

793161

STRAHAN

Situated along sections of the west coast south of the Pieman River are strips of Quaternary sands. These vary in width and extend over 6 km inland just north of Strahan. Low ridges formed by sand inundating Pleistocene glacial deposits, indicate a relationship with Macquarie Harbour land system (Dimmock, 1952). A prominent feature of the land system is the high sand ridges forming as a result of disturbance to the vegetation.

The sandy soils are calcareous along the beaches but non-calcareous further inland. Generally they are deep, but it was so wet in the swales that it was not possible to auger beyond 1 • 3 m. A compacted organic iron B horizon was sometimes present in profiles on the low ridges.

An open scrub now covers the low ridges and stabilised dunes, but this has obviously suffered considerable disturbance by man. The principal species noted were *Acacia mucronata*, coast wattle, manuka, white gum, Smithton peppermint and bracken. A closed community was observed in the swales and on the flats. In part this was a scrub dominated by paperbark, manuka and *Melaleuca squarrosa*, while in other parts it was a sedgeland of button grass, *Calorophus latiflorus* and *Leptocarpus tenax*

A pine plantation has been established on part of this land system and recreation is the other main land use.

Wind erosion is a major constraint to the use of this land. Already mobile sand has smothered extensive areas of vegetation, covered roads and has necessitated the relocation of a railway line (op. cit.). Slumping occurs on the batters of roads constructed through the area.

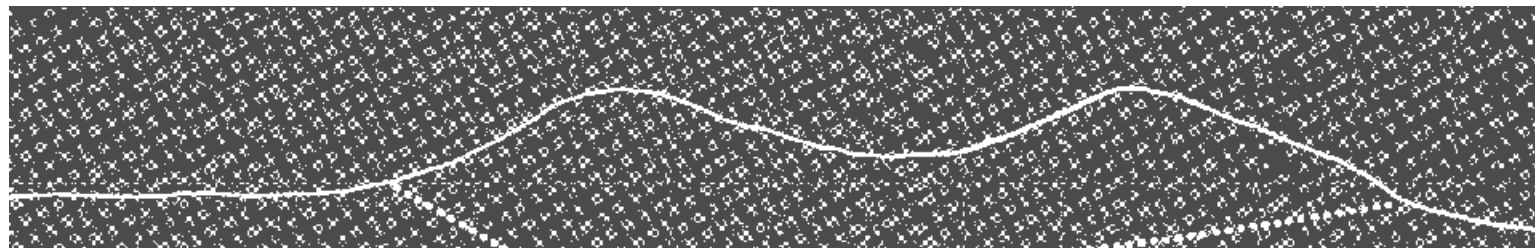


The landscape gradually being covered by a large area of windblown sand north of Strahan (See also Plate 51)

LAND SYSTEM

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Strahan



COMPONENT	1	2	3
PROPORTION %	25	65	10
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 500-2 000 mm		
GEOLOGY	Quaternary non calcareous and calcareous coastal sands		
	Non calcareous		Calcareous
TOPOGRAPHY	Coastal sand ridges and beaches		
Land form			
Position	Swales and flats	Low ridges	Beach
Average Sideslope °	2	12	2
NATIVE VEGETATION			
Structure	Closed sedgeland, closed scrub	Open scrub	Bare
Association	Button grass, <i>Calorophus lateriflorus</i> , <i>Leptocarpus tenax</i> , paperbark, manuka, <i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> , white gum, blackwood, tassel cord rush	<i>Acacia mucronata</i> , coast wattle, manuka, white gum, Smith ton peppermint, bracken	
SOIL	Brown (10 YR 5/3) sand soil uniform texture	Light grey (5 Y 7/1) sand soil, uniform texture	Deep, pale grey, calcareous sands
Surface Texture	Peat		Sand
Permeability		High	
Average Depth m	1 3+	>2 0	
PRESENT LAND USE	Forestry (softwood plantation) , recreation		
HAZARDS	Low flooding	High wind erosion, high slumping	High wind and wave erosion