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**SOILS OF ROSEBANK RESEARCH STATION
LONGREACH, QUEENSLAND**

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ABSTRACT

The soils of Rosebank Research Station, Longreach are described and mapped at 1:25 000 scale. The report draws together information on the climate, landform, geology and vegetation of the region. The morphology and distribution of the soils are discussed with reference to usage and management considerations. The survey shows the property comprises 70% rolling downs with minor gidgee and boree communities. The remaining portions are associated with the drainage lines of Elibank and Wellshot creeks. Soils of the rolling downs are moderately deep cracking clays with strongly self-mulching surfaces. Colluvial soils adjoin the stream channels. The channel benches, backplains and braided drainage depressions are a complex of cracking and non cracking clays and duplex soils. The soils generally are alkaline and calcareous.

Figure 1. Locality map Rosebank Research Station

1. INTRODUCTION

Rosebank Research Station is a 6795 hectare property located on the Jundah road, five kilometres south of Longreach, Central Queensland (Figure 1). The property was purchased in 1987 by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries in conjunction with the establishment of the Arid Zone Institute at Longreach. The property will service the needs of the Institute as a research facility for this important pastoral region.

As part of the establishment of the Arid Zone Research Institute and associated facilities, a detailed physical survey of the property was requested, as a base to formulate a development plan for the property. Basic data on climate, geology and landform, groundwater, vegetation and soils, as provided in this publication, can be utilised for experimental design purposes.

This report documents the findings of a soil survey of Rosebank at 1:25 000 scale for the following portions:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Freehold | 1302 ha, Parish of Longreach, Portions 16V, 17V, 18V, 22V, 23V, 24V, 32V, 33V, 58V. |
| Leasehold | 5493ha, Parish of Longreach GF11224, Por. 45V, GF11272, Por 32V, 39V, 43V, 75; PLS Por 78V. |

2. CLIMATE

Summary statistics for climatic conditions at Longreach are presented in Table 1. Average rainfall for the region is 400 mm with 73% of the rainfall recorded between the summer months of October and March. Thirty nine rain days are the average for the year. Evaporation in the area is extremely high, with an average class A pan potential evaporation of 2482 mm per annum being recorded.

The longest average day length is 13.8 hours in December which also has the highest average monthly maximum temperature of 37.6°C. The coldest month is July with 6.9°C, while the shortest average day length is recorded in June at 10.9 hrs. Temperatures usually range between -2°C and 46°C, though temperatures outside this range have been recorded. Heat wave conditions (>40°C) are not uncommon in the area, with January recording the highest number of days (22). Frosts commonly occur in June, July and August. These extremes of temperature are important considerations for animal husbandry and potential cropping practices. Droughts are also commonplace, with Longreach Shire being drought declared for 57% of the time between 1966 and 1989.

Table 1. Climate averages for Longreach (23°27'S, 144°15'E, 192 m a.s.l.)

(a) General data

| Month | Day length (hours) | Radtn (MJ/d/M ²) | VPress (mbar) | Tmax (°C) | Tmin (°C) | Average rain (mm) | Median rain (mm) | Epan (mm/day) | Rain (days) |
|---------|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Jan | 13.6 | 27.5 | 21.2 | 37.4 | 23.0 | 71 | 47 | 11.5 | 6 |
| Feb | 13.1 | 25.4 | 21.1 | 36.0 | 21.6 | 85 | 46 | 10.0 | 6 |
| Mar | 12.4 | 22.6 | 17.6 | 34.4 | 16.1 | 62 | 38 | 8.3 | 4 |
| Apr | 11.8 | 20.2 | 14.8 | 31.0 | 15.3 | 28 | 13 | 6.8 | 2 |
| May | 11.2 | 16.9 | 11.8 | 26.9 | 11.3 | 24 | 6 | 4.9 | 2 |
| Jun | 10.9 | 14.7 | 10.6 | 23.6 | 8.2 | 20 | 7 | 4.0 | 2 |
| Jul | 11.1 | 15.7 | 9.5 | 23.0 | 7.0 | 9 | 2 | 4.2 | 1 |
| Aug | 11.5 | 19.3 | 9.5 | 25.6 | 8.2 | 12 | 2 | 5.5 | 2 |
| Sep | 12.1 | 23.0 | 10.9 | 29.7 | 12.1 | 24 | 14 | 7.6 | 3 |
| Oct | 12.8 | 26.2 | 13.2 | 33.7 | 16.4 | 27 | 17 | 10.0 | 4 |
| Nov | 13.4 | 28.2 | 16.6 | 36.1 | 19.8 | 54 | 44 | 10.9 | 5 |
| Dec | 13.8 | 28.6 | 19.3 | 37.6 | 21.9 | 435 | 407 | 11.6 | 39 |
| AVERAGE | 12.3 | 22.3 | 14.6 | 31.2 | 15.0 | 399 | 6.8 | 7.9 | 6.0 |

Source: Post Office records 1957-1973

(b) Humidity data

| Month | 9 am DRY B | 9am WET B | 9 am DEWPT | 9 am %REL HU | 3 pm DRY B | 3 pm WET B | 3 pm DEWPT | 3 pm %REL HU |
|---------|------------|-----------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Jan | 29.5 | 21.6 | 17 | 47 | 36.1 | 22.4 | 14 | 27 |
| Feb | 28.9 | 21.6 | 17 | 50 | 35.6 | 22.7 | 15 | 29 |
| Mar | 26.8 | 20.0 | 16 | 51 | 33.6 | 21.3 | 13 | 30 |
| Apr | 23.5 | 16.8 | 12 | 48 | 30.6 | 18.9 | 10 | 28 |
| May | 17.9 | 12.8 | 8 | 52 | 25.8 | 16.0 | 7 | 31 |
| Jun | 14.3 | 10.4 | 6 | 58 | 23.4 | 14.5 | 6 | 33 |
| Jul | 13.0 | 8.6 | 3 | 51 | 22.7 | 13.3 | 3 | 28 |
| Aug | 16.1 | 10.3 | 4 | 43 | 25.2 | 14.2 | 3 | 23 |
| Sep | 21.1 | 13.3 | 6 | 36 | 29.1 | 16.0 | 3 | 19 |
| Oct | 26.1 | 16.7 | 9 | 34 | 33.1 | 18.3 | 6 | 18 |
| Nov | 29.0 | 18.6 | 11 | 33 | 35.6 | 19.8 | 7 | 18 |
| Dec | 29.6 | 20.5 | 15 | 40 | 36.0 | 21.2 | 11 | 22 |
| AVERAGE | 23.0 | 15.9 | 10 | 45 | 30.6 | 18.2 | 8 | 26 |

Source: Post Office records 1957-1973

(c) Rainfall distribution

| | Jan (mm) | Feb (mm) | Mar (mm) | Apr (mm) | May (mm) | Jun (mm) | Jul (mm) | Aug (mm) | Sep (mm) | Oct (mm) | Nov (mm) | Dec (mm) | Total (mm) |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 100% of yrs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 108 |
| 90% of yrs | 10 | 8 | * | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 220 |
| 80% of yrs | 18 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 250 |
| 70% of yrs | 29 | 20 | 9 | * | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 16 | 310 |
| 60% of yrs | 40 | 35 | 25 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 11 | 33 | 343 |
| 50% of yrs | 47 | 45 | 38 | 13 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 17 | 44 | 403 |
| 40% of yrs | 61 | 58 | 45 | 24 | 13 | 15 | 16 | 5 | 8 | 20 | 23 | 53 | 475 |
| 30% of yrs | 96 | 103 | 73 | 36 | 25 | 21 | 23 | 8 | 12 | 28 | 30 | 71 | 509 |
| 20% of yrs | 110 | 146 | 106 | 54 | 57 | 36 | 36 | 13 | 21 | 40 | 45 | 92 | 544 |
| 10% of yrs | 143 | 217 | 162 | 86 | 74 | 54 | 67 | 32 | 34 | 68 | 66 | 117 | 717 |
| 0% of yrs | 403 | 405 | 379 | 176 | 175 | 126 | 114 | 70 | 122 | 139 | 163 | 232 | 1076 |
| Mean | 71 | 84 | 62 | 28 | 24 | 20 | 20 | 9 | 12 | 24 | 27 | 54 | 435 |
| Median | 47 | 45 | 38 | 13 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 17 | 44 | 403 |
| Std.dev | 72 | 96 | 77 | 37 | 35 | 27 | 29 | 14 | 21 | 30 | 33 | 47 | 202 |
| Minimum | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 108 |
| Maximum | 403 | 405 | 379 | 176 | 175 | 126 | 114 | 70 | 122 | 139 | 163 | 232 | 1076 |
| No of yrs | 93 | 93 | 92 | 92 | 92 | 92 | 92 | 92 | 92 | 92 | 92 | 92 | 92 |

* % years with rainfall greater than or equal to the indicated amount.

Source: Post Office records 1957 - 1973.

(d) Frost Days (<°C)

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Post Office records (1957-1973) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Highest | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Australian Bureau of Meteorology (1966-1987) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Highest | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 11 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |

Note: Post Office records are reported for the period 1857-73. The Bureau of Meteorology (AMO) established an office in 1966, records at the Post Office continued until 1973.

(e) Heat Wave conditions Longreach

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Days > 40°C | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Post Office 1957-1973 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average | 8 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 26 |
| Highest | 22 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 12 | 19 | - |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AMO 1966-1987 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average | 7 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 23 |
| Highest | 17 | 14 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 21 | - |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Days > 35°C | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Post Office 1857-1973 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average | 25 | 22 | 16 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 21 | 24 | 126 |
| Highest | 31 | 28 | 25 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 21 | 27 | 30 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AMO 1966-1987 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average | 22 | 16 | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 20 | 25 | 112 |
| Highest | 31 | 8 | 26 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 19 | 27 | 30 | |

3. GEOLOGY AND LANDFORM

Rosebank is located on rolling downs underlain by Cretaceous sediments. Sedimentary rocks occasionally outcrop as rubbly exposures in extensive, soil-covered, gently undulating plains. The sedimentary rocks are part of the Winton Formation (Kw) comprised of labile sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, intraformational conglomerate and are, in part, calcareous. The sedimentary rocks of the Winton Formation contain shelly faunas and are richly fossiliferous (Vine 1970).

Two streams are found on the property: Elibank and Wellshot creeks. These streams are ephemeral. The stream channels are reticulated and form part of a strongly anastomosing regional drainage system of the Thompson River. Stream drainage on Rosebank is in a north westerly direction. The flood plains associated with the drainage lines are Quaternary alluvium (Qa) overlying the Cretaceous Winton Formation (Vine 1970).

4. GROUNDWATER

Rosebank is directly underlain by shales and minor sandstones which form part of the Winton/Mackunda Formations. Small pumped supplies of water in the vicinity of 0.5 l/sec are generally available from jointed and/or porous sandstone layers within the underlying sediments. Because these zones are usually small and discontinuous in nature, the depth of the bores varies greatly from site to site.

In most cases, the supplies are struck above 210 metres depth which is the recommended maximum depth for drilling in the Winton/Mackunda Formation. It appears that water beds are most frequently intersected within the interval, 100 to

210 m below ground level. Water quality also varies. The water is often too saline for drinking water, but may be suitable for other domestic purposes, for irrigating salt tolerant plants and for stock use. The quality of any water encountered within the first 100 metres is expected to be very salty and may require cementing off to protect the casing, and prevent pollution of better quality water supplies at depth.

At a much greater depth, supplies are available from sediments associated with the Great Artesian Basin. On Rosebank, a bore to a depth 780 to 850 m is expected to tap the Hooray Sandstone and a very small flow of less than 0.2 l/sec should be obtained. This bore could be expected to have a small closed pressure of less than 80 kps. The water temperature of this aquifer is approximately 60°C.

The quality of water drawn from the Hooray Sandstone is generally suitable for stock watering and other domestic purposes. Some water could be unsuitable for drinking by humans and young stock because of the fluoride content.

5. VEGETATION

Four vegetation associations are found on Rosebank. The associations comprise: Mitchell grass communities on the open downs, Coolibah communities on the stream channels, the wooded downs (Boree communities) adjacent to the stream channels and the Gidgee communities. Herbaceous plants are common throughout the four communities and some are toxic to hungry stock.

At the time of the survey, the area was severely droughted and many plants known to the area were absent. A detailed vegetation survey of the property is planned when seasonal conditions are favourable. A list of plant species known to occur in the area are presented in Appendix I.

