

413131

WHITE ROCK RIDGE

Rising to 76 metres above sea level these N-S trending ridges of Precambrian quartzite are the highest parts of Robbins, Walker and Hunter Islands.

Organic staining darkens the surface of the deep sandy soils of the second component but the remainder of the solum is almost pure white. Winds have probably been active in the formation of the hummocky landscape in these areas. The slopes of the first component are gentle and smooth, and the soils have probably formed in situ.

The heath is only about half a metre high on the gentle slopes and hummocky rises. The small

scattered swamps are characteristically encircled by a shrubby form of Smithton peppermint and the heath on these moister sites is noticeably taller than elsewhere. The peppermint also borders the narrow drainage lines which descend to surrounding lower country. Included in this land system is the *Sprengelia incarnata-Bauera rubioides-Lepidosperma filiforme* heath community described by Kirkpatrick (1977).

Too frequent burning of the heath, in the management of these areas for grazing, degrades the environment and reduces its effectiveness as a zone of nature conservation.

Because these areas are prominently in the path of the 'roaring forties' winds their sandy soils are highly susceptible to severe wind erosion.

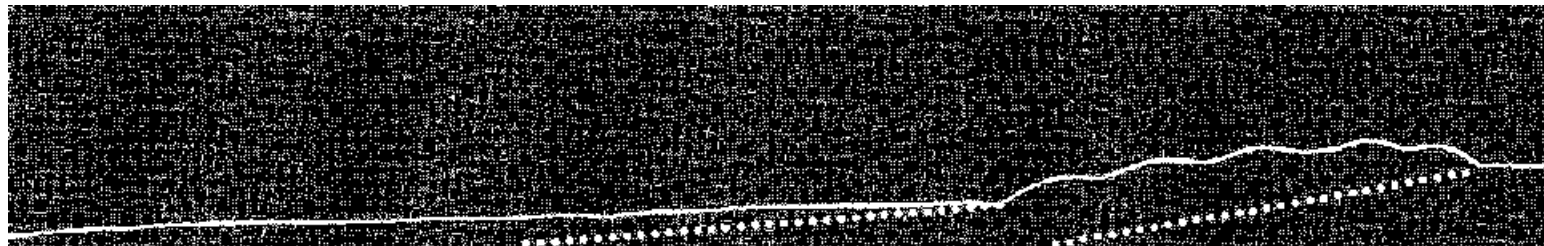


A low open heath occupies the gentle slopes and hummocky rises

LAND SYSTEM

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White Rock Ridge



COMPONENT	1	2	3
PROPORTION %	65	1	30
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 750-1 000 mm		
GEOLOGY	Precambrian quartzite		
TOPOGRAPHY Land form Position Average Sideslope ⁰	Low Hills Gentle slopes Hummocky rises 2 5		Small swamps <1
NATIVE VEGETATION Structure Association	Open heath Manuka, <i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> , <i>Banksia</i> sp., <i>Leucopogon</i> sp., <i>Lepidosperma concavum</i>		Smithton peppermint, manuka, tassel cord rush
SOIL Surface Texture Permeability Average Depth m	Dark brown (10 YR 4/3) sand, very dark layer above quartzite country rock depth. Scattered rock outcrop Peaty sand >1.8	Weakly differentiated light brownish grey (10 YR 6/2) sand, becoming paler with Loamy sand High 0.7	Very dark silty organic sand, becoming dark greyish brown (10 YR 4/2) with depth Sandy peat >1.1
PRESENT LAND USE	Grazing, nature conservation		
HAZARDS	High wind erosion		High waterlogging