

833251

GORMANSTON

A prominent feature of the skyline from the southern boundary of Region 3 to the upper Mackintosh River is a series of mountainous ridges formed principally of Ordovician siliceous conglomerate (Plate 64). The ridges occur in and are aligned parallel with the axis of the Dundas Trough (see geology chapter). The system also occurs closer to the west coast in the Mt Zeehan-Professor Range area.

Shallow organic soils cover most of this land system, the small percentage of deep gradational

profiles being attributable to the more argillaceous parent materials.

Smithton peppermint forms an open forest on the better quality soils. Elsewhere is a low heath and sedgeland vegetation in which button grass, manuka, *Sprengelia incarnata*, *Leptocarpus tenax* and *Epacris lanuginosa* are prominent members.

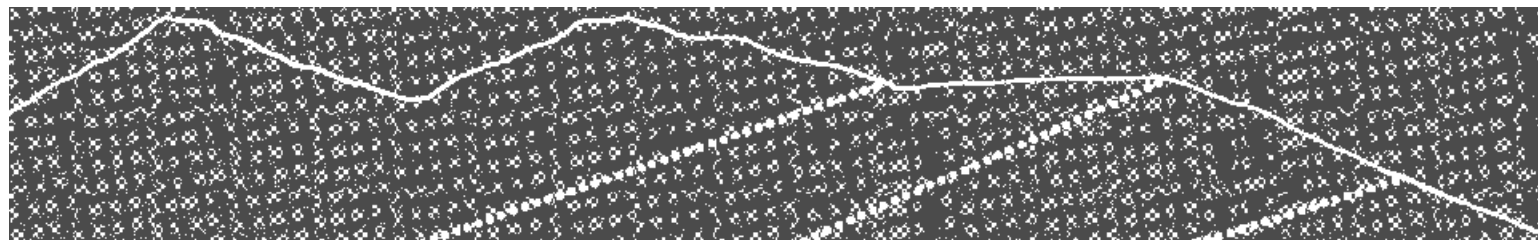
Some mining activities are carried on in this land system but it mainly serves as zones of nature conservation.

There is a high soil erosion hazard on all but the gentlest slopes.

LAND SYSTEM

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Gormanston



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4
PROPORTION %	55	20	15	10
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 2 000-2 500 mm			
GEOLOGY	Ordovician siliceous terrestrial conglomerate, marine sandstone, siltstone, Upper Cambrian shallow water deposits			
TOPOGRAPHY	Mainly mountainous ridges trending N-S			
Land form				
Position	Peaks, steep upper slopes	Plateaux	Steep lower slopes	Steep footslopes
Average Sideslope °	30	2	25	
NATIVE VEGETATION				
Structure	Open heath	Closed heath and sedgeland	Open heath	Open forest
Association	<i>Sprengelia incarnata</i> , manuka, <i>Leptocarpus tenax</i>	Button grass, <i>Xyris operculata</i> , <i>Leptocarpus tenax</i> , manuka, <i>Sprengelia incarnata</i> , <i>Epacris lanuginosa</i>	Manuka, <i>Sprengelia incarnata</i> , <i>Epacns lanuginosa</i> , button grass	Smithton peppermint, manuka
SOIL	Peat, predominantly rock outcrop	Peat	Sandy peat	Stony, strong brown (7-5 YR 5/6) gradational soil
Surface Texture		Peat		Peaty loam
Permeability		High		Moderate
Average Depth m	Skeletal	0.3		>2.0
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation, mining			
HAZARDS	High sheet erosion	Low rill erosion	High sheet and gully erosion	