5.1 Mitchell Grass community

Astrelba species are the dominant grasses on the open downs. The *Astrelba* genus is comprised of Bull Mitchell (*A. squarrosa*) frequently found in gilgai and other depressions, Hoop Mitchell (*A. elymoides*) on the more finely structured surfaces (ashy downs) while Barley Mitchell (*A. pectinata*) and Curly Mitchell (*A. lappacea*) favour the firmer soils. All four grasses commonly occur together and in summer are the dominant grass species. Many other annual and perennial grasses occur in association, particularly in winter. Both annuals and perennials occupy the areas between the Mitchell grass tussocks. The perennials include Queensland blue grass (*Dichanthium sericeum*), Desert blue grass (*Bothriochloa ewartiana*), Feathertop (*Aristida latifolia*) and Neverfail (*Eragrostis setifolia*). The genus *Panicum* and *Digitaria* are also common.

Ephemerals are common and particularly luxuriant after rain. These plants mature rapidly with many disappearing within a few days of rainfall. The Flinders grasses (*Iseilema* spp.) are one of the more persistent annuals. This species is excellent fodder when green, however it also rapidly dries out and subsequently loses

its nutritional value.

Trees in the open downs were few and tended to be confined to drainage lines, crests and ridges. Trees were found to be useful indicators of soil type. The three most common trees occurring on the open downs are whitewood (*Atalaya hemiglauca*), the vine tree (*Ventilago viminalis*) and boree (*Acacia cana*). Whitewood is almost exclusively found on non cracking highly calcareous clays.

The most common shrub is mimosa (*Acacia farnesiana*), found mainly in drainage depressions, ridges and crests.

5.2 Coolibah community

Eucalyptus microtheca is the dominant tree species found along stream channels. These require periodic flooding and are therefore useful indicators of inundation. Other tree and shrub species include: gidgee (*Acacia cambagei*), boree, river wattle (*Acacia stenophylla*), *Thysiolphyllum glivum*, *Capparis mitchellii*, lignum (*Meuhlenbeckia cunninghamii*) and creek wilga (*Eremophila bignoniiflora*). Grasses include *Leptochloa digitata* and button grass (*Dactyloctenium radulans*). Herbage includes rattlepod (*Crotalaria dissitiflora*), *Glycine falcata*, *Tribulus terrestris*, *Boerhavia diffusa*, *Euphorbia drummondii*, *Portulaca oleracea*. The annual salt bush (*Atriplex muelleri*) is also very common along stream edges and levees.

5.3 Wooded downs community

Boree is the most common tree species, and densities range from one to about twenty five trees per hectare. The density of the trees is usually low enough to allow adequate grass growth. On the lower slopes seasonal scalding is evident though generally not extensive. Other trees include *Lysiphyllum carronii*, *Heterodendron oleifolium* and *Archidendropsis basaltica* though these are not common. Shrubs include creek wilga and false sandalwood (*Eremophila mitchellii*) with lignum occurring occasionally on the lower slopes. Grasses include *Aristida latifolia*, *Astrebla* spp., *Enneapogon avenaceus*, and *Sporobolus actinocladius* and *Dactyloctenium radulans*. Herbaceous plants include, *Solanum esuriale*, *Atriplex lindleyi* and *A. muelleri*, *Boerhaavia diffusa*, *Calotis hipsidula*.

5.4 Gidgee community

Gidgee is the dominant tree species and forms very dense stands, limiting grass growth. The soils are yellowish brown with extensive silcrete cover. False sandalwood, unless cleared, is a relatively common shrub fringing this community. Grasses were sparse at the time of sampling in this community and only a few sparsely scattered dead tussocks could be found which could not be identified. Sampling occurred just after rain and a few herbaceous plants were present. These included *Atriplex muelleri*, *Solanum esuriale*, *Euphorbia drummondii* and *Sida* spp..

6. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

6.1 Soil Methodology

Soils on the research station were described and classified at 202 sites. A free survey method was employed with limited grid traverses. The density of ground observations varied according to the complexity of soil distribution. The survey work was co-ordinated with 1:50 000 B&W stereo air photos enlarged to 1:25 000. The soils map is presented at a scale of 1:25 000.

Data collection methodology was based on McDonald *et al.* (1984) and soil classification followed Northcote *et al.* (1979). Profile data (collected from soil cores) and site description are recorded in code (Mc Donald *et al.* 1984). These data are stored on computer and are available through the Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

Laboratory analysis were carried out on 10% of the profiles using the methods of Bruce and Rayment (1982). These profiles considered representative of the 13 profile classes, were analysed at three depths intervals, 0-20 cm, 30-60 cm and 60-120 cm for pH; EC; Cl; CEC and Exch. cations (Ca, Mg, Na, K). The surface soil (0-20 cm) was also tested for fertility characteristics (Org C, Bicarb P, Fe, Mn, Cu and Zn). This is an extremely limited sampling intensity and should be used with this limitation in mind. The sampling is sufficient to show general trends for the soils of this landscape.

6.2 Land Unit Mapping Methodology

The data collected in this survey has been organised according to the principles of Unique Mapping Areas (UMA), which results in land units corresponding to land suitability (Land Resources Branches staff 1990).

Each area delineated as a UMA is distinct from contiguous areas on the map (a map unit with a closed boundary) and is described in terms of its resource information. Information recorded for each UMA is briefly listed in Table 2. UMA boundaries represent changes in soil suitability class or limitations. The proforma records and their description is included in Appendix II. This data is also available on computer though the Land Resources Branch of QDPI. The study area contains 13 land units (Table 4).

Table 2. Information recorded for each UMA

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|--|
| Identity | - | UMA Number |
| Location | - | Air Photo reference |
| Land Resources | - | Geology |
| | - | Landform |
| | - | Dominant soil PPF |
| | - | Resource interpretation related to: |
| | - | slope |
| | - | drainage |
| | - | texture |
| | - | pH |
| | - | depth |
| | - | colour |
| | - | carbonate |
| | - | aspect |
| | - | stone |
| | - | substrate |
| | - | rock outcrop |
| | - | drainage |
| | - | erosion |
| | - | microrelief |
| | - | point data within UMA by soil horizons |
| | - | soil texture |
| - | soil pH | |
| - | soil depth | |
| - | soil colour | |
| - | soil carbonate | |

7. SOILS

7.1 Morphology and distribution

The landform pattern of Rosebank is an undulating plain of extremely low relief (<9 m). The plain is broken by widely spaced, moderately deep, reticulated, ephemeral streams which have been gently aggraded by unchannelled overbank stream flow. The landform elements include crests, ridges, benches, slopes, flats, drainage depressions, levees and stream channels.

Three markedly different soil types occur in the reticulated drainage system. A non cracking clay intermixed with duplex soils, occurs as a complex and is found on the levees between the stream channels. Intergrade cracking clays with weakly self mulching surfaces are scattered throughout the levees in relict stream channels. Deep grey and brown cracking clay soils formed on colluvium occur on lower slopes and flats abutting the stream channels which are moderately calcareous and are medium to medium heavy clays with strong self mulching surfaces.

Highly calcareous non cracking clays occur on ridges, benches and crests. These soils are shallow and sparsely vegetated. Whitewood (*Atalaya hemiglauca*) is a reliable indicator plant for this soil type. These soils only cover small areas, though are sufficient in size to influence stocking rate.

Yellowish brown clays occur in the gidgee communities. These soils display incipient cracking and a relatively massive surface covered with silcrete stones. The silcrete stone cover may be as high as 80%. The soils are highly calcareous and limited stone occurs throughout the profile. These soils fail to qualify as cracking clays (Northcote 1979), but as a group they should be regarded as intergrades between cracking and non cracking clays.

The most widely distributed soils belong to the rolling downs group. These soils are grey or brown and are cracking clays with strongly self-mulching surfaces. Gilgais are common, though generally incipient. Normal gilgais are found in areas of lower relief with linear gilgais commons on the upper slopes. Surface texture is marginally heavier in the depressions and carbonate nodules commonly occur on the surface of the mounds. The vertical interval is generally less than ten centimetres and the wave length varies between 5 and 30 metres. Sandstone outcrops are common with silcrete stone cover varying from 1-5%.

7.2 Soil groups used in this study

The landscape units used in this report refer to natural units of land with a particular soil association or complex of soils. As soils are dynamic three dimensional bodies, it can be expected that a range of horizon depths and attributes occur in each grouping.

The classifications for this study were based on the consistency of soil attributes within a limited range of landform elements and native vegetation communities. The soil types or soil profile classes presented here are the most homogeneous grouping of the described profiles.

Thirteen soil types have been identified and are described in detail in Appendix III.

7.3 Soil Fertility

The following description of soil fertility of Rosebank should only be used as a general overview. Only 10% of the 200 profiles described had laboratory nutrient analyses performed. This represents only a limited sample in terms of the 6 795 hectares which form Rosebank. Persons interested in more detailed information are encouraged to undertake further analysis and to use this information as a soil fertility guide for the area.

Results of the laboratory analyses are presented in tabular form at the end of this section (Table 3). In addition to the 13 representative soil profiles, a bulk sample (0-20 cm) was taken from a site displaying efflorescence of salt (M1*).

7.3.1 pH

All soils of Rosebank are characterised by a strongly alkaline pH. Soil pH is generally greater than 8.5 and commonly exceeds 9.0. The pH increases slightly toward the B horizon then decreases marginally with increasing depth. High levels of calcium carbonate are common and the pH levels may be a reflection of the carbonate and bicarbonate levels. At these high pH levels, nutrient availability of nitrogen and phosphorus are reduced and deficiencies of iron, zinc and manganese could occur. In the B horizon high pH values >8.5 tend to indicate high exchangeable sodium.

7.3.2 Chloride

At the surface of vegetated areas, chloride levels are low while in the B horizon they range from high to very high. The concentration of chloride in the B horizon is possibly a function of leaching. However owing to the solubility of chloride it may accumulate anywhere in the profile especially at or near the surface in areas where drainage is imperfect and soil water evaporates. In the scalded and degraded areas saline crusts are evident (Table 3, M1*). Where gilgai microrelief are present, concentrations of chlorides tend to be found in the depressions.

7.3.3 Electrical conductivity

Electrical conductivity is a useful indicator of the total soluble salts and the ionic strength of the soil solution (chloride often a major component). Electrical conductivity is low at the surface of all landscape units where there is no evidence of degradation (ie scalding, sheet wash or terracettes) and increases dramatically with soil depth. In the deep sub-soil, all landscape units have very high levels of electrical conductivity. Given these results, high salt levels are likely below 60 cm depth. In degraded and fragile areas such as the scalds, mid slope benches and crests, salt levels are high at the surface.

7.3.4 Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC)

CEC is a measure of the soil capacity to retain bases against leaching and is functionally related to the presence of organic colloids, sesquioxides and clay fraction in the soil. The higher the CEC is, generally the greater the potential fertility of the soil. A high CEC means that a soil has a strong ability to fix or hold added fertilisers against leaching. The CEC levels on Rosebank are relatively uniform and adequate for pasture production. Their ability to hold additional inputs of fertiliser is limited. This could be improved by building up the organic matter in the soil. The CEC levels recorded are typical for expanding clay lattices which are found in the area. Organic carbon levels are generally low and, as such, are not contributing to the CEC. CEC was lowest in the stream channel areas, possibly associated with the higher silt and sand content, which have a lower cation exchange capacity.

7.3.5 Exchangeable Calcium (Ca)

Exchangeable calcium levels are very high and uniform throughout Rosebank. The levels reflect the calcareous nature of the soils of the area. Carbonate nodules are found throughout the profiles. Gypsum crystals are found in the lower levels of the B horizon and are common on the surface of gilgai mounds.

7.3.6 Exchangeable Magnesium (Mg)

Exchangeable magnesium levels are high to very high throughout the area. Consequently magnesium is not likely to be directly limiting to plant growth, despite the fact that the high pH lowers the availability.

7.3.7 Exchangeable Sodium (Na)

Exchangeable sodium levels are relatively low in most surface soils in the area, but increase markedly with depth. High levels of sodium are associated with poor soil physical condition and with an excess of chloride ions. The latter adversely affects plant metabolism, so that deep rooted plants throughout the area could experience problems. The problem would be accentuated in the scalded areas where there are surface salt crusts.

