

641341

BURNS CREEK

Stretching southwards in a wide band from Diddleum Plains and Cuckoo Hill to the northern base of the Ben Lomond State Reserve, is an area of rounded hills formed on Devonian granite and granodiorite. This system is very similar to the adjoining Diddleum Plains Land System (641231), except that it has a much more rugged topography than the latter. Many small rivers and creeks dissect the landscape forming steep-sided gullies and swales.

Rock outcrops are common, especially on the crests and upper slopes. Stony gradational soils have developed on the slopes, while the upper swales are

occupied by a clay soil. Soils on the steeper slopes are redder than those on the gentle slopes.

Stringy gum, stringybark and gum-topped stringybark dominate the vegetation on the three upper components. The rainforest species (myrtle, sassafras, waratah, etc.) dominate the tall closed-forest on the lower slopes and swales. Throughout the system, the rainforest species are more dominant on the gentler, well sheltered slopes and drainage lines.

The stony soils and rugged terrain limit land use, with forestry (hardwood and softwood) and grazing the main uses. Large areas remain undeveloped. Near Diddleum Plains a considerable area has been cleared, fired and planted to radiata pines.

Sheet and gully erosion are the principal hazards.

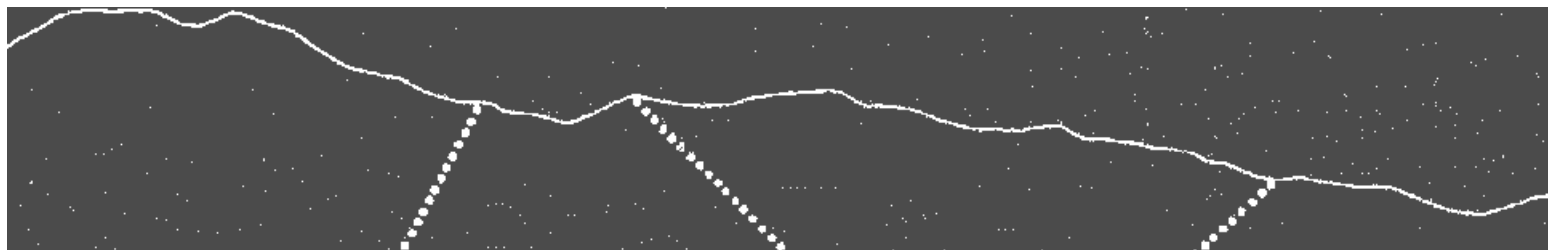


Rock outcrops on the crests and upper slopes.

LAND SYSTEM

641341

Burns Creek



| | | | | |
|---------------------|--|---|---|--|
| COMPONENT | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| PROPORTION % | 30 | 10 | 40 | 20 |
| CLIMATE | Average Annual Rainfall 1 250-1 500 mm | | | |
| GEOLOGY | Devonian granite and granodiorite | | | |
| | Mainly rock outcrops | | | |
| TOPOGRAPHY | | | | |
| Land form | | Rounded hills | | |
| Position | Crests and upper slopes | Upper swales | Steep mid slopes | Lower slopes and swales |
| Average Sideslope ° | 18 | 5 | 18 | 7 |
| NATIVE VEGETATION | | | | |
| Structure | Tall open-forest | Tall closed-forest | | |
| Association | Stringy gum, gum-topped stringybark, silver wattle, <i>Helichrysum dendroideum</i> , manfern, bracken fern, fireweed | Gum-topped stringybark, stringybark, stringy gum, myrtle, stinkwood, silver wattle, <i>Helichrysum dendroideum</i> , <i>Olearia phlogopappa</i> | Stringy gum, silver wattle, blackwood, manfern, <i>Helichrysum antennarium</i> , <i>Bedfordia salicina</i> , bracken fern | Myrtle, sassafras, waratah, stinkwood, dogwood, bracken fern, <i>Helichrysum antennarium</i> , <i>Bedfordia salicina</i> |
| SOIL | Stony, dark reddish brown (5 YR 3/2) gradational soil, with organic surface | Yellowish brown (10 YR 5/8) clay soil, uniform texture | Stony, dark brown (7.5 YR 4/4) gradational soil | Stony, strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) gradational soil |
| Surface Texture | Loam | Light clay | Clay loam | |
| Permeability | | Moderate | | |
| Average Depth m | 0.6 | 1.5 | 1.0 | 1.5 |
| PRESENT LAND USE | Nature conservation, forestry, grazing | | | |
| HAZARDS | Severe sheet erosion | Low sheet erosion | Moderate sheet and gully erosion | |