

583131

GRAVEL PITS

South west of Wynyard a strip of low, gently sloping hills lying mainly on the east side of the Inglis River has developed on remnants of Tertiary sands and gravels which overlie a thin layer of lacustrine clay deposits.

The bulk of the area is characterised by very deep, gravelly grey sand soils with a pale red iron horizon at depth. The only other component consists of gravelly, yellowish brown gradational

soils developed on the underlying clays around the footslopes.

Smithton peppermint and stringybark dominate the open forest with an understorey of mainly heath and bracken and in places manuka.

The principal land use is gravel stripping but logging is also important, especially on the better quality soils of the footslopes.

Although slopes are not excessive, the highly erodible sand soils indicate a high sheet, rill and gully erosion hazard.

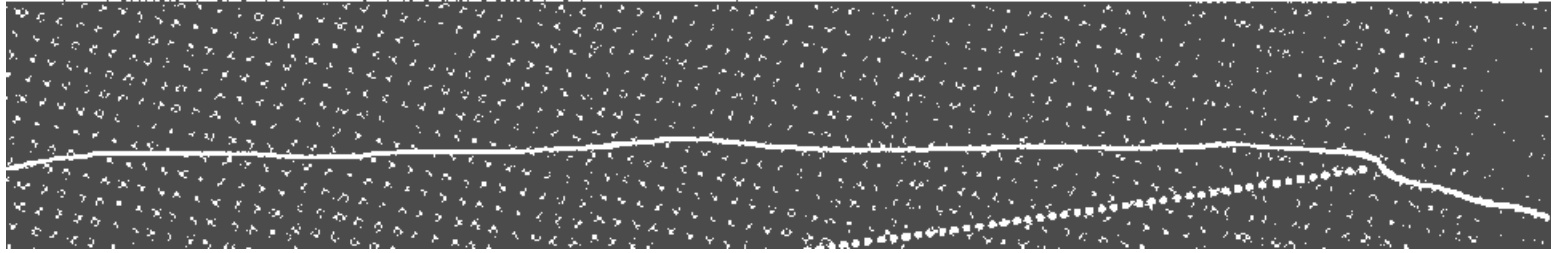


Deep gravelly sands support a peppermint and stringybark forest

LAND SYSTEM

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Gravel Pits



COMPONENT	1	2
PROPORTION %	90	10
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 000-1 250 mm	
GEOLOGY	Tertiary deposits	
	Gravels and sands	Lacustrine clay
TOPOGRAPHY	Low hills	
Land form	Low hills	
Position	Crests, upper slopes	Lower slopes
Average Sideslope °	3	7
NATIVE VEGETATION	Open forest	
Structure	Open forest	
Association	Smithton peppermint, stringybark, manuka, heath, bracken	
SOIL	Deep gravelly grey sand soil uniform texture with pale red (2.5 YR 6/2) iron B horizon	Gravelly, yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) gradational
Surface Texture	Sand	Gravelly clay loam
Permeability	High	Moderate
Average Depth m	>2.0	0.7
PRESENT LAND USE	Gravel stripping, nature conservation	Nature conservation, logging, sawmill
HAZARDS	High sheet, rill and gully erosion	Moderate sheet and gully erosion, low siltation