

# 733341

## ST VALENTINES PEAK

The Ordovician parent materials consist principally of siliceous conglomerate, and the typically steep and rugged topography relate this land system to Dial Range, Black Bluff, Mt Roland and Gormanston systems. It has a scattered distribution with the major areas occurring from St Valentines Peak to the River Leven. Wherever it occurs this system is a prominent feature of the landscape and St Valentines Peak, in particular, is a well known landmark in the study area.

Six components have been recognised, making this one of the most complex systems within the Region. Soils vary from stony, shallow, grey sands on the upper dip slopes to a yellowish red gradational soil, almost a metre deep, on the gentler footslopes.

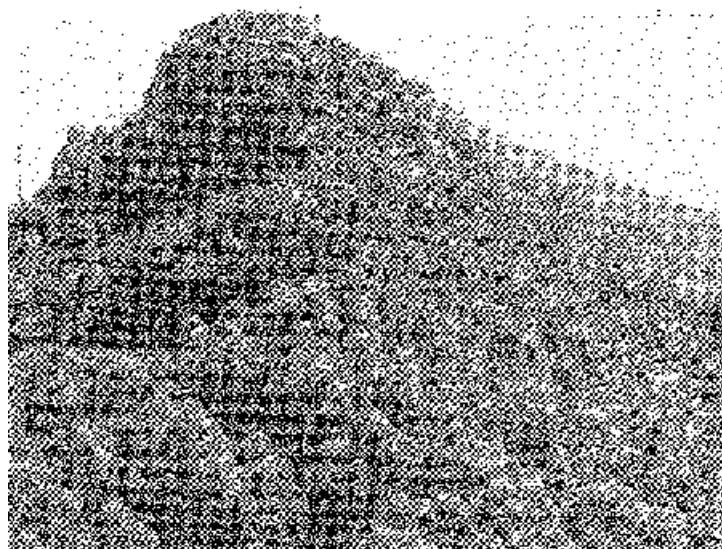
The vegetation is equally divergent. A heath and sedge community on the shallow sand comprises *Epacris* sp. and stunted honeysuckle, while a stringybark forest grows on the better quality soils.

The steep topography and poor quality soils have discouraged exploitation of the three highest components which currently serve as a zone of nature conservation. Forestry is important on the lower slopes and a pine plantation has been established on footslopes near Loyetea Peak.

Any development of the steep upper slopes would confront a high soil erosion hazard. Severe rilling has occurred to vehicular tracks into this zone. Related to these factors is the risk of siltation on the lower slopes and particularly along the creek flats.



*Timber and scrub covering the typically rugged topography of St Valentines Peak land system.*

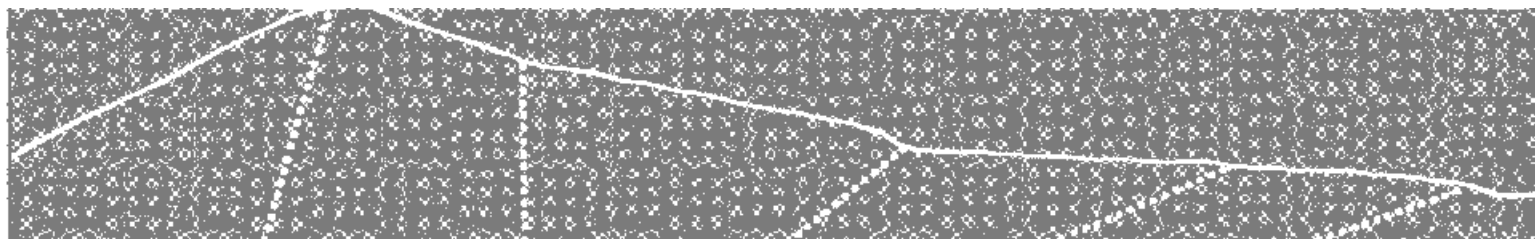


*Heath and sedgeland on the upper dip slopes contrast with the timbered scarp slopes.*

LAND SYSTEM

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St Valentines Peak



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4	5	6
PROPORTION %	20	15	25	20	15	5
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 500-2 000 mm					
GEOLOGY	Ordovician siliceous conglomerate, quartzwacke, siltstone					
	Conglomerate		Colluvium	Siltstone	Quartzwacke	Alluvium
TOPOGRAPHY	Steep ridges trending NE-SW					
Land form						
Position	Scarp slope	Upper dip slope	Dip slope	Gentle footslopes		Creek flats
Average Sideslope °	20	18	15	5		2
NATIVE VEGETATION						
Structure	Open forest	Closed heath, sedgeland	Tall open forest	Open forest	Sedgeland	Tall open forest
Association	Black peppermint	<i>Epacris</i> sp., honeysuckle	Black peppermint, stringybark, heath	Stringybark, bracken	Button grass, <i>Calorophus lateriflorus</i>	Stringybark black peppermint, bracken
SOIL	Stony, brown (7.5 YR 4/4) loam soil, uniform texture	Stony, light grey (10 YR 6/1) sand soil	Stony, gravelly, greyish brown (10 YR 5/2) loam soil, uniform texture	Yellowish red (5 YR 5/8) gradational soil	Dark grey (10YR4/1) clay soil, uniform texture	Yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) loam soil, uniform texture, compact B horizon
Surface Texture	Sandy clay loam	Gravelly sandy loam	Sandy loam	Gravelly loam	Light clay	Sandy loam
Permeability	High					
Average Depth m	1.0	0.3	1.0	0.8	0.5	
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation			Forestry, nature conservation		
HAZARDS	High sheet, rill erosion			Low sheet erosion		High siltation