594121

MOLE CREEK

The broad expanses of undulating country round Mole Creek township, in the north-east of the Region and the smaller areas located near Railton and Eugenana further north have mainly formed on Quaternary alluvium, although outcrops of Ordovician limestone are a feature of the system.

Friable, yellowish brown clays along the drainage lines give way to gravelly, yellowish brown and strong brown gradational soils a little higher up on the undulating country. Dense, reddish coloured clays have formed on the limestone parent materials. Evidence suggests that duplex profiles found in component 2 are due to the inundation of limestone soils by coarser textured water-borne deposits. Certainly siliceous stone, gravel and sandy sediments, probably derived from adjacent ridges of Ordovician conglomerate, have resulted in the anomalous soils found on the flood plain of the Mersey River where it crosses this system.

The native vegetation was probably an open forest dominated by white gum, black peppermint and swamp gum with pockets of cabbage gum and some stringybark. Understorey species would have included blackwood, guitar plant and saggs.

Grazing is the major land use and substantial areas have been converted to improved pastures. The area round Railton is used for forestry and pine plantations have been established. Mole Creek settlement and part of Railton occur on this land system. The Railton cement works is located here and uses locally quarried limestone.

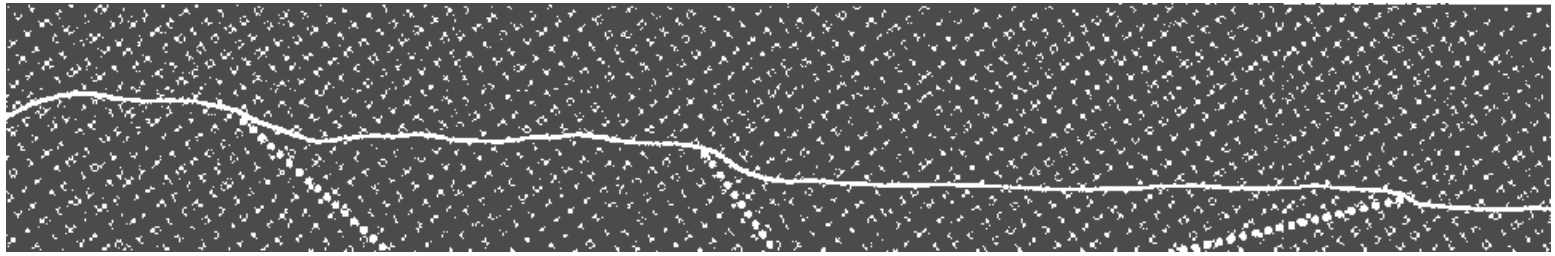
Streams are actively undercutting the banks in places and streambank erosion is the principal hazard.

Bars of limestone rock outcrop on this low hill, typical of component 4.

LAND SYSTEM

594121

Mole Creek



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4
PROPORTION %	15	30	45	10
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 000-1 250mm			
GEOLOGY	Ordovician limestone	Quaternary alluvium		
TOPOGRAPHY				
Land form		Undulating plain		
Position	Low rocky hills	Gently undulating	Very gently undulating	Floodplain
Average Sideslope °	4	2	1	<1
NATIVE VEGETATION Structure	Open forest			
Association	White gum, black peppermint, swamp gum, cabbage gum, stringybark, blackwood, guitar plant, saggs			
SOIL	Reddish brown (5 YR 5/4) grada tional soil frequent rock outcrop	Yellowish red (5 YR 5/6) duplex soils	Gravelly, strong brown (7 5 YR 5/6) to yellowish brown (10 YR 5/8) gradational soils, water worn gravels, stones	Friable, yellowish brown (10 YR 5/8) medium clay soil, uniform texture
Surface Texture	Loam	Sandy loam	Sandy clay loam	Light clay
Permeability		Moderate		High
Average Depth m	>1	8	1 5	>2 0
PRESENT LAND USE	Grazing, forestry, residential, cement works			
HAZARDS	Low sheet, rill erosion			Moderate streambank erosion