

# 594111

## MERSEY LEA

Occupying a stretch of the Mersey River floodplain downstream from Kimberley and extending for a short distance into Region 4 is a flat plain developed on Quaternary alluvium.

Soils examined on the two terraces vary somewhat in colour, and gravel and sand are present in some profiles. The dense mottled soil in component 3 is closely related to the one found in the lowest component of Latrobe land system which borders Mersey Lea round most of its perimeter.

Little native vegetation remains; but most of the land system would have been covered by an open forest in which white gum, swamp gum and black peppermint featured prominently. The mottled soils probably supported a closed scrub of paperbark with swamp gum also present.

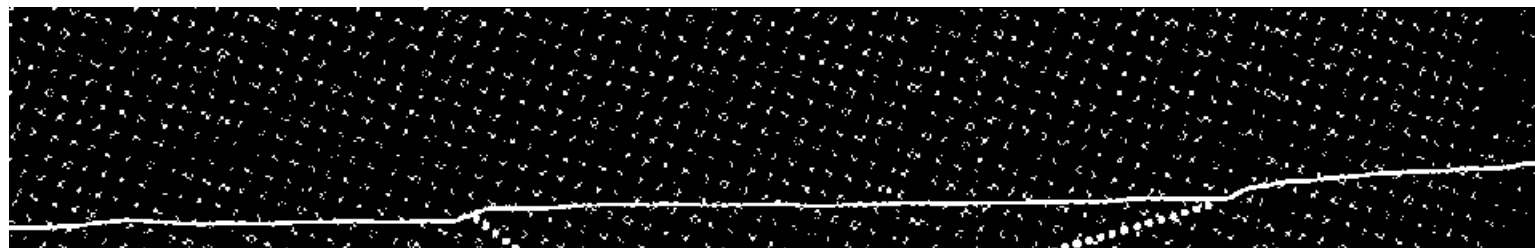
Although grazing is the major land use, gravel extraction from the banks and bed of the Mersey River is also important.

Flooding, waterlogging and streambank erosion are the principal hazards affecting the development of this land system.

**LAND SYSTEM**

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Mersey Lea



COMPONENT	1	2	3
PROPORTION %	30	50	20
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 000-1 250 mm		
GEOLOGY	Quaternary alluvium		
TOPOGRAPHY			
Land form		Flat plain	
Position	Lower terrace	Upper terrace	Very gentle slopes
Average Sideslope °	<1	<1	1
NATIVE VEGETATION	Open forest		Closed scrub
Structure			
Association	White gum, swamp gum, black peppermint		Paperbark, swamp gum
SOIL	Reddish brown (5 YR 4/4) to yellowish red (5 YR 4/6) gradational soils	Brown (7-5 YR 4/4) to dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4/4) gradational soils, sometimes gravelly	Mottled grey (10 YR 5/1), yellowish brown (10 YR 5/8) gradational soil
Surface Texture	Loam	Clay loam	
Permeability	Moderate		Low
Average Depth m	0.9	>1.8	
PRESENT LAND USE	Grazing, gravel extraction		
HAZARDS	Moderate flooding, streambank erosion		Moderate waterlogging, low flooding