803431

FLAT TOP

Lack of reasonable access prevented field examination of these remote areas. Their description is therefore based on geologic and topographic maps, aerial photo-interpretation, and their similarity to other country which was visited. Geologically and climatically it is related to Hounslow Heath land system but has gentler topography.

The largest body lies east of the West Coast Range and south of the Murchison River where it stretches 14 km in a NW-SE direction and averages about 2 km in width. However, generally it is scattered through the deeply dissected Precambrian strata in the south-east of Region 3, where it forms residual caps of principally siliceous parent material. These areas of level to undulating plateaux break away to much steeper terrain along the main drainage lines and particularly around their margins, where slopes are often precipitous.

Accumulations of peat would undoubtedly have taken place on these high plateaux and on the gentler topography, at least, probably silty organic soils overlie siliceous gravelly parent material. Such soils are likely to support a closed sedgeland in which button grass could be dominant.

The woodland and open scrub on the breakaways indicate a finer textured soil, and eucalypts and tea-trees are likely to feature prominently in the vegetation.

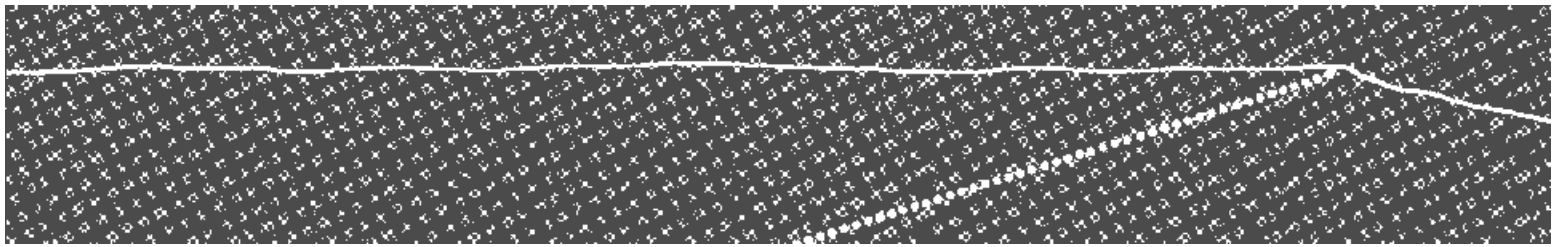
Nature conservation is the main purpose served by areas of Flat Top land system.

There would be the risk of moderate erosion on the gentler slopes and a high hazard on the breakaways.

LAND SYSTEM

803431

Flat Top



COMPONENT	1	2
PROPORTION %	85	15
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 2 000-2 500 mm	
GEOLOGY	Precambrian metaquartzites, pelitic sequences	
TOPOGRAPHY Land form	Plateaux	
Position	Plateau surface	Breakaways
Average Sideslope °	1	7
NATIVE VEGETATION		
Structure	Closed sedgeland	Woodland open scrub
Association	Button grass	*Eucalyptus* sp , *Leptospermum* sp
SOIL	Gravelly, silty organic soil	Gravelly dark greyish brown (10 YR 4/2) gradational soil
Surface Texture	Peat	
Permeability	High	Moderate
Average Depth m	0 4	0 5
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation	
HAZARDS	Moderate rill erosion	High sheet and rill erosion