

898121

ARTHUR PLAINS

This land system consists of undulating flats covered by peat. It occurs in the Arthur Plains area with scattered occurrences north of here. The peat is underlain by poorly sorted deposits which formed during Pleistocene glacial regressions. Raised surfaces or old river terraces are evident on this land system and may have formed from increased stream flow during these times. Another feature is the small knolls which are scattered across the plains.

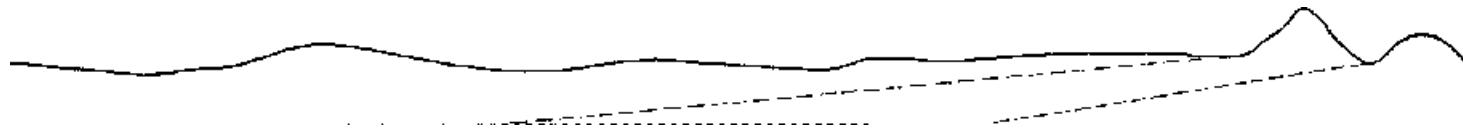
Most of the land system is covered by sedgeland/heath which is dominated by *Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus*, often with emergent *Banksia marginata* and *Agastachys odorata*. Rainforest is typically confined to well drained positions. With scrub to open forest flanking creeks and rivers where *Eucalyptus nitida*, *E ovata*, *Leptospermum*

spp. and *Melaleuca* spp. are common. Some riverine positions (e. g. the upper Huon) have rainforest with thick horizontal (*Anodopetalum biglandulosum*) scrub. The well drained knolls have taller vegetation (scrub) than the surrounding sedgeland/heath.

The land system is in the South West National Park with recreation and nature conservation the major land uses. On better drained sedgeland/heath positions sheet erosion (of peat) is a potential problem where there are frequent fires. This problem is evident on slopes around the Crossing River. Track erosion is occurring on the Port Davey track and the track across the Arthur Plains. The peat has been removed by continuous trampling exposing gravel or sand. Gravel substrates are usually reasonably stable but sandy horizons are easily removed by further trampling and concentrated water flows. Muddy wallows have developed on both tracks which has led to track bifurcation.

LAND SYSTEM
ARTHUR PLAINS
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Area (ha): 20267



ALTITUDINAL RANGE (m	0-300	APPROXIMATE ANNUAL RAINFALL (mm)	2000-2500
SITE NO. /ALTITUDE	(63/240/-) (82/300/Nt)	39/380/W	64/280/-
(m) /ASPECT			
TOPOGRAPHY		Undulating plains	
Position	Flats and slopes	Well drained ridges	Small knolls
Typical Slope()	0-3	3-5	0-3
Proportion(%)	85	10	5
GEOLOGY	Peat overlying gravels and Precambrian strata		
NATIVE VEGETATION	Closed sedge land/heath	Tall open-forest (mixed forest)	Open scrub
Structure	Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus	Eucalyptus nitida	Melaleuca squamea
Floristic Association	<i>Sprengelia incarnata</i>	<i>Nothofagus cunninghamii</i>	<i>Banksia marginata</i>
(See Appendix 1 for common names)	<i>Baeckea leptocaulis</i>	<i>Atherosperma moschatum</i>	<i>Oxylobium ellipticum</i>
	<i>Lepidosperma filiforme</i>	<i>Phyllocladus aspleniifolius</i>	<i>Boronia pilosa</i>
	<i>Melaleuca squamea</i>	<i>Eucryphia lucida</i>	<i>Diplarrena sp.</i>
	<i>Calorophus elongatus</i>	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	<i>Empodisma minus</i>
	<i>Restio monocephalus</i>	<i>Anopterus glandulosus</i>	<i>Restio monocephalus</i>
	<i>R. complanatus</i>	<i>Cyathodes juniperina</i>	<i>Agastachys odorata</i>
	<i>R. australis</i>	<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	<i>Gleichenia dicarpa</i>
	<i>Xyris sp.</i>	<i>Drimys lanceolata</i>	
	<i>leptospermum nitidum</i>		
	<i>Bauera rubioides</i>		
	<i>Lepyrodia tasmanica</i>		
	<i>Selaginella uliginosa</i>		
SOIL Surface(A or P horizon)Co lour (moist) and texture	Gravelly dark reddish brown (5 YR 2. 5/2) very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) fibrous peat over a sandy reddish black (10 R 2. 5/1) muck	Reddish black (10 R 2. 5/1) fibrous peat	Dark reddish brown (5 YR 2. 5/2) fibrous peat over reddish black (10 R 2. 5/1) muck peat
Subsoil (or B horizon) colour (moist) and texture	Sand and gravel	Gravelly very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) loamy sand over light brownish grey (10 YR 6/2) sand	Brown/dark brown (7. 5 YR 4/2) sand, often over gravels
Primary Profile form	Organic	Uniform	Organic
Depth surface horizon(m)	0. 15-0. 35	0. 20	0. 50
Typical total depth(m)	0. 50-0. 45	>1. 10	0. 75
Permeability	High	High	High
LAND USE	Recreation and hydro electric power development		
HAZA_RD	High sheet erosion if burnt - Moderate track erosion		

Photo 59



Quartzitic glacial deposits overlain by shallow peat near the Scotts Peak Dam