The Exchangeable Sodium Percentage (ESP) is a measure of the sodicity of the soil. With the exception of the colluvial areas, the sodicity of the surface soil (0-20 cm) of the rolling downs group (RD) is low (<3%). However, in the colluvium (RD₄), ESP is approximately 7% and is considered sodic. Sodicity of the surface soils of the wooded downs group is low and comparable to the rolling downs, with the exception of the gidgee areas (W₅) which are sodic at the surface with saline subsoils. The crests and ridges (C) and the seasonally scalded channel benches and backplains (S₁) also have moderately high ESP in the surface soils. The salt puffs of the scalds are extremely sodic and saline and this has resulted in a collapsing of the soil structure.

7.3.8 Exchangeable Potassium (K)

Potassium levels are generally quite adequate for pasture production throughout the area and no plant or animal dietary deficiencies are probable. The mobility of K suggests that efficient nutrient cycling is probably responsible for the slightly higher levels in the surface soils.

7.3.9 Organic carbon

Organic carbon levels ranged from 0.3 to 0.6%. These are regarded as low to very low. The low levels recorded at the time of sampling were probably partially due to the prolonged drought being experienced. Levels would expect to improve in favourable seasons through cyclic increases in plant production and general biological activity.

7.3.10 Bicarbonate extractable phosphorus (Bicarb P)

Phosphorus levels are low to very low in the region. The levels may be further limited by the high pH. Phosphorus should be regarded as a major limiting nutrient in the area generally. The lowest P levels were recorded in the undulating plains and the channel benches and drainage depressions. Highest levels were recorded on the colluvial flats, crests and benches.

7.3.11 Extractable Iron (Fe)

Iron levels in the area are low. pH in the area is high and is likely to further limit the availability of iron for plant uptake. The degree of iron shortages in the area is not known and further information is required of the effect on both plant growth and animal nutrition.

7.3.12 Manganese (Mn)

Manganese is quite high over all landscape units and while high pH is usually associated with deficiencies, the availability of manganese increases again as pH exceeds 8.7. Veins of manganese were recorded in the deep subsoil of the colluvial flats suggesting a possible maximum wetting front over the soil forming period. Plants have the ability to adjust their manganese intakes within limits and manganese is not expected to be limiting in the area.

7.3.13 Copper (Cu)

Copper is generally only required by plants in very small amounts. Copper in the area is in reasonable levels and is regarded as adequate. The high pH levels however may be limiting the availability of this element. Isolated reports of copper deficiencies in sheep have been reported in the area though the symptoms are often not detected.

7.3.14 Extractable Zinc (Zn)

Zinc levels are very low and Zn availability is lower at higher levels of pH. The zinc levels are relatively uniform across the landscape units and zinc as a trace element is considered quite limiting. Interactions are likely between zinc and copper and responses to one with or without the other will differ. That is plants may respond to zinc if copper is given, but not if it is withheld.

Table 3. Laboratory analysis of representative soils of each soil group found on Rosebank Station (Longreach).

| Soil profile class | Sample Depth (m) | pH 1:5 | EC dS/m | Cl % | CEC m equiv | Exchangeable Cations | | | | Org C % | Bicarb P ppm | Fe ppm | Mn ppm | Cu ppm | Zn ppm |
|--------------------|------------------|--------|---------|-------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | | | | | Ca ⁺⁺ m equiv | Mg ⁺⁺ m equiv | Na ⁺⁺ m equiv | K ⁺ m equiv | | | | | | |
| RD1 | 0-0.2 | 9.0 | 0.12 | 0.006 | 36 | 34 | 2.4 | 1.2 | 0.70 | 0.5 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 0.60 | 0.20 |
| | 0.3-0.6 | 9.4 | 0.42 | 0.023 | 37 | 27 | 2.5 | 7.6 | 0.40 | | | | | | |
| | 0.6-1.2 | 8.4 | 1.7 | 0.076 | 33 | 23 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 0.30 | | | | | | |
| RD2 | 0-0.2 | 9.0 | 0.13 | 0.001 | 31 | 30 | 1.7 | - | 1.10 | 0.6 | 12 | 6 | 26 | 0.70 | 0.30 |
| | 0.3-0.6 | 9.4 | 0.39 | 0.025 | 37 | 30 | 2.1 | 5.8 | 0.40 | | | | | | |
| | 0.6-1.2 | 9.4 | 0.57 | 0.52 | 33 | 26 | 2.0 | 7.4 | 0.30 | | | | | | |
| RD3 | 0-0.2 | 8.5 | 0.17 | 0.005 | 39 | 34 | 3.4 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.6 | 18 | 8 | 55 | 0.90 | 0.30 |
| | 0.3-0.6 | 9.3 | 0.30 | 0.010 | 43 | 35 | 2.7 | 5.6 | 0.6 | | | | | | |
| | 0.6-0.9 | 7.9 | 3.0 | 0.036 | 36 | 31 | 2.7 | 8.0 | 0.5 | | | | | | |
| RD4 | 0-0.2 | 8.8 | 0.19 | 0.006 | 42 | 32 | 5.4 | 2.5 | 1.1 | 0.5 | 18 | 9 | 30 | 0.7 | 0.3 |
| | 0.3-0.6 | 8.9 | 0.83 | 0.090 | 47 | 30 | 5.4 | 11 | 0.8 | | | | | | |
| | 0.60-1.2 | 8.1 | 3.9 | 0.147 | 42 | 28 | 4.7 | 12 | 0.7 | | | | | | |
| W1 | 0-0.20 | 9.2 | 0.16 | 0.001 | 35 | 32 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 0.90 | 0.5 | 10 | 6 | 12 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| | 0.3-0.6 | 9.5 | 0.40 | 0.022 | 38 | 30 | 1.9 | 7.8 | 0.40 | | | | | | |
| | 0.60-1.2 | 9.4 | 0.83 | 0.067 | 36 | 24 | 2.0 | 11 | 0.30 | | | | | | |
| W2 | 0-0.20 | 8.7 | 0.09 | 0.001 | 38 | 33 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 13 | 5 | 32 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| | 0.3-0.6 | 9.3 | 0.44 | 0.030 | 41 | 30 | 3.3 | 8.0 | 0.5 | | | | | | |
| | 0.60-1.2 | 8.2 | 0.90 | 0.073 | 35 | 26 | 3.1 | 11 | 0.4 | | | | | | |
| W3 | 0-0.20 | 9.2 | 0.16 | 0.001 | 31 | 26 | 3.8 | 1.6 | 0.90 | 0.6 | 18 | 11 | 12 | 0.7 | 0.2 |
| | 0.3-0.6 | 9.2 | 1.2 | 0.137 | 33 | 18 | 3.6 | 12 | 0.50 | | | | | | |
| | 0.60-1.2 | 8.6 | 2.6 | 0.195 | 26 | 14 | 3.5 | 11 | 0.40 | | | | | | |

Table 3. Continued

| Soil profile class | Sample Depth (m) | pH 1:5 | EC dS/m | Cl % | CEC m equiv | Exchangeable Cations | | | | Org C % | Bicarb P ppm | Fe ppm | Mn ppm | Cu ppm | Zn ppm |
|--------------------|------------------|--------|---------|-------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | | | | | Ca ⁺⁺ m equiv | Mg ⁺⁺ m equiv | Na ⁺⁺ m equiv | K ⁺ m equiv | | | | | | |
| W4 | 0-0.20 | 8.6 | 0.11 | 0.001 | 42 | 36 | 4.1 | 1.3 | 0.80 | 0.4 | 9 | 7 | 15 | 0.7 | 0.2 |
| | 0.3-0.6 | 9.2 | 0.48 | 0.041 | 42 | 31 | 3.9 | 7.6 | 0.60 | | | | | | |
| | 0.60-1.2 | 8.7 | 0.89 | 0.98 | 46 | 31 | 4.5 | 11 | 0.70 | | | | | | |
| W5 | 0-0.20 | 8.3 | 0.26 | 0.028 | 27 | 18 | 4.1 | 3.0 | 0.60 | 0.4 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 0.7 | 0.2 |
| | 0.3-0.6 | 8.1 | 2.5 | 0.352 | 30 | 18 | 5.7 | 7.7 | 0.40 | | | | | | |
| | 0.60-1.2 | 8.3 | 2.5 | 0.324 | 27 | 16 | 5.2 | 7.3 | 0.50 | | | | | | |
| C1 | 0-0.20 | 8.3 | 0.27 | 0.003 | 33 | 26 | 4.2 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 0.4 | 21 | 8.0 | 12 | 0.8 | 0.2 |
| S1 | 0-0.20 | 8.4 | 0.05 | 0.001 | 23 | 16 | 3.9 | 1.7 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 0.6 | 0.2 |
| | 0.3-0.6 | 9.4 | 0.41 | 0.025 | 25 | 17 | 3.2 | 5.4 | 0.4 | | | | | | |
| | 0.60-1.2 | 8.0 | 2.3 | 0.049 | 23 | 17 | 2.9 | 6.8 | 0.4 | | | | | | |
| S2 | 0-0.20 | 9.0 | 0.13 | 0.007 | 27 | 21 | 3.4 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 15 | 4 | 14 | 0.6 | 0.2 |
| | 0.3-0.6 | 9.3 | 0.43 | 0.029 | 36 | 27 | 3.9 | 5.2 | 0.6 | | | | | | |
| | 0.60-1.2 | 9.3 | 0.73 | 0.065 | 30 | 19 | 3.5 | 7.1 | 0.4 | | | | | | |
| M1 | 0-0.20 | 9.1 | 0.16 | 0.003 | 31 | 21 | 2.6 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 0.6 | 15 | 6 | 18 | 0.9 | 0.3 |
| | 0.3-0.6 | 8.7 | 2.0 | 0.256 | 33 | 22 | 2.0 | 9.6 | 0.5 | | | | | | |
| | 0.60-1.2 | 8.1 | 4.5 | 0.267 | 33 | 22 | 3.3 | 11 | 0.4 | | | | | | |
| M1* | 0-0.20 | 7.9 | 11 | 1.85 | 27 | 13 | 3.9 | 10 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 11 | 5 | 32 | 1.0 | 0.4 |

* This is a single bulk sample taken from a site displaying efflorescence of salt.

8. DISCUSSION

The property of Rosebank has approximately 70 percent open mitchell grass plains. The remaining portion consists of drainage lines, gidgee and boree communities. To date the property has principally been used for grazing and is watered by dams on minor channels of Wellshot and Elibank Creeks, gully catchment dams and tanks.

Stocking rates for the mitchell grassland areas are of the order of 0.7 (dry sheep equivalent per hectare) (Table 4). The gidgee areas are generally too small for pasture improvement and in the unimproved state should be stocked at approximately 0.25 DSE/ha. Some of the gidgee areas are experiencing regrowth and treatment may prove necessary. The open boree areas (Wooded Downs) have an estimated carrying capacity of 0.6 DSE/ha. The drainage lines and associated alluvia are prone to seasonal scalding and estimated carrying capacities for these areas is 0.35 DSE/ha. The minor scalded areas represent only a small portion of the total property and where possible should be fenced and managed separately. If not reclaimed, carrying capacity will degenerate to less than 0.2 DSE/ha. Both the seasonally scalded and scalded areas would benefit from water ponding. Success however will be dependant on the ability to remove grazing animals entirely until the soil surface structure is improved and perennial grasses re-establish.

Two major sites are potentially suited to water harvesting or fodder cropping. The two sites are the deep colluvial clays on the lower slopes and flats adjoining the south western side of Wellshot Creek (RD₄). The preferred site, due to relief and uniformity, is located near the western boundary.

Existing fencing on the property does not adequately consider land unit differences. Wherever possible, changes to fencing should attempt to separate major land units. Where this is not feasible, general management and in particular experimental design, should consider these differences. The different land units have marked differences in productivity and degradation risks (Table 4). Owing to the unique requirements of individual experiments, no general recommendations are made.

