

833121

KING RIVER

King River land system is associated with poor exposures of deeply weather Ordovician limestone sequences, located in the south-west quarter of the Region. It forms ° relatively narrow strips comprising the gentle footslopes and floodplains along major flowlines. One of the larger occurrences extends for 15 km along the King River, south from near the Lyell Highway, and averages about 1 • 4 km wide.

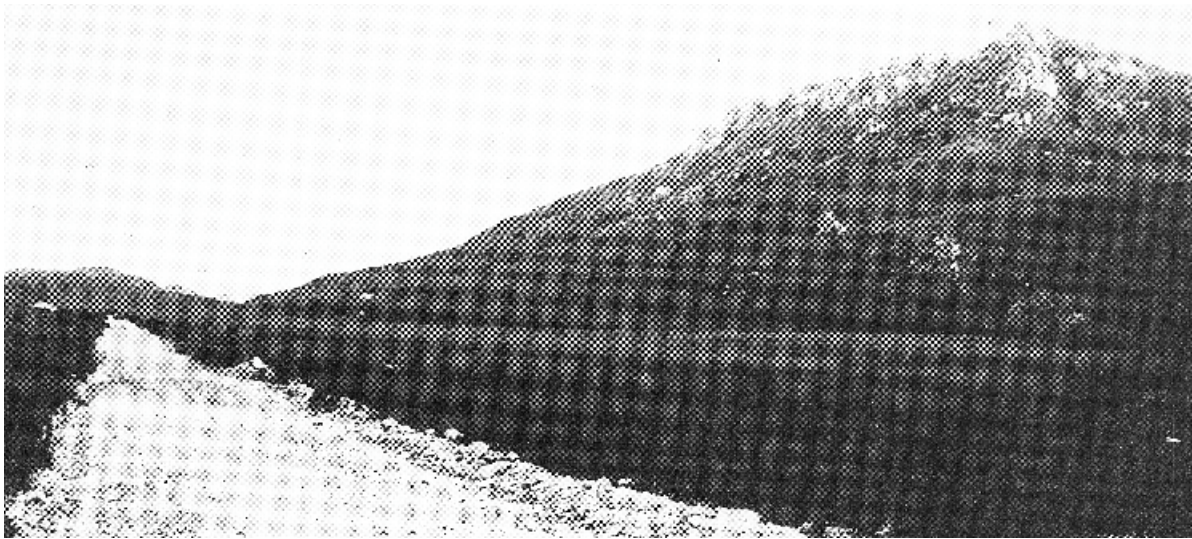
Peat is a feature of the surface layers of soil on all sites. The gravel pan, noted on the footslopes and in the swales, was a layer varying from 10-30 cm in thickness. Beneath the pan was a fine gravelly sand, which itself formed a second

pan about one metre below the ground surface. A dark brown compacted layer was also found in the deep profiles on the floodplain.

Tea-trees and *Melaleuca* sp. plus button grass and *Sprengelia incarnata* constitute a closed heath and sedgeland on the slopes and in the swales. The same shrub species form a secondary layer beneath Smithton peppermint and swamp gum, on the floodplain.

King River land system mainly serves as areas of nature conservation.

Although the topography is quite gentle the slope position, the high rainfall, and the credible nature of the soils confer a moderate erosion hazard on the system.

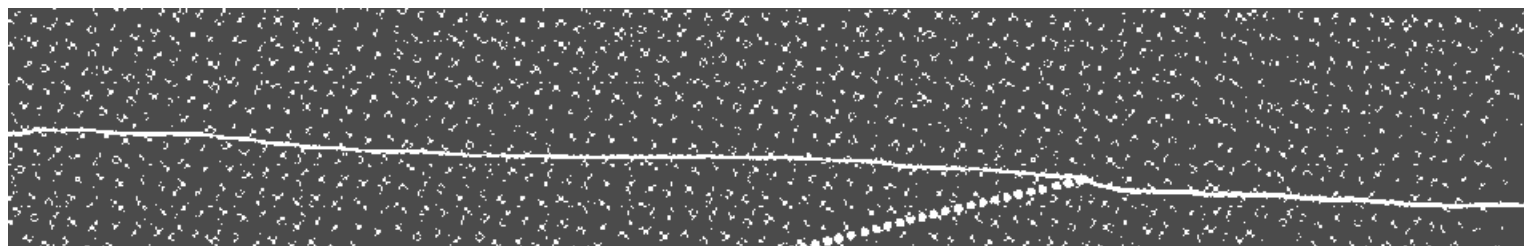


The very gentle topography of King River land system abruptly gives way to the mountainous slopes of Gormanland system

LAND SYSTEM

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King River



| | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| COMPONENT | 1 | 2 |
| PROPORTION % | 70 | 30 |
| CLIMATE | Average Annual Rainfall 2 000-2 500 mm | |
| GEOLOGY | Ordovician limestone sequence with siltstone Alluvium | |
| TOPOGRAPHY | Foothills and floodplain | |
| Land form | Foothills and floodplain | |
| Position | Foothills, swales | Floodplain |
| Average Sideslope ° | 3 | 1 |
| NATIVE VEGETATION | Closed heath and sedgeland | |
| Structure | Open forest and scrub | |
| Association | Manuka <i>Leptospermum nitidum</i> , <i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> , button grass, <i>Sprengelia incarnata</i> | Smithton peppermint, swamp gum, <i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> , manuka |
| SOIL | Very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) sandy clay loam soil, uniform texture large siliceous gravel pan | Dark grey (10 YR 4/1) silty clay loam soil, uniform texture, dark greyish brown compacted layer |
| Surface Texture | Peat | Silty peat |
| Permeability | High | |
| Average Depth m | 0.5 | >1.8 |
| PRESENT LAND USE | Nature conservation | |
| HAZARDS | Moderate rill and gully erosion | Moderate flooding |