

493113

ELDORADO

Extensive areas of flat to undulating plain occur on King Island and generally occupy the space between the plateau (King Island land system), and the coastal sands (Yellow Rock, Whalebone and Sea Elephant land systems).

The two main soils observed were previously described as Lappa sand and Naracoopa sand by Stephens and Hosking (1932). Both soils are similar in many respects to those on the principal component of both Robbins Island and Plains land systems (Richley, 1978). Their distribution is not as discrete as suggested by the soil boundaries of Stephens and Hosking, as a certain amount of overlap and admixture occurs. Both soils have sandy profiles with surfaces darkened by organic matter. The A₂ horizon in component No. 1 (Lappa sand), is almost white. The depth to the pan in component No. 2 (Naracoopa sand), is sometimes much greater

than the recorded average. In the swales of areas covered by the Naracoopa sand the sand is much darker, while dark greyish-brown, fine, sandy clay was observed in one of the small swampy sites which are scattered over areas of the Lappa sand.

The native vegetation was severely disturbed during development. Regrowth is a dense scrub or heath. Bracken is an important coloniser on the Naracoopa sand.

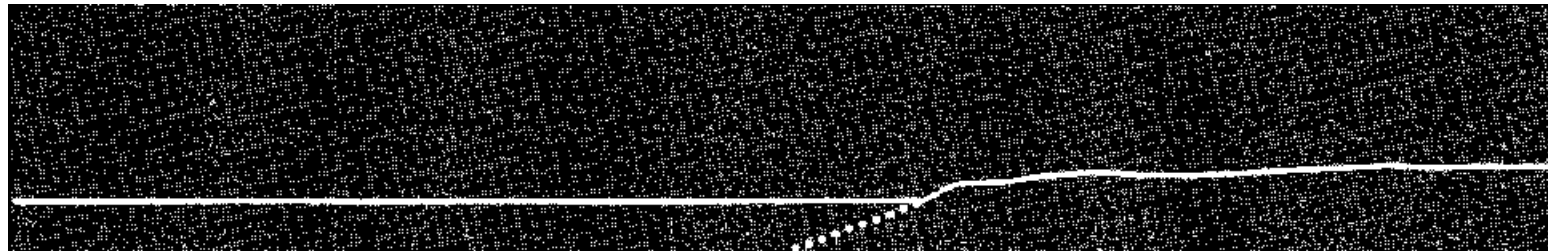
The Lappa sand is largely undeveloped due to its low fertility and very poor drainage. The Naracoopa sand is also fairly infertile but has better drainage and areas have been converted to improved pasture.

The lack of drainage on the extensive swampy flats and wind erosion on the slightly higher sites are the principal problems associated with the management of this land. Salting appears to be associated with the occurrence of patches of the Nugara sandy loam (see Reekara land system).

LAND SYSTEM

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Eldorado



COMPONENT	1	2
PROPORTION %	60	40
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 750-1 000 mm	
GEOLOGY	Quaternary sand deposits	
TOPOGRAPHY Land form Position Average Sideslope ⁰	Plain 0	Flat plain Undulating plain 1
NATIVE VEGETATION Structure Association	Closed heath Manuka, honeysuckle, <i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> , <i>Casua-nna</i> sp., <i>Restio oligocephalus</i> , <i>Xyris operculata</i> , <i>Sprengelia incarnata</i>	Open scrub Paperbark, manuka, <i>Acacia mucronata</i> , white gum, swamp gum, bracken
SOIL Surface Texture	Yellowish sandy duplex soil, compact thin dark sandy layer between A and B horizons Sandy peat	Pale grey sand soil, coffee coloured hard sand pan
Permeability Average Depth m	>1.8	High 1.1
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation	Grazing
HAZARDS	High waterlogging	High wind erosion