Table 4 Land unit condition and grazing characteristics

| Mapping Units | Natural Stability | Condition | Estimated Grazing Capacity* | Comment |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| RD1 | Stable | Fair to good | 0.7 DSE/ha | Productive mitchell grass open tussock grassland. Mitchell grass stands over well in dry times. Shade trees limited. |
| RD2 | Slightly unstable | Fair downward trend | 0.6 DSE/ha | Generally stable mitchell grass open tussock grassland. Pastures susceptible to overgrazing. |
| RD3 | Stable | Fair to good | 0.7 DSE/ha | Productive mitchell grass open tussock grassland. Mitchell grass stands over well in dry times. Shade trees limited. |
| RD4 | Stable | Good | 0.8 DSE/ha | Highly productive mitchell grassland. Mitchell grass stands over well in dry times. Shade trees limited. |
| W1 | Stable | Fair to good | 0.6 DSE/ha | Productive, well shaded land unit capable of high levels of production in good seasons. Mitchell grass stands over well. |
| W2 | Stable | Fair to good | 0.6 DSE/ha | Productive, well shaded land unit capable of high levels of production in good seasons. Mitchell grass stands over well. |
| W3 | Unstable | Poor to fair downward trend | 0.4 DSE/ha | Degrading woodland, seasonally flooded, capable of producing useful ephemeral pastures in good seasons. Overstocking during dry periods results in severe scalding. |
| W4 | Unstable | Poor to fair downward trend | 0.4 DSE/ha | Semi open woodland, sensitive to erosion though slightly protected by stone cover, useful ephemeral pastures in good seasons. |
| W5 | Stable | Poor to fair | 0.25 DSE/ha | Low carrying capacity; regrowth problem; produces useful ephemeral pastures in good seasons; stone cover limits susceptibility to erosion. |

Table 4 continued

| Mapping Units | Natural Stability | Condition | Estimated Grazing Capacity* | Comment |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| C1 | Unstable | Fair downward trend | 0.35 DSE/ha | Sparse mitchell grasses with ephemeral ground cover; usually low; erosion prone; sensitive to sheet wash susceptible to overgrazing and easily degraded. |
| M1 | Unstable | Poor | 0.0 DSE/ha | Scalded areas with saline crusted surface; no perennial vegetation; extremely low productivity; high runoff. |
| S1 | Moderately | Poor to fair | 0.35 DSE/ha | Periodic inundation produces useful unstable seasonal ephemeral pastures. Seasonal scalding is widespread if overgrazed. |
| S2 | Moderately | Fair | 0.5 DSE/ha | Mitchell grass drainage lines; subject unstable to minor scalding. Useful shade belts subject to overgrazing. |

* Derived from consultation with graziers, Lands Department and officers of the Department of Primary Industries.

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APPENDIX I

Plant species of the Longreach area (rare species omitted)

ACANTHACEAE*Justicia procumbens**Xanthium pungens**Xanthium spinosum***AIZOACEAE***Glinus lotoides**Trianthema galericulata**Trianthema triquetra***BORAGINACEAE***Ehretia saligna**Heliotropium strigosum**Heliotropium tenuifolium***AMARANTHACEAE***Alternanthera nodiflora**Amaranthus mitchellii**Trichinium exaltatum**Trichinium obovalum***CAESALPINIACEAE***Lysiphyllum carronii**Lysiphyllum cunninghamii**Cassia circinnata**Cassia eremophila**Cassia occidentalis**Cassia oligophylla**Cassia phyllodinea**Cassia sturtii**Parkinsonia aculeata***AMARYLLIDACEAE***Crinum angustifolium***APOCYNACEAE***Carissa lanceolata***CAMPANULACEAE***Wahlenbergia gracilentia***ASCLEPIADACEAE***Marsdenia* sp. (undescribed)**CAPPARIDACEAE***Apophyllum anomalum**Capparis lasiantha**Capparis loranthifolia**Capparis mitchellii**Capparis nummularia**Polanisia viscosa***ASTERACEAE***Brachycome curvicarpa**Calotis hispidula**Calotis squamigera**Centipeda cunninghamii**Centipeda minima**Flaveria australasica**Gnaphalium indicum**Helipterum corymbiflorum* var.*Helipterum floribundum**Minuria integerrima**Pterocaulon sphacelatum**Rutidosis helichrysoides**Sphaeranthus indicus**Villadina pterochaeta***CHENOPODIACEAE***Atriplex lindleyi**Atriplex muelleri**Atriplex* sp.*Sclerolaena bicornis* var. *horrida**Sclerolaena echinopsila**Sclerolaena lanicuspis**Sclerolaena quinquecuspis*

Chenopodium auricomum
 Chenopodium cristatum
 Chenopodium pseudomicrophyllum
 Chenopodium pumilio
 Enchylaena tomentosa
 Mairena coronata
 Mairena dichoptera
 Rhagodia linifolia
 Salsola kali
 Senniella spongiosa
 Threlkeldia proceriflora

COMMELINACEAE

Aneilema gramineum
 Commelina undulata

CONVOLVULACEAE

Convolvulus erubescens
 Cuscuta australis
 Evolvulus alsinoides
 Ipomoea brassii
 Ipomoea coptica
 Ipomoea lonchophylla
 Ipomoea plebeia
 Ipomoea polymorpha
 Ipomoea spp. (undescribed)
 Ipomoea turpethum
 Polymeria longifolia
 Polymeria marginata

CRUCIFERAE

Capsella bursa-pastoris
 Lepidium spp.
 Sisymbrium orientale

CURCUBITACEAE

Citrullus colocynthis
 Cucumis myriocarpus
 Cucumis trigonus
 Mukia micrantha

CYPERACEAE

Cyperus aristatus
 Cyperus difformis
 Cyperus exaltatus
 Cyperus gilesii
 Cyperus iria
 Cyperus pygmaeus
 Cyperus retzii
 Cyperus victoriensis
 Eleocharis pallens
 Fimbristylis microcarya

ELATINACEAE

Bergia ammanioides

EUPHORBIACEAE

Andrachne decaisnei
 Euphorbia drummondii
 Euphorbia mitchelliana
 Phyllanthus maderaspatansus
 Phyllanthus simplex
 Phyllanthus thesioides
 Phyllanthus sp. (undescribed)

FABACEAE

Aeschynomene indica
 Alysicarpus rugosus
 Archidendropsis basaltica
 Crotonaria dissitiflora
 Crotonaria linifolia
 Crotonaria medicaginea
 Desmodium campylocaulon
 Desmodium muelleri
 Glycine falcata
 Indigofera linifolia
 Indigofera parviflora
 Indigofera subulata
 Indigofera viscosa
 Psoralea cinerea
 Psoralea patens
 Rhynchosia minima
 Sesbania benthamiana
 Swainsona campylantha
 Trigonella suavissima
 Vigna lanceolata var. latifolia

FRANKENIACEAE

Frankenia serpyllifolia

GOODENIACEAE

Goodenia strangfordii

Goodenia subintegra

HALORAGACEAE

Haloragis glabrescens

LAMIACEAE

Basilicum polystachyon

Mentha australis

Ocimum sanctum

Teucrium integrifolium

LILIACEAE

Bulbine bulbosa

LORANTHACEAE

Amyema miraculosum var. *boormannii*

Amyema quandang

Loranthus mitchellianus?

Lysiana exocarpi

LYTHRACEAE

Ammania multiflora

Lythrum hyssopifolia

MALVACEAE

Abutilon calliphyllum

Abutilon fraseri

Abutilon malvifolium

Hibiscus brachysiphonius

Hibiscus ficulneus

Hibiscus trionum

Malvastrum spicatum

Sida corrugata

Sida fibulifera

Sida goniocarpa

Sida spenicariana

Sida spinosa

Sida trichopoda

Sida sp.

MARSILEACEAE

Marsilea hirsuta

MIMOSACEAE

Acacia cambagei

Acacia cana

Acacia farnesiana

Acacia stenophylla

Acacia sutherlandii

Acacia victoriae

Neptunia gracilis

Neptunia monosperma

MYOPORACEAE

Eremophila longifolia

Eremophila mitchellii

Eremophila maculata

Eremophila polyclada

MYRTACEAE

Eucalyptus camaldulensis

Eucalyptus microtheca

Eucalyptus terminalis

Melaleuca linariifolia var. *trichostachya*

NYCTAGINACEAE

Boerhavia diffusa

Boerhavia diffusa var. *paludosa*

OLEACEAE

Jasminum lineare

PAPAVERACEAE

Argemone mexicana

PLANTAGINACEAE

Plantago varia

POACEAE

Aristida latifolia
Astrebla elymoides
Astrebla lappacea
Astrebla pectinata
Astrebla squarrosa
Astrebla spp.
Bothriochloa ewartiana
Brachiaria windersii
Brachyachne convergens
Chloris sp. (undescribed)
Chloris pectinata
Chrysopogon fallax
Dactyloctenium radulans
Dichanthium superciliatum
Dichanthium sericeum
Digitaria sp. aff. *divaricatissima*
Digitaria ctenantha
Diplachne muelleri
Echinochloa turnerana
Enneapogon avenaceus
Enneapogon oblongus
Enneapogon polyphyllus
Eragrostis cilianensis
Eragrostis japonica
Eragrostis leptocarpa
Eragrostis setifolia
Erichloa australiensis
Erichloa crebra
Erichloa mucronata
Eulalia aurea
Iseilema membranaceum
Iseilema vaginiflorum
Iseilema windersii
Leptochloa digitata
Panicum buncei
Panicum decompositum
Paspalidium gracile var. *rugosum*
Paspalidium jubiflorum
Pseudoraphis spinescens
Sehima nervosum
Sporobolus actinocladius
Sporobolus caroli
Sporobolus mitchellii

Sporobolus pulchellus

Themeda triandra

Tragus australianus

Tripogon loliiformis

Triraphis mollis

POLYGALACEAE

Polygala gabrielae

POLYGONACEAE

Muehlebeckia cunninghamii

Polygonum attenuatum

Polygonum plebeium

Rumex crystallinus

PORTULACACEAE

Portulaca oleracea

PROTEACEAE

Grevillea striata

Hakea cunninghamii

RHAMNACEAE

Ventilago viminalis

RUBIACEAE

Canthium oleifolium

Oldenlandia polyclada

SANTALACEAE

Santalum lanceolatum

SAPINDACEAE

Atalaya hemiglauca

Heterodendrum oleifolium

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Morgania floribunda

Morgania glabra

SOLANACEAE

Datura leichhardtii
Nicotiana megalosiphon
Solanum esuriale
Solanum nigrum

STERCULIACEAE

Melhania abyssinica

TILIACEAE

Corchorus trilocularis

TYPHACEAE

Typha angustifolia

UMBELLIFERAE

Daucus glochidiatus

VERBENACEAE

Verbena officinalis

ZYGOPHYLLACEAE

Tribulus terrestris
Zygophyllum ammophilum

Modified after Davidson (1954)

APPENDIX II

Unique Map Area (UMA) data

The data described in this appendix are the data coded and held on computer for each UMA. The data can be used to construct maps for differing purposes.

Within areas of interest, the computer can be used to sort UMA's by attributes into those which satisfy a user requirements and those that do not. Major attributes should be sorted first followed by minor attributes. Listing of potential UMA's which satisfy requirements of end users can be presented in tabular form or plotted onto a base map.

It is important that users of the data provided by this study limit its use to the scale at which the data was intended. The intensity of sampling has been adequate for the publication of a map at the 1:25 000 scale. The data available is accurate for land assessment only at that scale. Any larger scale requirements should be accompanied by a higher intensity survey.

UMA's can be sorted according to any single or combination of the following attributes.

The description of the codes used on the unique map area data (Figure 3) are those of McDonald *et al.* (1984) and a full list of data stored for each UMA is given below (exceptions are treated in some detail).

Record 1

| Column | Item |
|-----------|---|
| 1: | Record type 1 |
| 3 to 4: | Survey Code - three letter code identifying the survey |
| 5 to 8: | UMA Number - each UMA is identified by its own number |
| 9 to 16: | Air Photo Film No. - used for UMA location |
| 17 to 18: | Air Photo run number - used for UMA location |
| 19 to 21: | Air photo frame number |

- 22 to 32: Air Photo Eastings and Northings
- UMA Co-ordinates of a central labelling point expressed in mm from bottom left of air photo
- 33 to 34: AMG
- Australian Map Grid
- 35 to 37: Geology
- Geological formation underlying UMA
- 38 to 39: Substrate Material
- Substrate material of UMA
- 40: Proportion of UMA rock outcrop
- Percentage of UMA covered by rock outcrops
- 41 to 42: Lithology of Rock outcrop
- Type of rock in outcrop
- 43: Type of microrelief
- Type of microrelief found in UMA
- 44 to 47: Vertical and Horizontal interval
- Vertical interval and wave length of microrelief in metres
- 48 to 51: Surface coarse fragments and size.
- Percent of coarse fragments covering UMA and their size (mm)
- 52 to 53: Lithology
- Lithology of coarse fragments.

