718121

CAPE SORELL

This land system is situated in the far north west of the study area. It consists of large areas of undulating plains with some deeply incised river systems. Precambrian quartzite, sandstone and schist underlie this peneplain which is covered by organic soils. The fault boundary between Precambrian rocks of this land system and the adjacent Mainwaring River Land System (728121) is reflected in the change from sedgeland/heath (718121) to rainforest or mixed forest (728121). Five bush fires have occurred within the Cape Sorell land system in the last ten years and have usually remained on the sedgeland/heath although one burnt into the Mainwaring River Land System.

Sedgeland/heath dominates the undulating plains and *Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus, Lepidosperma filiforme* and *Sprengelia incarnata are* common. Isolated patches of *Lepidosperma tortuosum were* found just downstream from the confluence of the Nielson River and Noddy Creek. Creek and river valleys are likely to have shallow, dark reddish brown fibrous peat horizons overlying loam, clay loam or sandy loam subsoils. These protected locations support mixed forest or rain forest with *Nothofagus cunninghamii, Eucalyptus nitida, Atherosperma moschatum* and *Eucryphia lucida* typical. Occasional scrubby areas are probably dominated by *Eucalyptus nitida* and various *Leptospermum* and *Melaleuca* spp. Eucalypts also appear to be more common along ridges where firing is more likely.

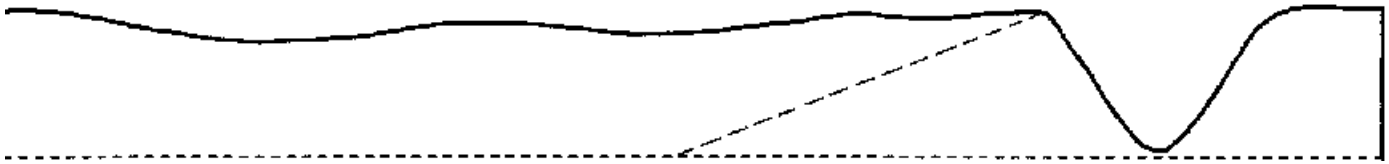
This land system falls within the South West Conservation Area. Mineral exploration tracks cross parts of the land system but the main areas of mineralogical interest are restricted to the Cambrian rocks of the adjacent Mainwaring River Land System.

There is a very high sheet erosion hazard on the undulating plains where peats have the potential to dry out and burn. Remaining peat and ash are easily removed by wind or water as the land system is very exposed. Peat erosion has already occurred on well drained ridges and crests.

LAND SYSTEM
CAPE SORELL

718121

Area(ha): 17734



ALTITUDINAL RANGE (m)	0-300	APPROXIMATE ANNUAL RAINFALL(mm) 1500-2000
SITE NO. /ALTITUDE m) /ASPECT	(196/145/-) (197/185/-)	No site data
TOPOGRAPHY	Plains with prominent river valleys	
Position	Undulating plains	Protected valleys
Typical Slope( )	0-5	5-30
Proportion(%)	80	20
GEOLOGY	Precambrian, quartzite, sandstone and schist	
NATIVE VEGETATION	Open sedgeland/heath	Closed forest (mixed forest) scrub
Structure		
Floristic Association (See Appendix 1 for common names)	Gvmnoschoenus sphaerocephalus Lepidosperma filiforme Sprenqelia incarnata Leptospermum nitidum Restio monocephalus R. australis Xvris sp. Drosera binata Boronia pilosa B. parviflora Baeckea leptocaulis Actinotus bellidioides	Eucalyptus nitida Nothofaqus cunninghamii Atherosperma moschatum Eucrvphia lucida Phvllocladus aspleniifolius Aristotelia peduncularis Anodopetalum biglandulosum Blechnum wattsii Trochocarpa qunnii Various Leptospermum and Melaleuca species in places
SOIL Surface(A or P horizon)Colour (moist) and texture	Black (10 YR 2/1 or fibrous peat 5 YR 2. 5/1) over a sandy, gravelly black (10 YR 2/1 or 7. 5 YR 2/0) muck peat	Dark reddish brown fibrous peat
Subsoil (or B horizon) colour (moist) and texture	Quartzitic gravels	Grey loam, clay loam or sand
Primary Profile form	Complex	
Depth surface horizon(m)	0. 40 - 1. 00	
Typical total depth(m)	0. 65 - 1. 10	
Permeability	High	
LAND USE	Nature conservation	
HAZARD	High sheet erosion hazard	