935121

LOWER FRANKLIN

The Lower Franklin Land System covers the alluvial flats and old river terraces around the Franklin/Gordon confluence, Gordon/Denison confluence and an area around Kinghorn Creek. Ordovician limestone underlies the alluvial deposits which occur in broad flat undulating valleys. In the Kinghorn Creek/Limekiln Reach area alluvial deposits are unlikely as the land system occurs above the flood level of the Lower Gordon River. This area was not visited during field work which was restricted to inspections around the Franklin/Gordon confluence. Information for the undulating flats/ridges component was obtained from the Hydro-Electric Commission (1978) Lower Gordon Scientific Survey report where survey data was collected from three transects within the land system.

Organic soils cover the complex alluvial deposits which support a mosaic of rainforest, scrub and sedgeland/heath. The rainforest is best developed in belts along either side of the two rivers although it extends onto the undulating flats where scrub and sedgeland/heath communities also occur. Tall eucalypts emerge from the rainforest canopy in places. Alluvial deposits are probably replaced by yellow brown to brown loam or clay loam soils in the Kinghorn Creek/Limekiln Reach area where they are almost certainly overlain by peat. These soils could have coarse siliceous fragments derived from the slopes of land system 938142. From aerial photo examination vegetation patterns in the Kinghorn Creek/Limekiln Reach area are very similar to those on alluvial deposits in other parts of the land system.

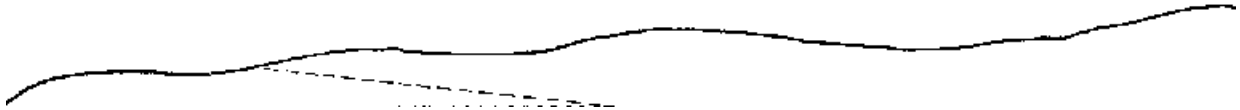
Land use is centred on recreation with tourism and down river activities such as rafting and canoeing major attractions.

Alluvial deposits are vulnerable to streambank erosion. Minor erosion problems have occurred where tracks leading from the river to the campsites have been eroded by trampling.

LAND SYSTEM
LOWER FRANKLIN

935121

Area(ha): 8186



ALTITUDINAL RANGE (m)	0-300 APPROXIMATE ANNUAL RAINFALL (mm) >2500	
SITE NO. /ALTITUDE	98/40/-	Information from HEC Lower
(m)/ASPECT	Gordon River Scientific Survey (1978)	
TOPOGRAPHY	Broad undulating valleys	
Position	River bank s	Undulating plains/ridges
Typical Slope( )	0-3	0-5
Proportion(%)	20	80
GEOLOGY	Ordovician limestone	
	Alluvium	Peat over gravels /dissec ted river terraces
NATIVE VEGETATION Structure	Closed forest (riverine rainforest)	Mosaic of scrub, rainforest and sedgeland/ heath
Structure	Nothofagus cunninghamii	Leptospermum spp.
Floristic	Eucryphia lucida	Melaleuca spp.
Association	Acacia melanoxylon	Acradenia frankliniae
(See Appendix 1	Acradenia frankliniae	Anodopetalum biglandulosum
for common	Anodopetalum biglandulosum	Nothofagus cunninghamii
names)	Anopterus glandulosus	Eucryphia lucida
	Histiopteris incisa	Atherosperma moschatum
	Dicksonia antarctica	Eucalyptus nitida
	Pimelea drupacea	Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus
	Microsorum diversifo1ium	Sprengelia incarnata
	Libertia pulchella	
SOIL Surface (A or P horizon) Colour (moist) and texture	Dark reddish brown (5 YR 2. 5/2) fibrous peat	Fibrous peat
Subsoil (or B horizon) colour (moist) and texture	Complex alluvial deposits including sandy clays, and sandy loams with the possibility of gravels	Complex alluvial deposits including gravels, sands, loams, silts and clays
Primary Profile form	Complex	Complex
Depth surface horizon(m)	0. 05-0. 20	0. 20 - 0. 60
Typical total depth(m)	>3. 00	> 1. 50
Permeability	High	High
LAND USE	Nature conservation, recreation	
HAZARD	Moderate streambank erosion	