

# 572351

## NICHOLAS RANGE

Formed on Jurassic dolerite near Cornwall in the south-east of the Region, is an area of rugged mountains. The system includes the Nicholas Range, Mt Durham, South Sister and Huntsmans Cap, with Mt Nicholas (857 m) and South Sister (831 m) the two highest points. It is surrounded by and closely associated with the Jurassic, Triassic and Permian deposits of the Cornwall Land System (572242).

Stony gradational soils have developed on both components. Those on the crests and steep upper slopes are shallow and rock outcrops are common.

Gum-topped stringybark, stringybark, black peppermint, blue gum and white gum are the dominant plant species. The main understorey plants are black wattle, *Bedfordia salicina*, varnished wattle and bull-oak.

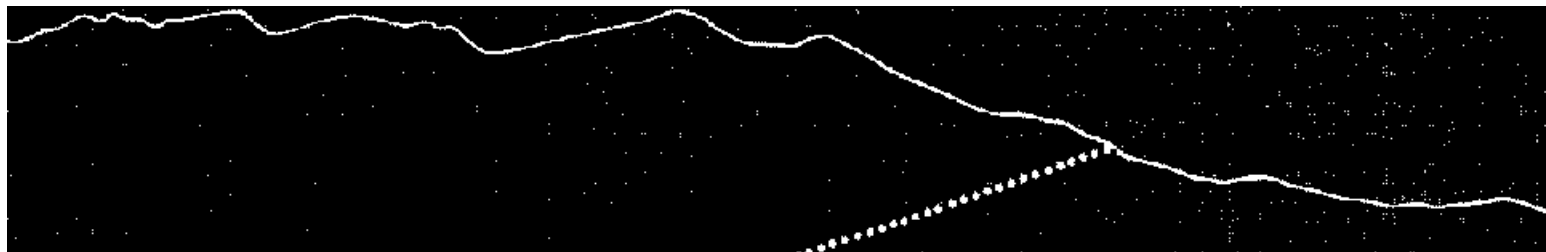
Because of the shallow stony soils and rugged terrain, most of the system remains undeveloped with small areas used for hardwood forestry.

The principal hazard associated with the soils is sheet erosion.

**LAND SYSTEM**

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Nicholas Range



COMPONENT	1	2
PROPORTION %	70	30
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 000-1 250 mm	
GEOLOGY	Jurassic dolerite	
TOPOGRAPHY		
Land form	Rugged mountains	
Position	Crests and steep upper slopes	Gentle lower slopes and small plateaux
Average Sideslope °	18	8
NATIVE VEGETATION		
Structure	Tall open-forest	Open -forest
Association	Gum-topped stringybark, stringybark, black peppermint, blue gum, white gum, black wattle, <i>Bedfordia salicina</i> , varnished wattle, <i>Cassinia trinerva</i> , guitar plant	Black peppermint, gum-topped stringybark, stringybark, white gum, blue gum, bull-oak, black wattle
SOIL	Stony, reddish brown (5 YR 5/4) gradational soil	Stony, yellowish brown (10 YR 5/8) gradational soil
Surface Texture	Clay loam	
Permeability	Moderate	
Average Depth m	0.4	0.8
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation, forestry	
HAZARDS	Moderate sheet erosion	