835331

LAKE LEA

Stretching south-west from Lake Lea is **a** strip of rolling grassy downs formed on Ordovician limestone. The peculiar hummocky and pocked appearance of the landscape is due to the frequent occurrence of sink holes which result from the subsidence of subterranean caverns. The holes vary greatly in si2e and many contain natural lakes.

Soils are mostly deep and all appear well drained. Rock outcrop is **a** feature of all sites except the creek flats. Scattered bars of rock occur on the gentler footslopes. Outcrop **is** more common, higher up, becoming predominant round the upper slopes, but it is only in the form of rounded surface boulders. **A** layer of rock fragments was present in profiles observed on the footslopes and midslopes.

The whole area is covered by a native tussock grassland but no doubt some alteration has been caused by grazing activities.

Grazing is the principal land use but fishing and hunting are important recreational pursuits.

The soils are normally resistant to erosion but natural subsidence represents a significant hazard and the area is susceptible to degradation by fire.

LAND SYSTEM

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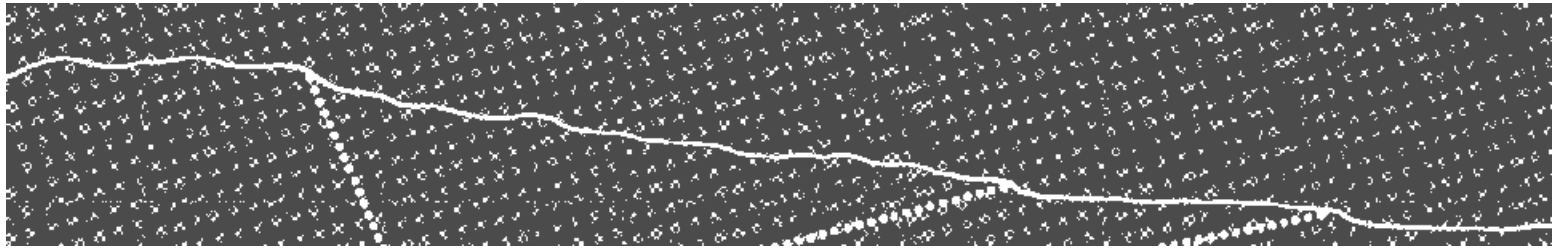
Lake Lea



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4
PROPORTION %	20	45	20	15
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 2000-2500 mm			
GEOLOGY	Ordovician limestone sequence			
TOPOGRAPHY Land form	Low hills			
Position	Crests, upper slopes	Hummocky midslopes	Gentle footslopes	Drainage flats
Average Sideslope °	7	5	2	1
NATIVE VEGETATION				
Structure	Tussock grassland			
Association	*Poa* sp			
SOIL	Stony, yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4) clay soil, uniform texture, rock outcrop predominant	Gravelly, brown (7.5 YR 5/4) gradational sod, thin layer rock fragments at 0 • 5 m depth, rock outcrop frequent	Yellow (10 YR 7/6) gradadational soil, layer rock fragments at 1 • 0 m depth, bars of rock outcrop scattered	Very dark brown (10 YR 2/2) clay loam soil, uni form texture
Surface Texture	Peaty loam		Clay loam	
Permeability		Moderate		
Average Depth m		>2.0		0.6
PRESENT LAND USE	Grazing, recreation			
HAZARDS	High natural subsidence			