Record 2

- 1: Record type 2
- 2 to 8: as per record 1
- 9 to 11: Landform pattern
- Landform pattern in which UMA is located
- 12 to 14: Landform element
- Landform element of UMA

- 15: Aspect
 - Aspect of UMA
 - O UMA is either level (<0.05% slope or has more than one aspect
 N 316 to 45° aspect
 E 46 to 135° aspect
 S 136 to 225° aspect
 W 226 to 315° aspect
- 16 to 24: Minimum, modal, and maximum slope
 - minimum, modal and maximum slope percent of UMA
- 25 to 33: Erosion
 - State type and degree
 - Erosion status of UMA (three types can be recorded)
- 34 to 38: Drainage characteristics within the UMA
 - drainage channels (depth width/depth ratio, spacing and class)
- 39 to 43: Flooding status and characterisation of UMA
 - depth to standing water; frequency duration and depth of inundation and confidence of probability of inundation
- 44 to 45: Complex or Association
 - Soil types within UMA expressed as a complex or association are grouped according to similarity
- 46 to 51: Dominant PPF
 - The dominant principal profile form of soils found within the UMA (Northcote 1979); usually greater than 70% pure
- 52: Soil Colour
 - Common term given to describe soil colour. Based on the dominant colour of the B horizon (Northcote 1979).
 B = Brown
 G = Grey
- 53 to 55: Soil Texture
 - Three letter code for soil texture.
- 56: Soil depth
 - Modal soil depth of UMA
 1 < 30cm
 2 30-60cm
 3 60-90cm
 4 90-120cm
 5 120-150cm
 6 150cm +

- 57: pH
- Modal Soil pH of UMA at 0-10cm depth
- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1 | < 5.5 |
| 2 | 5.5 - 7.5 |
| 3 | 7.5 - 8.5 |
| 4 | > 8.5 |
- 58: Calcareous
- Effervescence of carbonate in fine earth

Appendix III

Soil profile class descriptions

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| Mapping Unit | |
| Rolling Downs | |
| - soil profile class | |
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| Woodlands | |
| - soil profile class | |
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| Channel Benches and Drainage depressions | |
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Soil profile class: RD1

Concept: Moderately deep, (0.6 to 1.2 m) grey to brown cracking medium clay with strongly self-mulching surface; incipient gilgai development on flats with weakly developed linear gilgai on slopes; silcrete stone cover 0 to 10%; minor sandstone outcrops; alkaline soil reaction trend; moderately calcareous

Substrate material: Sandstone of Winton Formation (Kw)

Landform pattern type: Gently undulating plains

Landform element type/s: Lower, mid and upper slopes

Slope: Min 0.5 % Max 3.0 % Modal 2.0 %

Vegetation: Structure: Tussock grassland

Dominant species: *Astrebla squarrosa*, *A. elymoides*, *A. pectinata*, *A. lappacea*, *Iseilema* species, *Aristida* species

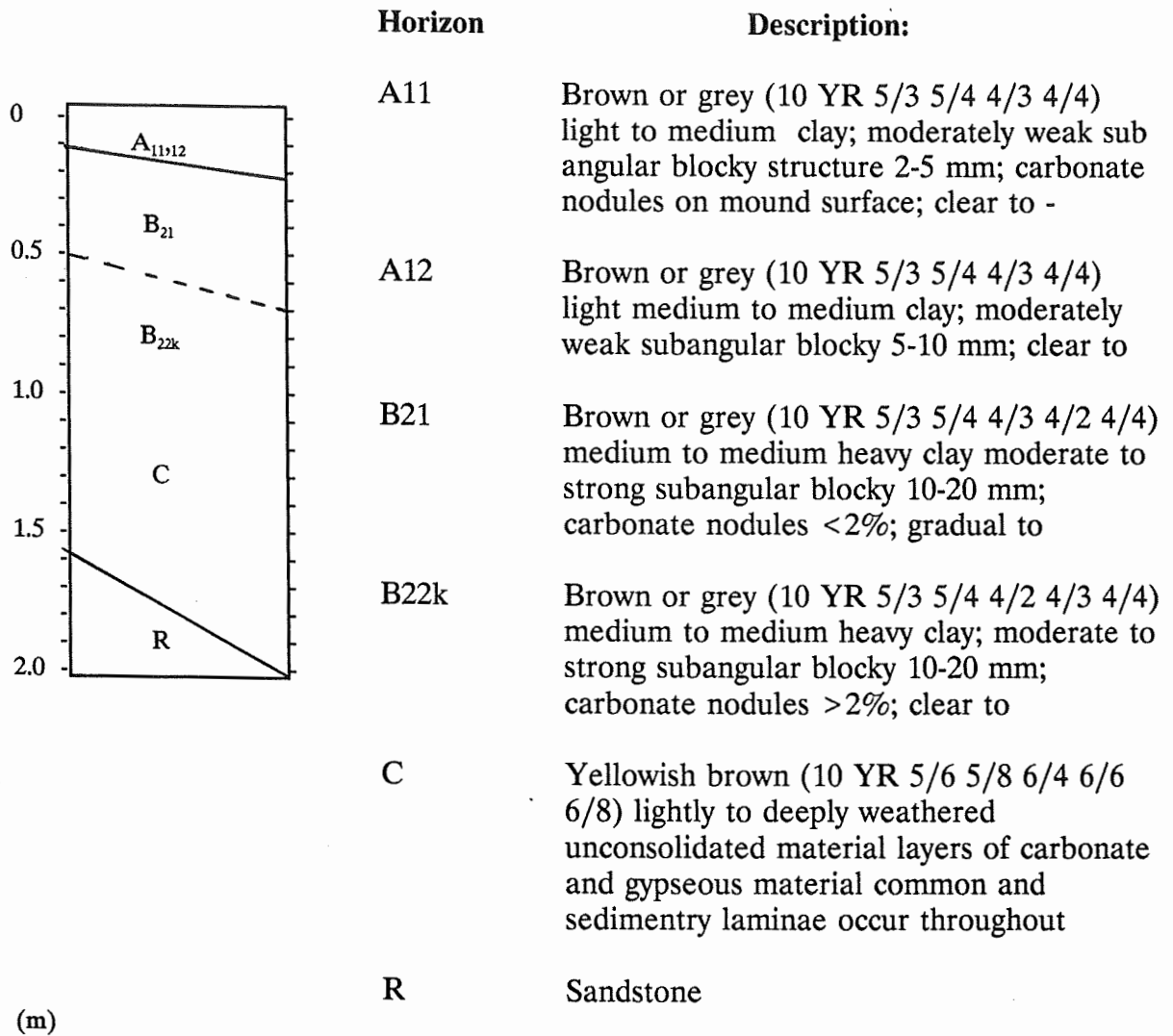
| | | Minimum | Maximum | Modal |
|-------------|--------|---------|---------|-------|
| pH at depth | 0 m | 7.5 | 9.0 | 8.5 |
| | 0.30 m | 8.5 | 9.4 | 8.7 |
| | 0.60 m | 8.5 | 9.3 | 8.7 |
| | 0.90 m | 8.5 | 9.3 | 8.7 |

Principle Profile Form/s: Ug 5.22 Ug 5.32

Surface condition: Strongly self mulching

Microrelief: type: Incipient normal gilgai and linear gilgai

horizontal interval: 5 m vertical interval: 0.1 m



Soil profile class: RD2

Concept: Moderately deep, brown cracking light-medium clays (0.8 to 1.0 m) with incipient cracking gilgai mounds; sink holes and minor scalding; extensive sandstone outcropping; alkaline soil reaction trend; highly calcareous

Substrate material: Sandstone

Landform pattern type: Gently undulating Plains

Landform element type/s: crests and upper slopes

Slope: **Min** 1.0 % **Max** 2.0 % **Modal** 1.5 %

Vegetation: **Structure:** Tussock grasslands

Dominant species: *Astrebla pectinata*, *A. lappacea*, *Aristida latifolia*, *Atalaya hemiglauca*

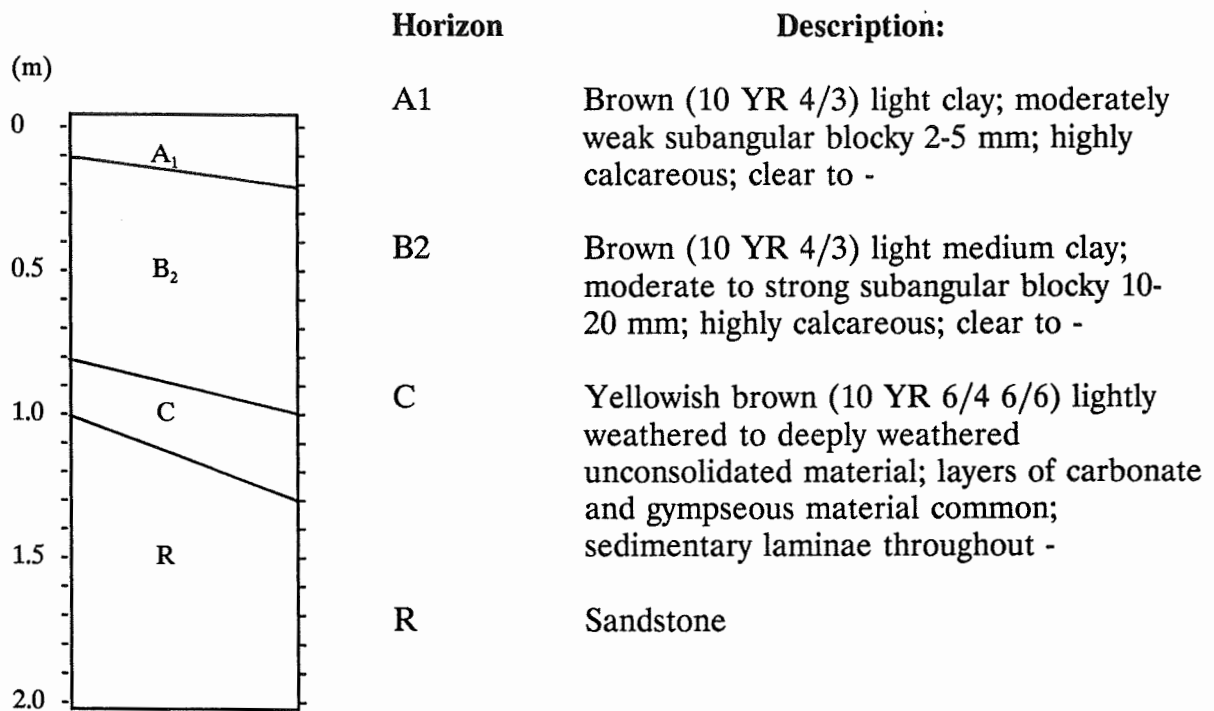
| | | Minimum | Maximum | Modal |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| pH at depth | 0 m | 8.0 | 8.7 | 8.5 |
| | 0.3 m | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.7 |
| | 0.6 m | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.7 |
| | 0.9 m | 8.6 | 8.7 | 8.7 |

Principle Profile Form/s: Ug 5.32

Surface character: Incipient cracking mounds and self mulching surface

Microrelief: type: Incipient normal gilgai

horizontal interval: 5.0 m **vertical interval:** 0.1 m



Soil profile class: RD3

Concept: Moderately deep, brown cracking, medium clay (0.9 to 1.0 m) with strongly self-mulching surface; linear gilgai and sink holes throughout; carbonate segregations in deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend; highly calcareous

Substrate material: Sandstone and Mudstone

Landform pattern type: Gently undulating plain

Landform element type/s: Upper slopes and mid slopes

Slope: Min 2.0 % Max 3.0 % Modal 2.5 %

Vegetation: Structure: Tussock grassland

Dominant species: *Astrebla squarrosa*, *A. elymoides*, *A. pectinata*, *A. lappacea*, *Aristida* species

| | | Minimum | Maximum | Modal |
|-------------|--------|---------|---------|-------|
| pH at depth | 0 m | 8.0 | 8.0 | 8.0 |
| | 0.30 m | 7.5 | 8.6 | 8.1 |
| | 0.60 m | 8.1 | 8.5 | 8.3 |
| | 0.90 m | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.5 |

Principle Profile Form/s: Ug 5.32**Surface character:** Strongly self mulching**Microrelief:** type: Linear gilgai**horizontal interval:** 5 m **vertical interval:** 0.2 m

| | Horizon | Description: |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| (m) 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 | A11 | Brown (10 YR 4/3, 4/4) light medium clay; strongly self mulching; moderately weak subangular blocky 2-5 mm; carbonate nodules on mound surface; clear and smooth to- |
| | A12 | Brown (10 YR (4/3) light medium clay moderately weak subangular blocky 5-10 mm; clear to - |
| | B21 | Brown (10 YR 4/3) medium clay; moderate to strong subangular blocky 10-20 mm; carbonate nodules <1%; gradual to - |
| | B22k | Brown (10 YR 4/3) medium clay moderate to strong subanglar blocky 10-20 mm; carbonate nodules >2%; clear to |
| | C | Yellowish brown (10 YR 6/3 6/8) lightly to deeply weathered unconsolidated material; layers of carbonate and gypsum crystals common |

