

803351

PARANGANA

Deep, steep-sided valleys with precipitous rock faces along their rims and frequent talus slopes below occur in the south-east of the Region, where the upper reaches of the Mersey, Forth and Murchison Rivers have deeply incised Precambrian metamorphic strata.

Siliceous parent material tends to occupy the upper parts of the system with more argillaceous rocks along the footslopes and drainage lines. Hence the contrast in soil types between the shallow grey sandy soils on the higher parts and the yellowish red and red gradational soils below. The soils are all highly permeable. At the northern end of the distribution of Parangana land system are isolated occurrences of stony and gravelly, reddish brown, gradational soils formed on Cambrian granitic parent material.

Eucalypts are the dominant tree species in the forest and woodland vegetation and gum-topped stringybark, stringybark, mountain white gum and black peppermint are present. The peppermint dominates the sandy sites, but is only a minor constituent of communities on the better quality soils. Understorey species also reflect the differences in the soils. Honeysuckle and manuka are the main species on the sandy soils, while black wattle, lancewood, dogwood and blackwood are prominent on the better quality sites.

Nature conservation is the main land use and part of the land system is included in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair State Reserve. Another major use is water conservation for the production of hydro-electricity and Lake Parangana and Lake Rowallan are both surrounded by this land system.

There would be a high risk factor accompanying disturbance to any part of Parangana land system.

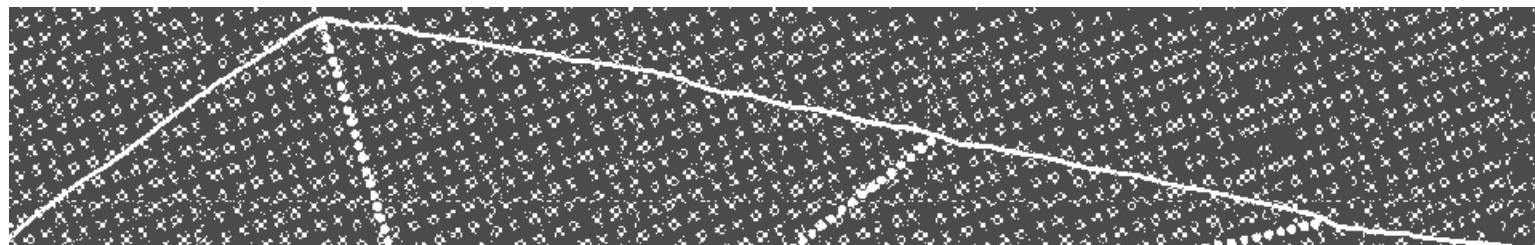


Rocky spurs and talus slopes

LAND SYSTEM

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Parangana



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4
PROPORTION %	20	40	25	15
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 2 000-2 500 mm			
GEOLOGY	Precambrian metaquartzite and pelitic sequences Colluvium			
TOPOGRAPHY Land form	Mountainous valleys			
Position	Rocky spurs and talus slopes	Steep upper slopes	Steep lower slopes	Gentler footslopes
Average Sideslope °	60	30		5
NATIVE VEGETATION Structure	Open woodland	Open forest	Tall open forest	
Association	Mountain white gum, stringybark, black peppermint, manuka, <i>Poa</i> sp, often bare	Black peppermint, mountain white gum, honeysuckle, manuka	Gum-topped stnngybark, stnngybark, mountain white gum, black peppermint, black wattle, lancewood, dogwood, blackwood	
SOIL	Skeletal, rock outcrop predominating	Gravelly, grey (10 YR 6/1) sandy loam soil, uniform texture	Stony, gravelly, yellowish red (5 YR 5/8) gradational soils	Stony, friable, dark red (2.5 YR 3/6) gradational soil
Surface Texture		Sandy peat	Clay loam	Peaty loam
Permeability		High		
Average Depth m		0.3	1.0	1.5
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation, hydro electricity reservoirs			
HAZARDS	High rockslips	High gully erosion		High streambank erosion, high siltation