918131

MAXWELL RIVER

The Maxwell River Land System is situated in the Maxwell Valley immediately west of the Prince of Wales Range and stretches from the Jane River in the north to the Gordon River in the south. It is an area of low hummocky relief with broad north-south trending ridges and low hills surrounded by mountain ranges of the Hamilton Range Land System. Relatively unmetamorphosed Precambrian rocks occur throughout and include dolomite, sandstone, siltstone and phyllite. These are typically softer and more erodible than rocks of surrounding mountains. Sand and gravel deposits overlie the Precambrian bedrock (Roberts and Naqvi 1978) and river channels are often deeply incised into the unconsolidated deposits. The Maxwell River area is relatively inaccessible with the only land access a track from the Hamilton Range to the southern extreme of the land system. Some information for two components was obtained from the HEC Lower Gordon River Scientific Survey (1978).

According to the report cited above, organic soils over sandy, gravelly and loamy material dominate the land system. Thick scrub and sedgeland/heath cover extensive areas in the Maxwell Valley with forest on better drained locations. Riverine rainforest is well developed along the banks of the Maxwell and Denison Rivers and Huon pine is widespread along these rivers (Davies 1983, Gibson 1986). Alluvium is typical of riverine locations with little horizon development except for a surface peat layer in places. This is often absent due to active deposition or the removal of organic matter by frequent flooding.

Nature conservation is the main land use in the area.

Photo 65 Riverine rainforest flanking the lower stretches of the Denison River

LAND SYSTEM
MAXWELL RIVER

918131

Area(ha): 27176

ALTITUDINAL RANGE (m)	0-300	APPROXIMATE ANNUAL RAINFALL (mm) >2500	
SITE NO. /ALTITUDE			
(m) /ASPECT	191/70/-	Some information from HEC	Gordon River Scientific Survey (1978)
TOPOGRAPHY	Undulating	plains with low ridges and flats	
Position	River banks	Undulating terrain	Better drained ridges
Typical Slope( )	0	0-3	5-10
Proportion(%)	20	40	40
GEOLOGY	Precambrian, dolomite phyllite, sandstone and siltstone		
NATIVE VEGETATION Structure	Closed forest	Sedgeland/heath to scrub	Open forest-scrub/Closed forest
	Nothofagus cunninghamii	Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus	Eucalyptus nitida
Floristic	Atherosperma moschatum	Lepidosperma filiforme	Leptospermum scoparium
Association	Phyllocladus aspleniifolius	Leptospermum nitidum	L. nitidum
(See Appendix 1	Eucryphia lucida	Sprengelia incarnata	Monotoca glauca
for common	Anodopetalum biglandulosum	Melaleuca squameum	Anopterus glandulosus
names)	Dicksonia antarctica	Lepyrodia tasmanica	Anodopetalum biglandulosum
	Coprosma quadrifida	Xyris sp	Bauera rubioides
	Grammitis billardiera	Anodopetalum biglandulosum	Gahnia grandis
	Libertia pulchella		Cenarrhenes nitida
	Galium australe		Nothofagus cunninghamii
	Uncinia sp.		Atherosperma moschatum
	Blechnum nudum		Phyllocladus aspleniifolius
SOIL Surface(A or P horizon) Colour (moist) and texture	Very dark grey (10 YR 3/1) over a very dark greyish brown (2. 5 Y 3/2) silt loam over dark greyish brown (2. 5 Y 4/2) clayey sand	Black fibrous peat over black muck peat	Reddish brown fibrous peat
Subsoil (or B horizon) colour (moist) and texture		Gravels or sands	Sandy loam, sandy clay loam or clay horizons
Primary Profile form	Complex (alluvium)	No site data	No site data
Depth surface horizon(m)	1. 50		
Typical total depth(m)	1. 50		
Permeability	High		
LAND USE		Nature conservation	
HAZARD			