Soil profile class: RD4

Concept: Deep, brown medium-heavy clay (0.80 to 1.80 m) formed on colluvium with a strongly self-mulching surface; incipient normal gilgai; silcrete stone cover <10%; alkaline soil reaction trend, moderately calcareous

Substrate material: Sandstone

Landform pattern type: Gently undulating plain

Landform element type/s: Lower slopes and flats adjoining stream channels subject to periodic inundation

Slope: **Min** 0.0 % **Max** 1.0 % **Modal** 0.5 %

Vegetation:

Structure: Tussock Grassland

Dominant species: *Astrebla squarrosa*, *A. elymoides*, *A. pectinata*, *A. lappacea*, *Aristida* species

| | | Minimum | Maximum | Modal |
|-------------|--------|---------|---------|-------|
| pH at depth | 0 m | 7.0 | 8.0 | 7.5 |
| | 0.30 m | 8.1 | 8.6 | 8.5 |
| | 0.60 m | 8.5 | 8.7 | 8.5 |
| | 0.90 m | 8.5 | 8.7 | 8.5 |

Principle Profile Form/s: Ug 5.32, Ug 5.34, Ug 5.3

Surface character: Strongly self mulching

Microrelief: type: Weakly defined normal gilgai

horizontal interval: 1.0 m vertical interval: 0.1 m

| Horizon | Description: |
|---------|--|
| A11 | Brown (10 YR 4/4 4/3) light silty clay; moderately weak subangular blocky structure 2-5 mm; clear to - |
| A12 | Brown (10 YR 4/4 4/3) light to medium clay; moderately weak subangular blocky 5-10 mm; clear to - |
| B21 | Brown (10 YR 4/3) medium to heavy clay; subangular blocky 10-20 mm; clear to - |
| B22 | Brown (10 YR 4/4) medium to medium heavy clay; subangular blocky 10-20 mm; carbonate nodules <2%; clear to - |
| 2B3 | Yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) light clay; - |
| 2C | Yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) lightly to deeply weathered unconsolidated material; layers of carbonate and gypseous crystals; sedimentary laminae throughout |
| 2R | Sandstone |

Comments: The 2B3 may be layered alluvium or developed *in situ*

Soil profile class: W1

Concept: Deep, brown, light medium clay (0.70 to 1.80 m) with a fine granular self-mulching surface; gilgai; silcrete stone cover 1 to 10%; localised outcrops of sandstone; manganese and calcium carbonate material in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend; highly calcareous

Substrate material:

Landform pattern type: Gently undulating plains

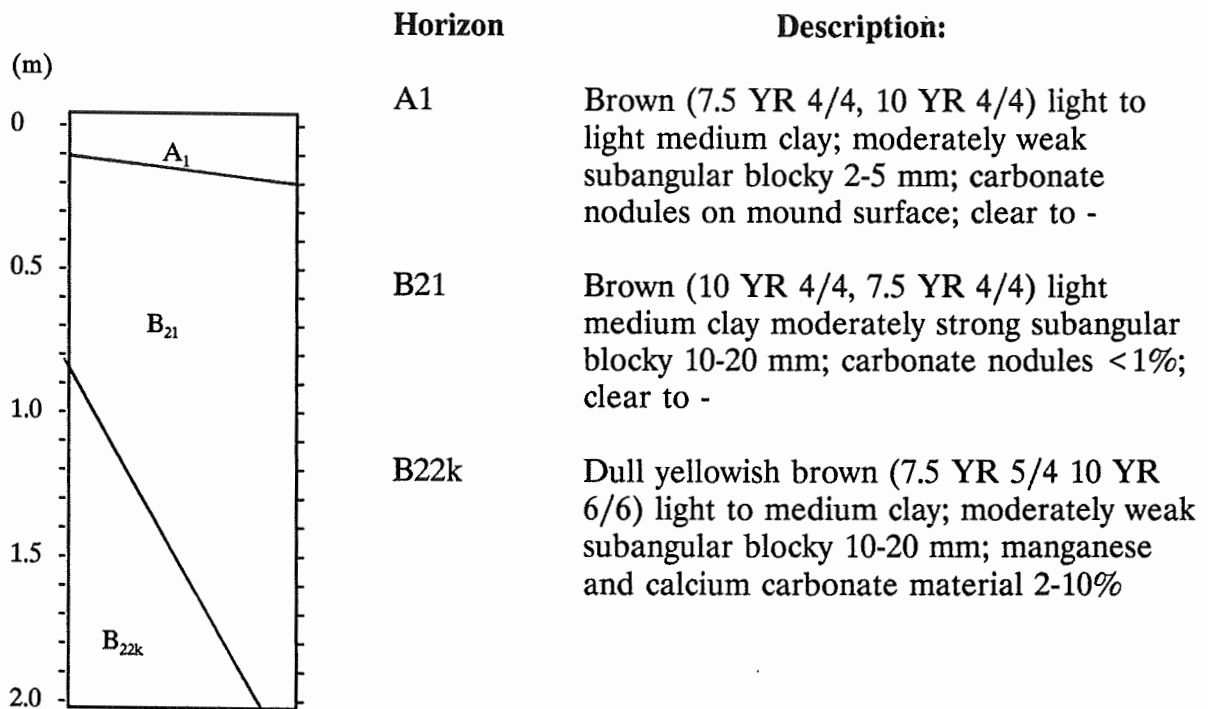
Landform element type/s: Lower, mid and upper slopes

Slope: **Min** 0.5 **%** **Max** 2.0 **%** **Modal** 1.0 %

Vegetation: **Structure:** Open Woodland

Dominant species: *Acacia cana*, *Atalaya hemiglauca*
Acacia farnesiana, *Astrebla* species, *Aristida* species

| | | Minimum | Maximum | Modal |
|-------------|--------|---------|---------|-------|
| pH at depth | 0 m | 7.0 | 7.8 | 7.5 |
| | 0.30 m | 8.6 | 8.7 | 8.6 |
| | 0.60 m | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.6 |
| | 0.90 m | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.6 |

Principle Profile Form/s: Ug 5.34**Surface character:** Self mulching**Microrelief:** type: Normal gilgai**horizontal interval:** 5 m **vertical interval:** 0.1 m

Soil profile class: W2

Concept: Deep, light to medium, grey clay to 1.70 m; weakly self-mulching granular surface; incipient gilgai with carbonate nodules on mound surface; silcrete stone cover <1%; alkaline soil reaction trend; highly calcareous; subject to periodic inundation

Substrate material:

Landform pattern type: Gently undulating plains

Landform element type/s: Lower slopes

Slope: Min 0.5 % Max 1.0 % Modal 0.5 %

Vegetation:

Structure: Open Woodland

Dominant species: *Acacia cana*, *Astrebla* species, *Aristida* species; *Acacia cambagei*

| | | Minimum | Maximum | Modal |
|--------------------|---------------|---------|---------|-------|
| pH at depth | 0 m | 7.0 | 8.8 | 7.8 |
| | 0.30 m | 8.6 | 8.7 | 8.6 |
| | 0.60 m | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.6 |
| | 0.90 m | 8.3 | 8.6 | 8.6 |

Principle Profile Form/s: Ug 5.24**Surface character:** Self-mulching**Microrelief:** type: Normal gilgai**horizontal interval:** 10 m **vertical interval:** 0.2 m

| | Horizon | Description: |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| (m) 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 | A | Dull yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4) light to light medium clay; moderately weak subangular blocky 2-5 mm; carbonate nodules on mound surface; clear to - |
| | B ₂₁ | |
| | B2 | Dull yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4) medium clay; moderately strong subangular blocky 10-20 mm carbonate nodules <1%; clear to - |
| | B _{22k} | |
| | B22k | Dull yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4) medium clay; moderately strong subangular blocky carbonate nodules >2% |
| | B ₃ | Bright yellowish brown (10 YR 6/5) light clay; carbonate and gypseous material throughout |

Soil profile class: W3

Concept: Degraded, deep, brown and grey clay to 1.70 m; crusted to massive surface; minor losses of A horizon, seasonally scalded with pockets of self-mulching surface; incipient gilgai development; moderately calcareous at surface to highly calcareous at depth; carbonate segregations in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend; subject to periodic inundation

Substrate material:

Landform pattern type: Gently undulating plains

Landform element type/s: Lower slopes and flats

Slope **Min** 0.0 **%** **Max** 0.5 **%** **Modal** 0.5 **%**

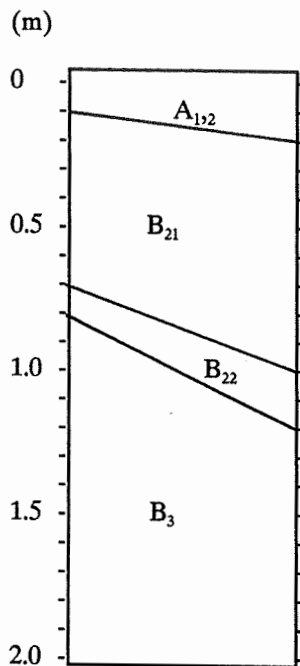
Vegetation: **Structure:** Open Woodland

Dominant species: *Atriplex muelleri*, *Acacia cana*,
Meuhlenbeckia cunninghamii, *Sclerolaena* species

| | | Minimum | Maximum | Modal |
|-------------|--------|---------|---------|-------|
| pH at depth | m | 7.5 | 9.2 | 8.0 |
| | 0.30 m | 8.6 | 8.7 | 8.6 |
| | 0.60 m | 8.5 | 8.7 | 8.6 |
| | 0.90 m | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.5 |

Principle Profile Form/s: Ug 5.24**Surface character:** Seasonally scalded with pockets of self mulching surface**Microrelief:** type: Incipient normal gilgai**horizontal interval:** 10 m **vertical interval:** 0.1 m

| Horizon | Description: |
|---------|--|
| A11 | Brown to yellowish brown (10 YR 4/4 5/4 5/3) seasonally scalded surface in part; some loss of A horizon; weak subangular blocky 2-5 mm; clear to - |
| A12 | Dull yellowish brown light medium clay (10 YR 5/4 5/3); moderately weak subangular blocky 5-10 mm; clear to - |
| B21 | Brown light medium to medium clay (10 YR 4/4); moderately strong subangular blocky structure 10-20 mm; carbonate nodules <1%; clear to - |
| B22 | Dull yellowish brown (10 YR 5/3 4/4) light medium to medium clay moderately strong subangular blocky 10-20 mm; carbonate nodules (>2%); clear to - |
| B3 | Bright yellowish to yellowish brown (10 YR 6/5 5/6); light medium clay carbonate layers common. |



Soil profile class: W4

Concept: Moderately deep, grey, weakly self-mulching light medium clay (0.90 to 1.20 m); moderately calcareous throughout; gypsum in deep subsoil; incipient gilgai; silcrete stone cover 2 to 20%; alkaline soil reaction trend

Substrate material:

Landform element type/s: Hill slopes and hill crests

Landform pattern type: Gently undulating plains

Slope **Min** 1.0 **%** **Max** 3.0 **%** **Modal** 2.0 **%**

Vegetation:

Structure: Open Woodland

Dominant species: *Acacia cana*, *Atalaya hemiglauca*,
Eremophila mitchellii, *Astrebla* species

| | | Minimum | Maximum | Modal |
|--------------------|---------------|---------|---------|-------|
| pH at depth | 0 m | 7.5 | 7.8 | 7.8 |
| | 0.30 m | 8.7 | 8.9 | 8.8 |
| | 0.60 m | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.7 |
| | 0.90 m | 8.6 | 8.7 | 8.6 |

Principle Profile Form/s: Ug 5.22**Surface character:** Weakly self mulching**Microrelief:** type: Incipient normal gilgai**horizontal interval:** 10 m **vertical interval:** 0.1 m

| | Horizon | Description: |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| (m) 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 | A _{1,2} | Dull yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4) light to light medium clay; moderately weak subangular blocky 2-5 mm; clear to - |
| | B ₂ | Dull yellowish brown (10 YR 5/3) light to light medium clay; moderately weak subangular blocky 2-5 mm; clear to - |
| | B | Dull yellowish brown (10 YR 5/3 5/4) medium clay; moderately strong subangular blocky 10-20 mm; carbonate nodules <1%; clear to - |
| | C | Yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6 5/5); lightly to deeply weathered layers of carbonate and gypseous material; sedimentary laminae throughout. |

