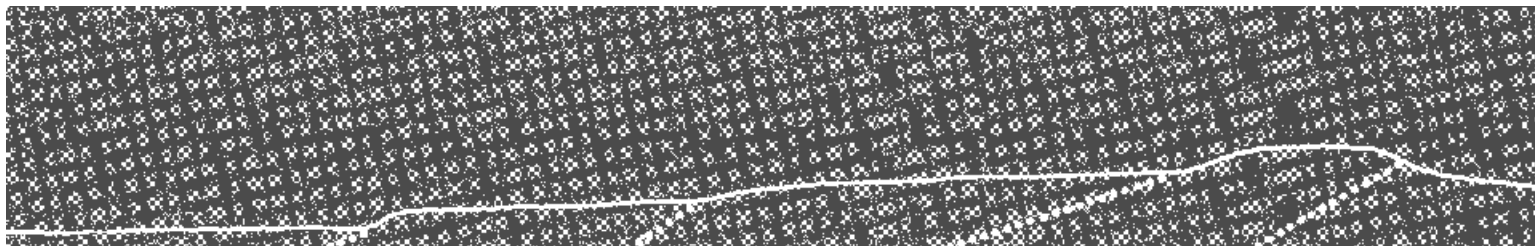
Hardwood forestry is an important land use, large areas have been converted to pine plantations and other areas have been cleared to make way for improved pastures.

Poor drainage and the credible nature of most of the soils are major constraints to land development.

LAND SYSTEM

564132

Latrobe



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4	5
PROPORTION %	25	20	30	15	10
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 000-1 250 mm				
GEOLOGY	Permian Upper Carboniferous pebbly mudstone, pebbly sandstone				Ordovician parent material
TOPOGRAPHY					
Land form	Low hills				
Position	Swales, floodplain	Very gentle slopes	Gentle slopes	Crests	Gentle slopes
Average Sideslope °	0	2	4	7	4
NATIVE VEGETATION					
Structure	Open forest				
Association	Swamp gum, black pepper mint, woolly tea tree, paperbark, cutting grass, <i>Juncus</i> sp	Black peppermint, swamp gum stringybark <i>Casuarina monilifera</i> , black wattle, sunshine wattle, saggs, heath	Black peppermint, white gum, swamp gum, stringybark, <i>Casuarina monilifera</i> , prickly mimosa, guitar plant, saggs		
SOIL	Mottled, dark grey (10 YR 4/1), yellowish brown (10 YR 5/8) gradational soil	Gravelly, grey (10 YR 6/1) sand soil uniform texture, organic iron pan	Mottled grey (10 YR 6/1), brownish yellow (10 YR 6/6) duplex soil, gravel bands, coarse structure	Stony dark brown (10 YR 3/3) gradational soil	Brown to red sandy gradational soils fine structure
Surface Texture	Sandy loam	Loamy sand	Sandy loam	Loam	Sandy loam
Permeability	Low	High	Low	Moderate	High
Average Depth m	>1 8	0 3	2 0	0 7	>2 0
PRESENT LAND USE	Forestry (softwood, hardwood), grazing nature conservation				
HAZARDS	High waterlogging, moderate flooding	High sheet and rill erosion	Moderate sheet and gully erosion, some tunnel erosion		Low sheet, rill erosion