

833451

BLACK BLUFF

The Black Bluff Range is a section of the mountainous ridges of Ordovician siliceous conglomerate which stretch along the Cambrian troughs (see geology chapter). Black Bluff land system gives way in the south to Gormanston land system along the Dundas Trough while to the north it becomes St Valentines Peak land system in the Dial Trough and becomes Mt Roland land system along the Fossey Mountain Trough to the east.

The shallow soils are principally comprised of siliceous gravel and sandy material. Deeper, fine

structured, strong, brown soils have formed on the siltstone parent materials.

A heath and sedgeland vegetation exists over most of the area but stringybark forests occupy the better quality soils.

The area mainly serves as a zone of nature conservation although the forests have been logged.

The steep slopes produce a high soil erosion hazard especially on the highly erodible fine sandy soils. Severe erosion has occurred on logging tracks even on the gentler footslopes and boulders exposed by the removal of surface soil made them impassable even to a four-wheel-drive vehicle.

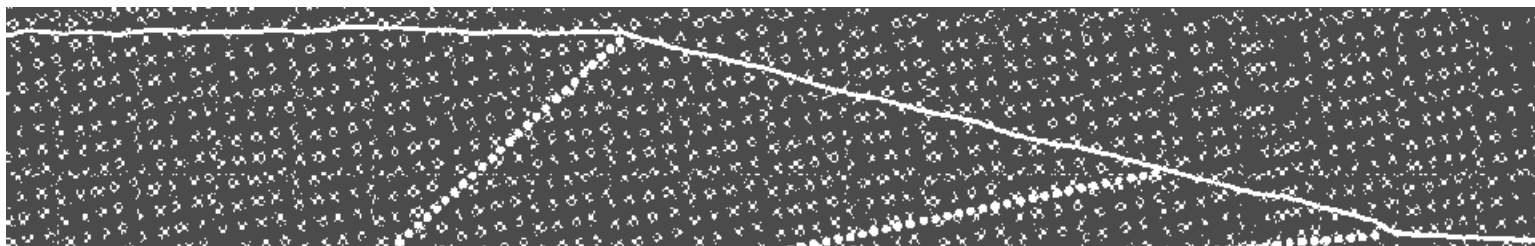


Black Bluff land system stands a silent sentinel at the junction of the three Cambrian Troughs (See chapter on geology).

LAND SYSTEM

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Black Bluff



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4
PROPORTION %	40	35	15	10
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 2000-2500 mm			
GEOLOGY	Ordovician parent material			
	Siliceous terrestrial conglomerate		Marine siltstone	Talus slopes
TOPOGRAPHY	Mountainous			
Land form	Mountainous			
Position	Crests, upper slopes	Midslopes		Impeded drainage
Average Sideslope °	10	20		7
NATIVE VEGETATION	Open heath			
Structure	Open	heath	Open forest	Open heath and sedgeland
Association		Manuka, <i>Bauera rubioides</i> , cutting grass, honeysuckle, bracken, black peppermint	Gum topped stringybark, stringy-bark, lancewood, stinkwood	<i>Melaleuca squamea</i> , button grass
SOIL	Skeletal, rock outcrop common	Gravelly, pinkish grey (5 YR 6/2) fine sand soil, uniform texture	Gravelly, strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) gradational soil, fine structure	Gravelly, grey (10 YR 6/1) gradational soil
Surface Texture	Gravelly loamy sand		Gravelly loam	Sandy loam
Permeability	High			
Average Depth m	Skeletal	0.3	0.6	
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation, foiestry			
HAZARDS	High sheet, rill erosion			