

# 641231

## DIDDLEUM PLAINS

Covering a considerable area between Weelaty and Lottah in the east of the Region, are low hills formed on Devonian granite and granodiorite. The largest occurrence of the system is between Ringarooma and Lottah in the Blue Tier-Weldborough area. Other occurrences are in the Cuckoo Hill area to the west of Legerwood, and near Trenah. Together with the Poimena Land System (741341), this system forms the watershed between several of the major river systems in the north-east of the region.

Rock outcrops are common. The highest parts of the system are consistently occupied by gradational soils. Clay soils have developed on the two lower components. Some of the soils associated with the Blue Tier area have been previously described by Dimmock (1957).

A tall closed-forest dominated by myrtle, sassafras, dogwood and stinkwood is found on the gentle slopes. Elsewhere, gum-topped stringybark, stringy gum and stringybark dominate the open-forests.

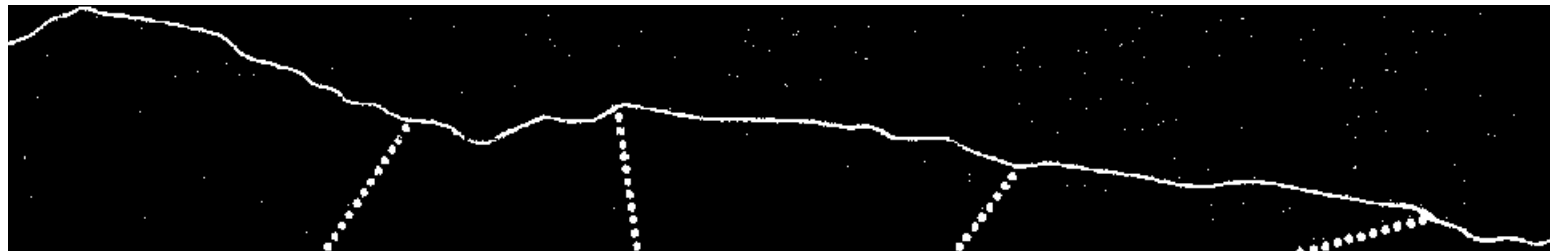
Because of the rugged terrain, most of the area remains undeveloped, although small parts are used for forestry (hardwood and softwood) and grazing.

The principal hazards, sheet and rill erosion, are severe on the steeper slopes.

**LAND SYSTEM**

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Diddleum Plains



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4	5
PROPORTION %	25	15	25	25	10
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 250-1 500 mm				
GEOLOGY	Devonian granite and granodiorite				
TOPOGRAPHY					
Land form			Low hills		
Position	Crests, steep upper slopes	Upper swales and gentle	Gentle slopes	Lower slopes	Drainage lines
Average Sideslope °	18	10 mid slopes	6	8	3
NATIVE VEGETATION					
Structure	Tall open-forest		Tall closed-forest	Open-forest	
Association	Gum-topped stringybark, stringy gum, stringybark, silver wattle, blackwood, <i>Bedfordia salicina</i> , <i>Helichrysum antennarium</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia gunnii</i>	Stringy gum, gum-topped stringybark, sunshine wattle, silver wattle, canary broom, blackwood, <i>Helichrysum dendroideum</i> , <i>Bedfordia salicina</i>	Myrtle, sassafras, dogwood, stinkwood, waratah, mother shield fern, <i>Blechnum watsii</i> , <i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	Stringybark, stringy gum, gum-topped stringybark, silver wattle, black wattle, needle bush, <i>Helichrysum dendroideum</i> , <i>Cassinia trinerva</i>	Gum-topped stringybark, white gum, stringybark, manuka, silver wattle, <i>Bedfordia salicina</i> , <i>Helichrysum thyrsoideum</i> , prickly mimosa
SOIL	Stony yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) grad-ational soil	Dark brown (7.5 YR 4/4) gradational soil	Strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) gradational soil	Yellowish red (5 YR 4/6) clay soil, uniform texture	Brownish yellow (10 YR 6/8) clay soil, uniform texture
Surface Texture	Gravelly clay loam		Clay loam	Light clay	
Permeability		Moderate			Low
Average Depth m	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.6	1.8
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation, forestry, grazing				
HAZARDS					
	Severe sheet erosion	Moderate sheet and rill erosion		Low sheet and rill erosion	