

# 813231

## LOFTY RANGE

The low hills formed from Precambrian sediments in the Lofty Range area comprise the watershed between the Arthur and Pieman river drainage basins.

The relatively shallow soils are characterised by a surface layer of peaty material. Very gravelly grey profiles were found on the crests while gradational soils occupy the lower slopes and drainage lines.

Covering the crests is an open forest of Smithton peppermint with a dense understorey of *Melaleuca squarrosa*, manuka, Australian blackthorn and *Acacia mucronata*. A dense rainforest of myrtle, sassafras, celery-top pine and horizontal fills the drainage lines.

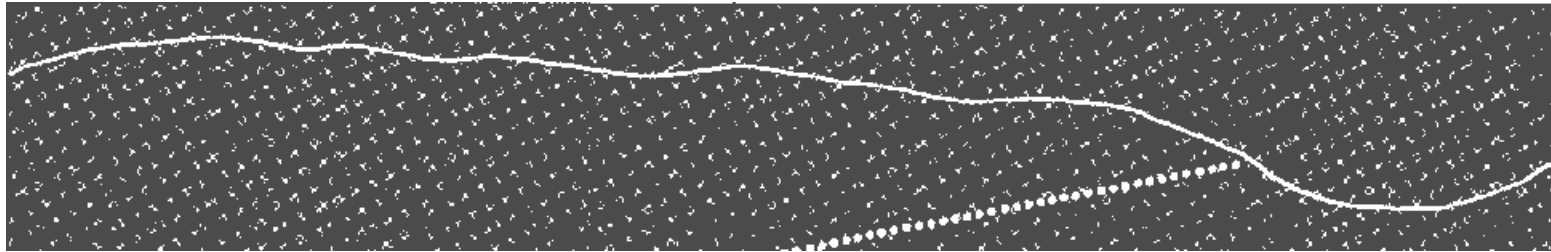
These areas act as zones of nature conservation but due to their geographic location they also assist in the vital role of regulating the flow and quality of water to two major river systems.

There is a high soil erosion hazard.

LAND SYSTEM

813231

Lofty Range



COMPONENT	1	2
PROPORTION %	80	20
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 2 000-2 500 mm	
GEOLOGY	Precambrian siliceous slates and mudstones	
TOPOGRAPHY	Low hills trending N-NE	
Land form		
Position	Crests, upper slopes	Lower slopes, drainage lines
Average Sideslope °	4	6
NATIVE VEGETATION		
Structure	Open forest	Closed forest
Association	Smithton peppermint, <i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> , manuka, Australian black-thorn, <i>Acacia mucronata</i>	Myrtle, sassafras, celery-top pine, horizontal, blackwood
SOIL	Very gravelly, grey ( 10 YR 5/1 ) soil	Gravelly, dark greyish brown (10 YR 4/2) gradational soil
Surface Texture	Peat	
Permeability	High	Moderate
Average Depth m	0.6	0.5
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation	
HAZARDS	High rill and sheet erosion	