

LAND SYSTEM

Moulton

182131

Area (ha) :
11141

COMPONENT

A

B

C

PROPORTION (%)

40

40

20

RAINFALL (mm)

Approximate Annual Rainfall: 375-500

GEOLOGY

Tertiary Basalt

TOPOGRAPHY

Low Hills and Associated Flats

Position

Crests/Upper Slopes

Mid/Lower Slopes

Lower Slopes/Flats

Typical Slope(°)

0

5

1

NATIVE VEGETATION

Structure

Low Open Woodland

(Low) Open Woodland

Low Open Woodland

Floristic
Association
(See Appendix 1
for common
names)

Eucalyptus pauciflora
Eucalyptus rubida
Bursaria spinosa
Themeda australis

Eucalyptus pauciflora
Eucalyptus rubida
Poa sp.
(Helipterum albicans)

Eucalyptus pauciflora
Eucalyptus rubida

SOIL

Surface(A)Texture

Clay Loam

Clay Loam

Light Clay

B Horizon (subsoil)
Colour (moist)
Texture and
primary profile
form

Shallow stony clay loam-
very dark brown (10 YR 2/2)
to black (10 YR 2/1) on
bedrock.
Uniform.

Shallow medium clay - very
dark brown (10 YR 2/2) to
black (10 YR 2/1) .
Duplex.

Deep clay - black (10 YR 2/1)
to very dark brown (10 YR 2/2)
Gradational .

Permeability

Moderate/High

Moderate/High

Low

Typical depth(m)

0.30

0.40

1.10

LAND USE

Grazing

HAZARDS

Moderate Sheet Erosion, High Streambank Erosion

Flooding/Waterlogging

MOULTON

This land system includes areas of basalt country near Ross and Hamilton with an average annual rainfall of less than 500 mm (20 inches). Lower slopes are mostly gentle but are up to 15° along a scarp slope near Meadowbank Dam.

Uniform, stony, shallow (0.30 m) clay loam soils occur on crests and upper slopes. These vary in colour from black to very dark brown. Shallow stony duplex soils occur on mid and lower slopes. Deep gradational clays are found on flats and drainage lines.

The native vegetation consists of dry sclerophyll low open woodland, commonly dominated by *Eucalyptus pauciflora* and *Eucalyptus rubida* with an understorey of *Bursaria spinosa* and grasslands of *Poa sp* and *Themeda australis*. *Eucalyptus ovata* commonly grows on the drainage flats.

Sheet erosion is often evident on slopes subject to intensive grazing whilst streambank erosion, flooding and waterlogging are hazards associated with the drainage lines and flats.

Basalt soils are relatively fertile (Loveday 1957) but seasonal dryness can be a limiting factor. They are used mainly for sheep grazing. Some of the soils in this land system have been described and mapped by Dimmock (1961) and by Leamy (1961).

The land system is geologically similar to the Brighton (282132) and Campbell Town (282133) Land Systems, which are also formed on basalt.



Streambank erosion on the Glen Morriston Rivulet near Ross, with basalt hills behind.



Rolling basalt hills near Hamilton typical of the Moulton (182131) Land System.



Heavily grazed paddock in foreground with stony black soils on basalt which are widespread in the Moulton (182131) Land System.