

# 564141

## NEEDLES

A small area in the Mersey River, south of Weegenah is the only occurrence of this hilly land system within Region 3, but its distribution extends into Region 4.

Though Permian Upper Carboniferous mudstones, siltstones and sandstones are the principal parent materials the soils have been influenced by the incorporation of siliceous Ordovician material from adjacent areas and conglomerate stones are present on the crests and upper slopes. Gravelly duplex soils with an organic iron B horizon cover the crests and upper slopes. These may be compared

with soils in component 2 of Latrobe land system, lying further north. The yellowish red soils on the lower slopes and gully lines are strongly influenced by Ordovician material, a fact which strengthens the relationship with the other land system (see Latrobe land system, component 5).

The duplex soils support a forest of black peppermint, while stringybark dominates on the lower slopes. Bracken, wattles and heath typify the lower strata.

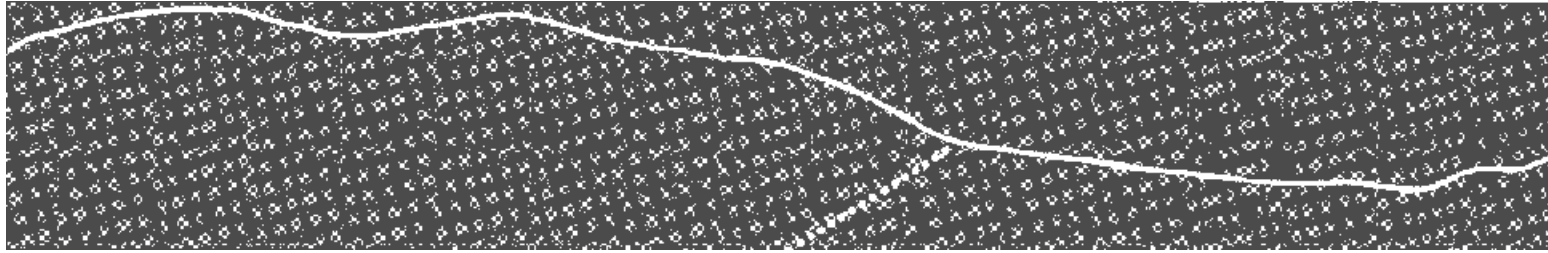
Grazing and forestry are the main land uses but Needles land system also serves as an area of nature conservation.

There is a moderate soil erosion hazard.

**LAND SYSTEM**

564141

Needles



COMPONENT	1	2
PROPORTION %	60	40
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 000-1 250 mm	
GEOLOGY	Permian mudstones, siltstones and sandstones	
TOPOGRAPHY	Gently rolling hills trending mainly NW-SE	
Land form	Gently rolling hills trending mainly NW-SE	
Position	Crests and upper slopes	Lower slopes and gully lines
Average Sideslope °	8	4
NATIVE VEGETATION	Open forest	
Structure	Open forest	
Association	Black peppermint, heath, bracken	Stringybark, blackwood, silver wattle, <i>Helichrysum dendroideum</i> , bracken
SOIL	Gravelly dark greyish brown (10 YR 4/2) duplex soil iron organic B horizon	Yellowish red (5 YR 5/6) gradational soil
Surface Texture	Gravelly sandy loam	Clay loam
Permeability	Moderate	
Average Depth m	1 1	1 6
PRESENT LAND USE	Grazing, forestry, nature conservation	
HAZARDS	Moderate sheet, rill and gully erosion	