

# 882321

## GUILDFORD

Lying above 600 m elevation and receiving an annual rainfall in excess of 2 000 mm these extensive areas represent the highest and wettest tracts of Tertiary basalt within the study area. The topography is typically of an undulating plain but in many places the system has steep marginal scarps. Guildford land system is distributed across the north of the region, around the headwaters of the Donaldson, Frankland and Rapid Rivers. South and east of Mt Bischoff is another major area which represents the watershed between northerly and southerly flowing streams. Further east the system comprises the Middlesex Plains-Daisy Dell area and an extensive tract between the Mersey River and Lake Cethana on the River Forth. It occupies part of the Borra-daile Plains and a large area west of Lake Rowallan.

Generally the soils are stony and fairly deep and have moderate to high permeability.

The typical vegetation is an open forest with a grassy ground cover. The tallest tree layer is dominated by gum-topped stringybark plus a mixture of other eucalypts. A rainforest element is present in the understorey, and along the shallow drainage lines myrtle and sassafras form a closed forest which in some localities covers the whole landscape. A feature of the land system is the sporadic occurrence of flat swampland, where button grass and *Calorophus lateriflorus* are the principal associates in the closed sedge-land community.

Beef cattle are extensively grazed on the native pastures and forestry is the other major land use.

The main erosion hazard is associated with the long steep slopes along the marginal scarps.



*The very gentle slopes and undulating crests The widespread disclimax eucalypt forests and grasslands, reputedly created by aboriginal firesticks to promote grazing and forage for their prey, are now used as bush runs for grazing beef cattle*

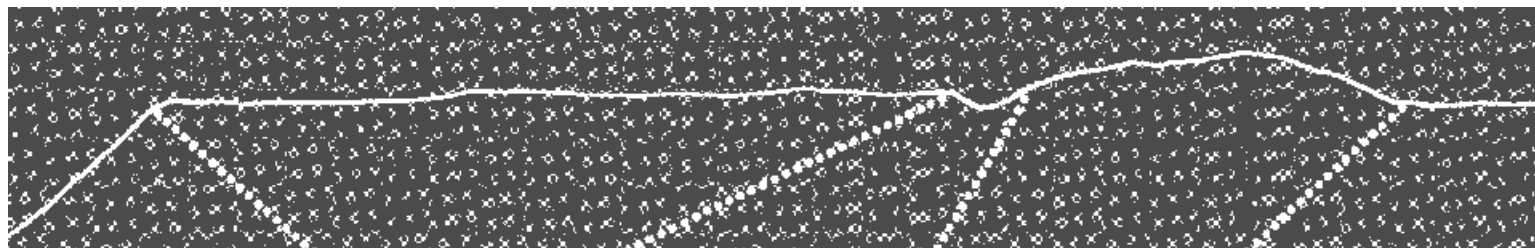


*Scattered button grass flats are a feature of Guildford land system, particularly in the western parts of its distribution*

LAND SYSTEM

882321

Guildford



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4	5
PROPORTION %	10	50	5	25	10
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 2 000-2 500 mm				
GEOLOGY	Tertiary basalt				
	Colluvium				
TOPOGRAPHY	Mainly undulating plains with marginal scarps				
Land form	Mainly undulating plains with marginal scarps				
Position	Marginal scarps	Very gentle slopes	Drainage lines	Undulating crests	Swamps
Average Sideslope °	20	2	1	4	0
NATIVE VEGETATION					
Structure	Tall open forest		Closed forest	Tall open forest	Closed sedgeland
Association	Gum topped stringybark, mountain white gum, cider gum, Tasmanian snow gum, myrtle, sassafras, soft tree fern, <i>Poa</i> sp		Myrtle, sassafras, soft tree fern	As for components 1 and 2	Button grass, mountain cord rush, <i>Calorophus latens florus</i> , <i>Poa</i> sp
SOIL	Gravelly, dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4/4) gradational sod	Stony, gravelly, strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) gradational soil	Gravelly, dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4/4), clay soil, uniform texture, fine structure	Stony, friable, reddish brown (5 YR 4/4) gradational soil	Mottled grey (10 YR 5/1) brownish yellow (10 YR 6/6) heavy clay soil, uniform texture
Surface Texture	Clay	loam		Loam	Peaty clay
Permeability	Moderate			High	Low
Average Depth m	2.0	1.5		1.0	1.6
PRESENT LAND USE	Bush grazing, forestry				
HAZARDS	High sheet, gully erosion	Moderate sheet and rill erosion			Moderate flooding, low siltation
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