

593161

TEMMA

Scattered along the west coast from Woolnorth Point to the Interview River are strips of sandy beaches, dunes and flats up to four kilometres wide. Descriptions of areas included within this land system have been recorded by Nicolls (1955) and by Macphail *et al* (1975).

Soils near the coast are calcareous and included among the shell fragments are substantial aboriginal middens. Further inland, leaching has removed the carbonates. The pale sands on the beaches are undifferentiated but there is a pronounced darkening of the surface horizons in the dunes. The predominant soil covers the undulating hinterland and has a surface layer of grey to light grey sand varying from about one to almost two metres in depth. This overlies a dark B horizon which varies in colour and degree of compaction, but which is typically very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) and mostly forms a pan. Nicolls (1955) has described this soil as a groundwater podzol. Dark

grey sands little more than a metre deep have formed in the depressions. Scattered outcrops of Precambrian, mainly sandstone, strata are a feature of the system, especially near the coast.

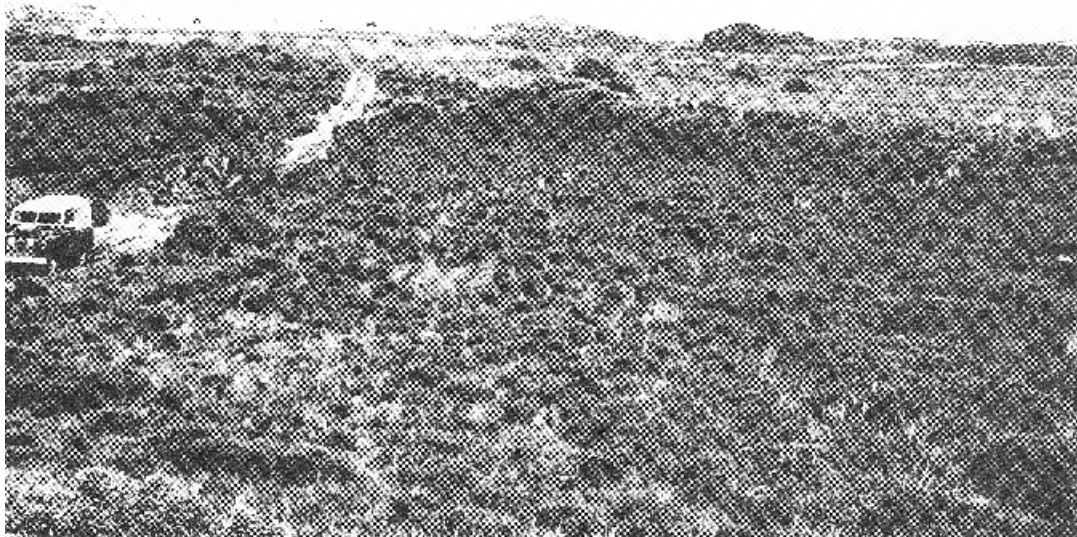
The native vegetation is mostly an open heath, although on the major component areas of scrubland also occur.

In places small swamps appear immediately behind the dune system. A central lagoon is often ringed by a narrow band of closed paperbark scrub, and sandy organic soils have developed in these locations (27).

The strong brown A2 horizon referred to by Nicolls (1955) was noticed in the high dunes just south of the Arthur River.

Temma land system is extensively used for recreation and bush grazing.

Wind erosion is a persistent hazard in these areas and erosion has been initiated where the vegetation has been unduly disturbed in several positions along the dunes.

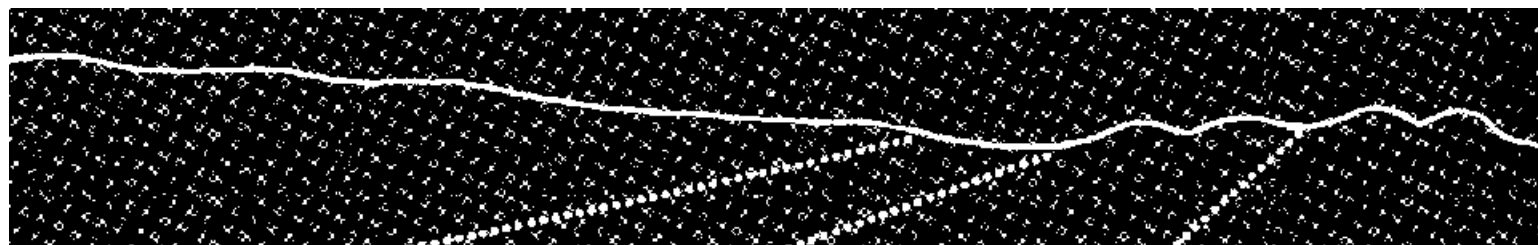


facing the west coast, actively eroding dunes are visible in the left background with more stable dunes on the right.

LAND SYSTEM

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Temma



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4
PROPORTION %	60	10	15	15
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 000-1 250 mm			
GEOLOGY	Quaternary coastal non-calcareous and calcareous sand with scattered outcrops, Precambrian sandstones and quartzites			
	Non calcareous		Calcareous	
TOPOGRAPHY	Coastal sand flats, dunes and beaches			
Land form	Coastal sand flats, dunes and beaches			
Position	Undulating hinterland	Swales	Stable dunes	Beach, active dunes
Average Sideslope °	3	1	1	0
NATIVE VEGETATION				
Structure	Open heath, scrubland	Open heath, sedgeland	Open heath, herbfield	Bare
Association	<i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> , Smithton pep permint, <i>Casuarina monilifera</i> , <i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i> , honey suckle, manuka, bracken	<i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> , <i>Leptocarpus tenax</i> , scrambling coral fern	<i>Leucopogon parvtflorus</i> , <i>Beyeria leschenaultii</i> , honeysuckle, coast wattle, Smithton peppermint, heath	
SOIL	Light grey (10 YR 7/1) sand soil, organic sand pan	Dark grey (10 YR 4/1) sand soil, uniform texture	Weakly differentiated pale calcareous sand soil, uniform texture	Undifferentiated pale calcareous sand soil, uniform texture
Surface Texture	Peaty sand		Loamy sand	Sand
Permeability	High			
Average Depth m	1 3	1 1	>2 0	
PRESENT LAND USE	Recreation, bush grazing, nature conservation			
HAZARDS	High wind, rill erosion			