Soil profile class: W5

Concept: Weakly cracking and non cracking yellowish brown, light-medium clays (0.60 to 1.30 m); weakly granular self mulching surface silcrete stone cover 60 to 80%; carbonate segregations and gypsum crystals in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend; very highly calcareous throughout

Substrate material: Sandstone

Landform pattern type: Gently undulating plains

Landform element type/s: Mid and lower slopes

Slope: Min 0.5 % Max 2.0 % Modal 1.0 %

Vegetation: **Structure:** Woodland

Dominant species: *Acacia cambagei*, *Eremophila mitchellii*

| | | Minimum | Maximum | Modal |
|-------------|--------|---------|---------|-------|
| pH at depth | 0 m | 8.5 | 8.7 | 8.6 |
| | 0.30 m | 8.5 | 8.8 | 8.7 |
| | 0.60 m | 8.6 | 8.8 | 8.7 |
| | 0.90 m | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.6 |

Principle Profile Form/s: Ug 5.32 Uf 6.31

Surface character: Granular self mulching surface with silcrete cover to 80%

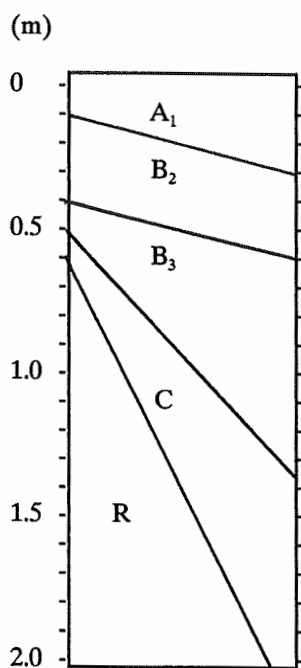
Microrelief: type: absent

horizontal interval:

vertical interval:

| Horizon | Description: |
|---------|---|
| A1 | Brown (7.5 YR 4/4 10 YR 5/4) to yellowish brown light to light medium clay; moderately weak granular structure <2 mm; gradual to - |
| B2 | Brown (7.5 YR 4/4 10 YR 4/4) light to medium clay; carbonate nodules <2%; moderately strong subangular blocky structure 10-20 mm; clear to - |
| B3* | Bright brown (10 YR 5/6) light to medium clay; carbonate nodules and gypsum crystals common; clear to - |
| C | Bright yellowish brown (10 YR 6/6) deeply weathered material; layers of carbonate and gypseous crystals throughout; sedimentary laminae present |
| R | Sandstone |

* where present



Soil profile class: C1

Concept: Moderately shallow to shallow non-cracking brown light clay (0.20 to 0.90 m); very highly calcareous throughout; sandstone outcrops common with silcrete stone cover 1 to 50%; carbonate segregations and gypsum in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend

Substrate material: Sandstone

Landform pattern type: Gently undulating plain

Landform element type/s: Crests, Ridges, Benches

Slope: **Min** 0.5 % **Max** 3.0 % **Modal** 2.0 %

Vegetation: **Structure:** Tussock grassland

Dominant species: *Atalaya hemiglauca*, *Acacia farnesiana*, *Eremophila mitchellii*, *Astrebla* species, *Aristida* species

| | | Minimum | Maximum | Modal |
|-------------|--------|---------|---------|-------|
| pH at depth | 0 m | 8.5 | 9.2 | 9.0 |
| | 0.30 m | 8.5 | 9.2 | 8.7 |
| | 0.60 m | 8.7 | 9.2 | 8.7 |
| | 0.90 m | 8.5 | 9.2 | 8.7 |

Comments: Minor intergrades of cracking clay may occur.

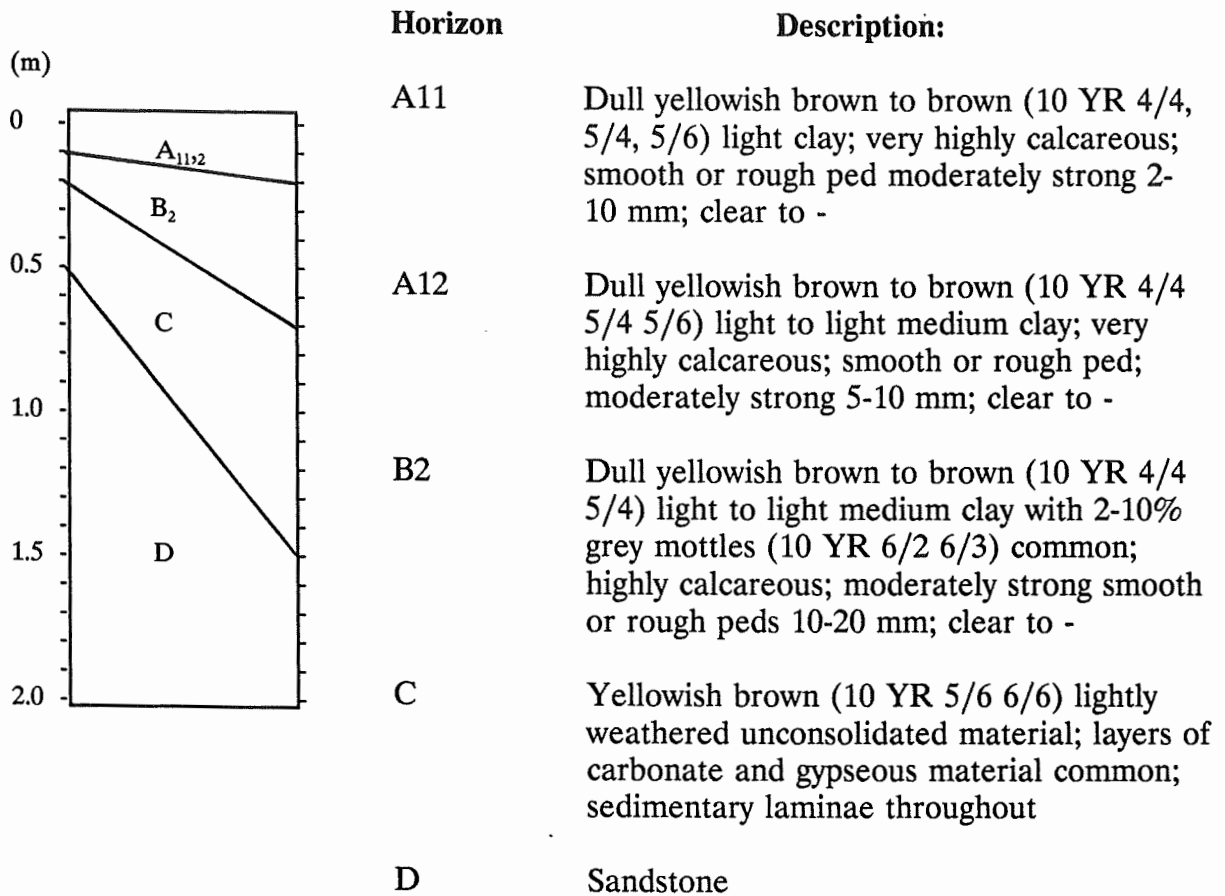
Principle Profile Form/s: Uf 6.31, Uf 6.12, Uf 6.33, Uf 6.34

Surface character: Firm to hard setting

Microrelief: type:

horizontal interval:

vertical interval:



Soil profile class: M1

Concept: Brown, light medium clay (0.40 to 0.70 m) extensively scalded with saline, crusted or massive surface; silcrete stone cover 5 to 80%; A horizon eroded; moderately calcareous; alkaline soil reaction trend; gypsum common in deep subsoil

Substrate material:

Landform element type/s: Mid and lower slopes

Landform pattern type: Gently undulating plains - scalds

Slope: **Min** 0.5 % **Max** 2.0 % **Modal** 0.8 %

Vegetation: **Structure:** No perennial vegetation

Dominant species: Nil

| | | Minimum | Maximum | Modal |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| pH at depth | 0 m | 6.5 | 8.5 | 7.0 |
| | 0.30 m | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.5 |
| | 0.60 m | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.5 |
| | 0.90 m | 8.0 | 8.0 | 8.0 |

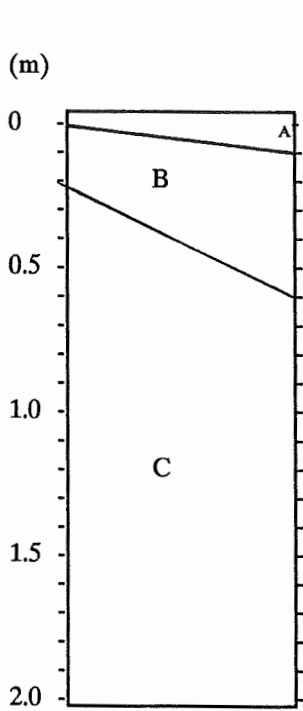
Principle Profile Form/s: Uf 6.31, Uf 6.34

Surface character: Saline surface crust

Microrelief: type:

horizontal interval:

vertical interval:



Horizon

Description:

A

Dull yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4 5/5) light to light medium clay; salt puffs common on surface; surface bleach (10 YR 8/3); moderately calcareous; moderately strong subangular blocky 5-10 mm; clear to -

B

Dull yellowish brown to brown (10 YR 4/4 5/5) light medium clay; carbonate nodules and gypseous crystals throughout; subangular blocky 10-20 mm; clear to -

C

Bright yellowish brown (10 YR 6/6); deeply weathered unconsolidated material; carbonate and gypseous material common; sedimentary laminae throughout

Comments: Some loss of A horizon evident.

Soil profile class: S1

Concept: Deep to very deep, cracking to non cracking, silty, light, to light medium brown and grey clays (0.80 to 1.80 m) and texture contrast soil; extensive seasonal scalding and minor gilgai; seasonally flooded; slopes >1% development; carbonate segregations and gypsum in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend

Substrate material: Sandstone/Mudstone

Landform pattern type: Alluvial plains

Landform element type/s: Channel benches, backplains and braided drainage depressions

Slope: **Min** 0.1 % **Max** 0.5 % **Modal** 0.5 %

Vegetation:

Structure: Open Woodland

Dominant species: *Eucalyptus microtheca*, *E. camaldulensis*, *Atriplex* and *Scleroleana* species

| | | Minimum | Maximum | Modal |
|-------------|--------|---------|---------|-------|
| pH at depth | 0 m | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| | 0.30 m | 8.0 | 9.0 | 8.5 |
| | 0.60 m | 8.5 | 9.1 | 8.5 |
| | 0.90 m | 8.5 | 8.7 | 8.5 |

Principle Profile Form/s: Dy 4.13, Ug 5.24, Ug 5.34, Ug 5.22, Ug 5.32, Uf 6.31, Uf 6.33, Uf 6.34

Surface character: Seasonally scalded on channel benches and backplains and self mulching in relict stream channels.

