682321

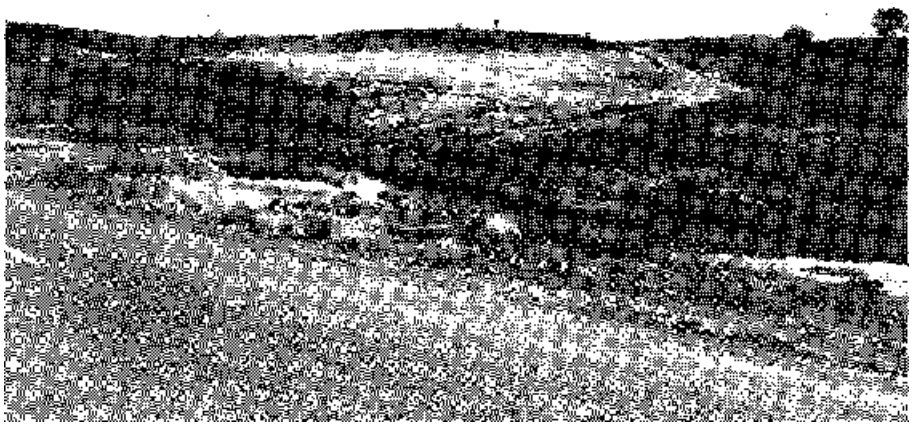
Nive River

The Nive River Land System is situated close to Bronte Park occupying areas around the Nive plains and the Little River/Nive River junction. Terraced slopes of Tertiary basalt flows are well preserved and typify much of the landscape. Lower components are often covered with alluvium, while dolerite rock fragments may be common in some soil profiles further upslope. Erosion of the very shallow soils has resulted in the exposure of bedrock on crest components in the Little River area.

Large areas of this land system are covered by open heath and Poa grassland. Swampy areas support Restio australis, Empodisma minus and Epacris gunnii. Cold air drainage from the north may have limited the distribution of eucalypts (in lower areas) which tend to occur in small clusters on terraced slopes and crests. However, this may be a result of vegetation clearance in order to make full use of the basaltic soils. Wetter gullies in the southern part of the land system support forests of Eucalyptus delegatensis, Nothofagus cunninghamii, Drimys lanceolata and Prostanthera rotundifolia.

River flats and terraces around the Nive River have loamy soils although river gravels do occur. Adjoining swampy ground is covered with peat which often overlies a mottled light clay. Black uniform soils are common on lower slopes while terraced slopes and crests have reddish brown soils.

The land is presently used as a water catchment for hydro-electric power generation and grazing. Waterlogging is a potential problem on low lying areas. Landslips and sheet erosion are potential hazards posing moderate threats on terraced slopes and crests.



Terraced slopes of Tertiary basalt around the Nive River. These are prone to landslips.

LAND SYSTEM

Nive River

582321

Area (ha): 11155

COMPONENT		1	2	3	4
PROPORTION(%)	15	5	10	60	10
RAINFALL (mm)		Approximate Annual Rainfall: 1250-1500			
GEOLOGY	Alluvium		Tertiary basalt		
TOPOGRAPHY		..... Undulating plain with terraced slopes			
Position	River Flats/Terraces	Swamps	Footslopes	Terraced Slopes	Crests
Typical Slope( )	1-3	0-1	5-7	7-10	1-3
IATIVE		Sedgeland/Open			
Structure	Open Heath	Heath/Herbfield	Remnant Heath	Remnant Forest	Remnant Forest
Floristic Association See Appendix 1 for common names)	Hakea epiglottis Hellchrysum hookeri R. ledifolium Lissanthe montana Poa sp.	Restio australis Empodisma minus Juncus pallidus Poa sp. Epacris gunnii	Helichrysum hookeri Hakea epiglottis Poa sp. Craspedia glauca	Eucalyptus coccifera E. nitida Acacia dealbata Hakea epiglottis Helichrysum hookeri Lissanthe montana Pultenaea juniperina Pimelea	Eucalyptus pauciflora E. delegatensis H nitida E. coccifera Acacia dealbata Rakea epiglottis Helichrysum hookeri Lissanthe montana Bedfordia linearis Poa sp
SOIL surface(A)Text	Silty Clay Loam	Peat	Light Clay	Loam - Clay Loam	Loam - Clay Loam
BHorizon(subsoil) Colour (wet) Texture and Primary profile form	Strong brown (7. 5 YR 4/6) alluvial soils with river gravels in places. Complex.	Mottled, light clay with a variety of colours. Organic.	Black (5 YR 2. 5/1) light clay. Uniform.	Stony, gravelly, dark reddish brown (5 YR 3/3) to yellowish red (5 YR 4/6) light clay. Duplex.	Stony, dark red (2. 5 YR 3/6) to red (2. 5 YR 5/6) clay loam to light clay. Gradational.
Permeabillty	High	Moderate-Low	Moderate-Low	High-Moderate	High-Moderate
Typical depth(m)	1. 20	>0. 50	>0. 50	1. 00	0. 40-0. 55
Depth(A)Horizon (m)	0. 30	0. 20-0. 40	0. 10	0. 10-0. 20	0. 10-0. 15
LAND USE		Grazing, hydro-electric power generation			
HAZARDS	Moderate waterlogging		Moderate to high sheet erosion, landslips		Moderate to high sheet