

495168

YELLOW ROCK

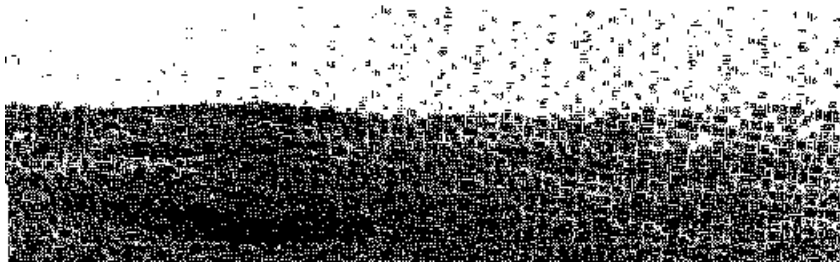
Extensive deposits of calcareous sand form belts of coastal dunes up to 75 metres in height along the western sides of King, Hunter and Three Hummock Islands. These belts average more than two kilometres in width and extend up to 4.25 kilometres inland about 3.5 kilometres south of the Ettrick River on King Island. Included in the system are small lagoons and swamps which occur periodically behind the wall of dunes. These have been described by Jennings (1957).

The pale yellow sands are only weakly differentiated, and the absence of any cumulative layer even in the hollows and swales is due to their great depth and

free internal drainage. These soils have been described as the Currie Calcareous sand by Stephens and Hosking (1932). In the vicinity of rivers and lagoons the lower part of the profile acquires a dirty greyish colour and organic soils occupy the swamps.

The native scrub has been largely removed and grazing is the major enterprise.

Wind erosion is the principal hazard. Blowouts are scattered throughout the system and severe degradation has occurred in certain areas. At Stokes Point on the southern tip of King Island overgrazing by sheep and further disturbance by pigs has resulted in the complete removal of the sandy soils by wind to expose the bedrock. Slumping is a problem on the steeper slopes.

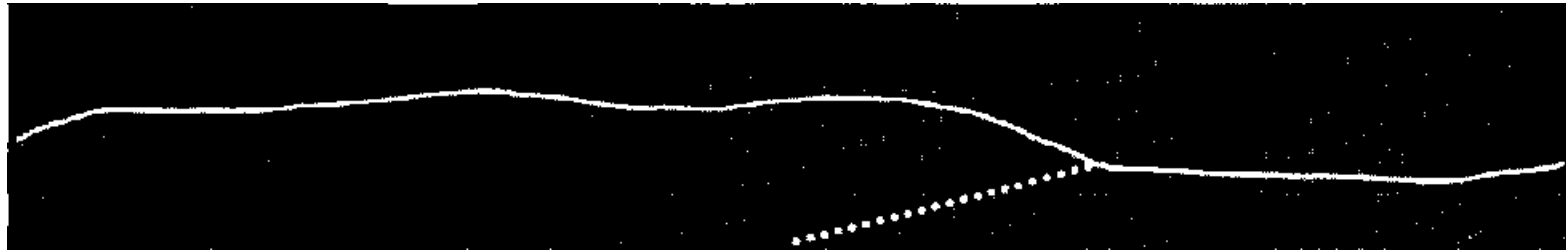


Typical rolling terrain.

LAND SYSTEM

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COMPONENT	1	2
PROPORTION %	70	30
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 750-1 000 mm	
GEOLOGY	Quaternary coastal calcareous sands	
TOPOGRAPHY	Coastal dunes	
Land form	Crests and sideslopes	Swales
Position Average	10	3
Sideslope ⁰		
NATIVE VEGETATION	Closed scrub	
Structure	False boobyalla, <i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i> , <i>Leucopogon australis</i> , white gum, <i>Correa alba</i> , honeysuckle	
Association		
SOIL	Weakly differentiated, pale yellow (2.5 Y 7/4) calcareous sand	
Surface Texture	Loamy sand	
Permeability	High >2.0	
Average Depth m		
PRESENT LAND USE	Grazing	
HAZARDS	High wind erosion	