798122

BIRCHS INLET

This land system consists predominantly of poorly drained alluvial flats with some well drained slopes. It covers most of the low lying boggy land between Birchs Inlet and Elliott Bay and includes an area around Gordon Lagoon at the mouth of the Gordon River. Boundaries with the Spero River Land System (788131) would be difficult to delineate if fires had not stripped organic soil from reasonably well drained slopes, crests and ridges These contrast with the deep lowland peats of this land system which are often waterlogged and escape burning.

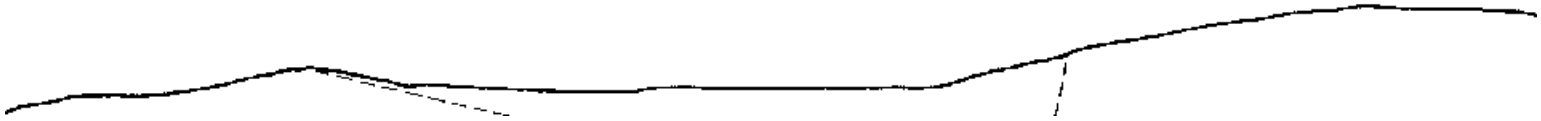
Sedgeland/heath covers most poorly drained sites with rainforest and mixed forest on better drained slopes and alluvial flats. Some drainage systems (which were not closely investigated during this survey) have thickets (up to 10 m high) of *Leptospermum* spp., *Melaleuca* spp. and *Eucalyptus nitida*. Very deep black peats are typical of poorly drained positions while rainforest locations may have organic surface soils and, in contrast to sedgeland/heath peats, always have deep mineral soils.

The Birchs Inlet Land System is situated in the South West Conservation Area. The area is crossed by the mineral exploration track between Birchs Inlet and Elliott Bay but this is seldom used. Material from seriously degraded land in the Spero River land systems has been deposited along creeks and rivers in this land system.

LAND SYSTEM
BIRCHS INLET

798122

Area(ha): 14596



ALTITUDINAL RANGE (m)	0-300	APPROXIMATE ANNUAL RAINFALL (mm) 1500-2000	
SITE NO. /ALTITUDE	(51/60/-), (58/10/-)	57/15/-	50/80/N
(m)/ASPECT			
TOPOGRAPHY	Undulating plains		
Position	River banks	Very poorly drained flats (swamps)	Well drained positions
Typical Slope( )	0-5	0	3-15
Proportion(%)	20	50	30
GEOLOGY	Peat overlying Tertiary deposits or alluvium		
NATIVE VEGETATION	Open to closed	Open to closed-heath/	Tall open to closed forest
Structure	(riverine) forest	sedgeland	(mixed forest - rainforest)
Floristic Association (See Appendix 1 for common names)	Laqarostrobos franklinii Nothofagus cunninghamii Eucryphia lucida Atherosperma moschatum Anopterus qlandulosus Orites diversifolia Trochocarpa cunninghamii Blechnum wattsii B. nudum Restio tetraphyllus Baumea tetraqona	Melaleuca squarrosa Leptospermum nitidum Gvmnoschoenus sphaerocephalus Lepyrodia tasmanica Gleichenia dicarpa Empodisma minus Restio australis R. monocephalus Sprengelia incarnata Calorophus elongatus Leptocarpus tenax Drosera sp. Microlaena tasmanica Isophysis tasmanica	Eucalyptus nitida Nothofaqus cunninghamii Eucryphia lucida Atherosperma moschatum Anopterus qlandulosus Blechnum wattsii
SOIL Surface(A or P horizon)Colour (moist) and texture	Dark brown (10 YR 3/3 to 7. 5 YR 3/2) loamy sand or clay loam (sometimes organic)	Black (10 YR 2/1) fibrous peat over a black (10 YR 2/1) muck peat	Dark brown (7. 5 YR 3/2) litter peat
Subsoil (or B horizon) colour (moist) and texture	Brown/dark brown (7. 5 YR 4/2) to dark grey (10 YR 4/1) clayey sand to sandy clay	Black (5 YR 2. 5/1) sandy, peaty gravels	Very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) clay loam
Primary Profile form	Complex (alluvium)	Organic	Probably gradational
Depth surface horizon(m)	0. 15-0. 60	1. 20	0. 10
Typical total depth(m)	0. 75->2. 00	1. 30	0. 60
Permeability	Low-high	High	Moderate
LAND USE		Nature conservation	
HAZARD		High sedimentation	