Microrelief: type:

horizontal interval: vertical interval:

| (m) | Horizon | Description: |
|-----|--------------------|---|
| 0 | A _{11,12} | |
| 0.5 | B ₁ | A11 Dull yellowish brown to brown (10 YR 5/4 4/4) silty or sandy loam to light medium clay; moderately weak granular or subangular blocky 2-5 mm; gradual to - |
| 1.0 | B ₂ | A12 Dull yellowish brown to brown (10 YR and 7.5 YR 4/4 5/3) light to light medium clay; moderately weak subangular blocky structure 2-5 mm; clear to - |
| 1.5 | B1* | B1* Greyish yellow brown to dull yellowish brown (10 YR 4/2 4/4 7.5 YR 4/4) light to light medium clay; moderately strong subangular blocky structure 10-20 mm; gradual to - |
| 2.0 | B2 | B2 Greyish yellow brown to dull yellowish brown (10 YR 4/2 4/4 7.5 YR 4/4) light to light medium clay; moderately strong subangular blocky or lenticular structure; ferromagnesian nodules common; clear to - |
| | C | C Bright yellowish brown (10 YR 6/6); deeply weathered unconsolidated material; carbonate and gypseous material common; sedimentary laminae throughout. |

* where present

Soil profile class: S2

Concept: Moderately deep, brown and grey light medium to medium cracking clay 1.0 to 1.4 m with self-mulching surface; minor seasonal scalding, silcrete stone cover 1 to 10%; moderately calcareous throughout; carbonate segregations and gypsum in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend

Substrate material: Sandstone

Landform element type/s: Drainage depressions; seasonally flooded

Landform pattern type: Gently undulating plains

Slope: Min 1.0 % Max 2.0 % Modal 2.0 %

Vegetation: **Structure:** Tussock grassland

Dominant species: *Acacia cana*, *Eucalyptus microtheca*,
Acacia farnesiana, *Astrebla* species

| | | Minimum | Maximum | Modal |
|-------------|--------|---------|---------|-------|
| pH at depth | 0 m | 7.5 | 8.5 | 7.6 |
| | 0.30 m | 8.6 | 8.9 | 8.6 |
| | 0.60 m | 8.5 | 8.7 | 8.6 |
| | 0.90 m | 8.2 | 8.7 | 8.6 |

**Rosebank Research Station
Land Resource Survey
Reference**

| Mapping Unit | Landscape unit | Landform element | Vegetation | Attributes of dominant soils | Dominant Principal Profile Forms |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Rolling Downs | | | | | |
| RD ₁ | Gently undulating plains | Lower, mid and upper slopes; slopes < 3% | Mitchell grass open tussock grassland | Moderately deep, grey/brown cracking medium clays (0.60 to 1.2 m) with strongly self mulching surfaces; incipient gilgai development on flats with weakly developed linear gilgai on slopes; silcrete stone cover 0 to 10%; minor sandstone outcrops; alkaline soil reaction trend; moderately calcareous throughout | Ug 5.32 |
| RD ₂ | Gently undulating plains | Upper slopes and crests; slopes 1-2% | Mitchell grass open tussock grassland | Moderately deep, brown cracking light-medium clays (0.80 to 1.0 m) with incipient cracking on gilgai mounds; sink holes and minor scalding; extensive sandstone outcropping; alkaline soil reaction trend; highly calcareous throughout | Ug 5.32 |
| RD ₃ | Gently undulating plains | Mid to upper slopes; slopes 2-3% | Mitchell grass open tussock grassland | Moderately deep, brown cracking, medium clays (0.90 to 1.0 m) with strongly self-mulching surfaces; linear gilgai and sink holes throughout; highly calcareous throughout with carbonate segregations in deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend | Ug 5.32 |

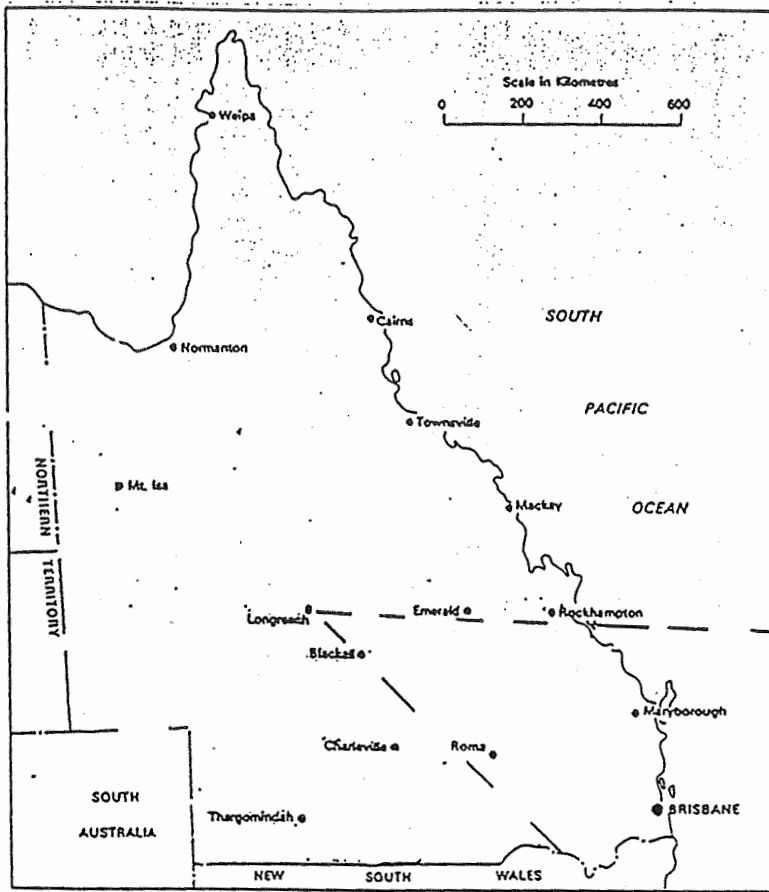
| Mapping Unit | Landscape unit | Landform element | Vegetation | Attributes of dominant soils | Dominant Principal Profile Forms |
|------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| RD ₄ | Gently undulating plains | Lower slopes and flats adjoining stream channels; slopes <1%; subject to periodic inundation | Mitchell grass open tussock grassland | Deep, brown cracking medium-heavy clays (0.80 to 1.80 m) formed on colluvium with strongly self-mulching surfaces; incipient normal gilgai; silcrete stone cover <10%; alkaline soil reaction trend, moderately calcareous | Ug 5.34 |
| Woodlands | | | | | |
| W ₁ | Gently undulating plains | Lower, mid and upper slopes; slopes <2% | Open woodland of boree, whitewood, mimosa and false sandalwood | Deep, brown, light medium clay (0.70 to 1.80 m) with a fine granular self-mulching surface; gilgai; silcrete stone cover 1 to 10%; localised outcrops of sandstone; manganese and calcium carbonate segregations in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend; highly calcareous throughout | Ug 5.34 |
| W ₂ | Gently undulating plains | Lower slopes; subject to periodic inundation; | Open woodland of boree, gidgee, with Mitchell grass and saltbush | Deep, light to medium, grey clay to 1.70 m; granular weakly self-mulching surface; incipient gilgai with carbonate nodules on mound surface; silcrete stone cover <1%; alkaline soil reaction trend; highly calcareous | Ug 5.24 |
| W ₃ | Gently undulating plains | Lower slopes; subject to periodic inundation; | Open woodland of boree, saltbush, lignum | Deep, brown and grey clays to 1.70 m; crusted to massive surface; evidence of soil loss, seasonally scalded with pockets of self-mulching surfaces; incipient gilgai development; moderately calcareous at surface to highly calcareous at depth; carbonate segregations in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend | Ug 5.24 |

| Mapping Unit | Landscape unit | Landform element | Vegetation | Attributes of dominant soils | Dominant Principal Profile Forms |
|----------------|--------------------------|---|---|---|----------------------------------|
| W ₄ | Gently undulating plains | Hill slopes and hill crests; slopes <3% | Open woodland of boree, whitewood, false sandalwood | Moderately deep, grey, light medium clay (0.90 to 1.20 m); weakly self-mulching; incipient gilgai; gypsum in deep subsoil; silcrete stone cover 2 to 20%; alkaline soil reaction trend; moderately calcareous throughout | Ug 5.22 |
| W ₅ | Gently undulating plains | Mid and lower slopes; slopes <2% | Tall scrubland to low woodland of gidgee and false sandalwood | Weakly cracking to non cracking yellowish brown, light-medium clay (0.60 to 1.30 m); weakly granular surface; silcrete stone cover 60 to 80%; carbonate segregations and gypsum crystals in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend; very highly calcareous throughout | Uf 6.31 |

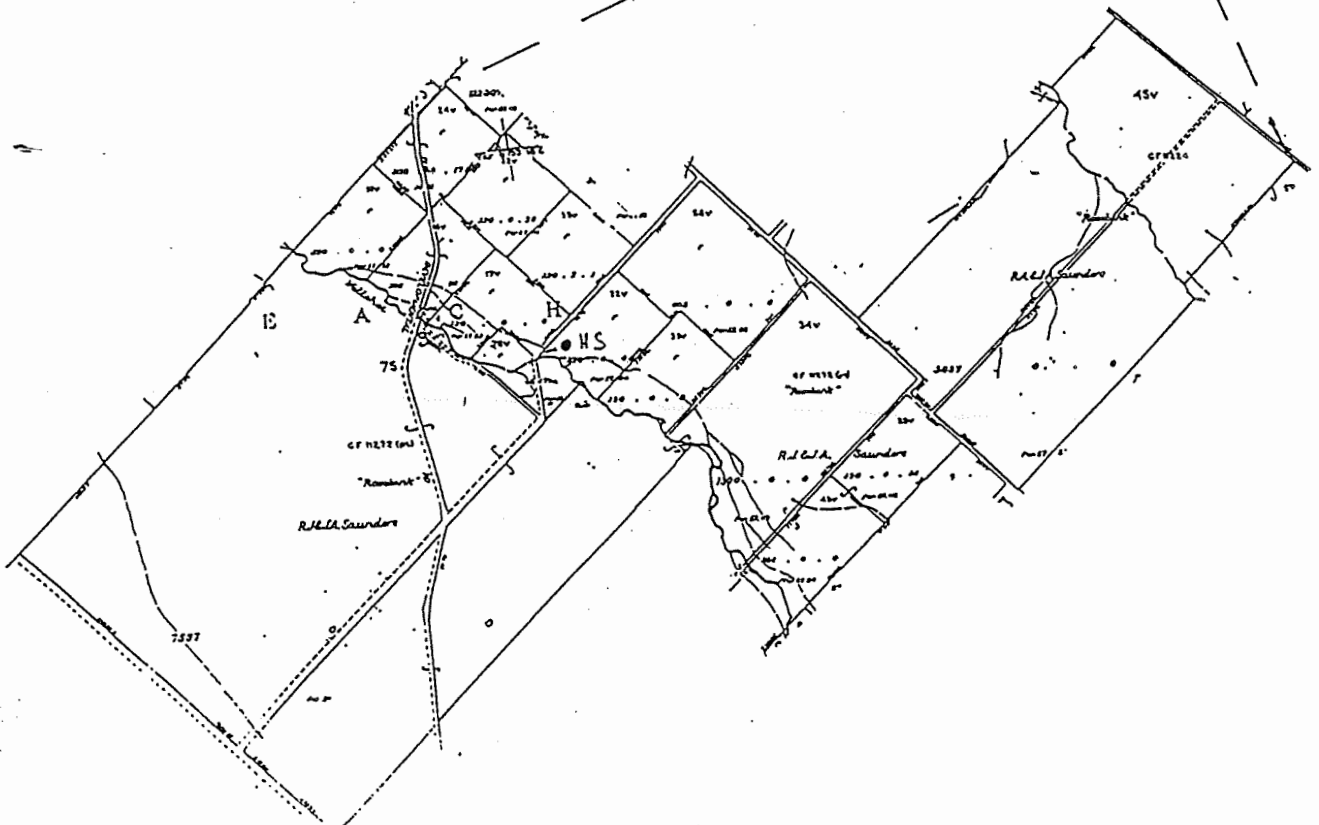
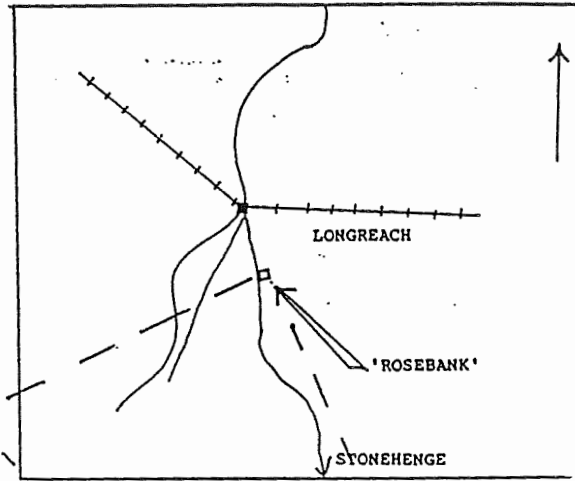
| Mapping Unit | Landscape unit | Landform element | Vegetation | Attributes of dominant soils | Dominant Principal Profile Forms |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Crests, Ridges and Benches | | | | | |
| C ₁ | Gently undulating plains - woodlands | Benches, crests and ridges; slopes <3% | Open woodland of whitewood, mimosa and false sandalwood | Moderately shallow to shallow, non cracking brown light clays (0.20 to 0.90 m); sandstone outcrops common with silcrete stone cover 1 to 50%; minor intergrades of cracking clays; carbonate segregations and gypsum in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend; very highly calcareous throughout | Uf 6.31 |
| Scalds | | | | | |
| M ₁ | Gently undulating plains - scalds | Mid and lower slopes; slopes <2% | No perennial vegetation | Brown, light medium clays (0.40 to 0.70 m) extensively scalded with saline, crusted or massive surfaces; silcrete stone cover 5 to 80%; A horizon eroded; moderately calcareous; alkaline soil reaction trend; gypsum common in deep subsoil | Uf 6.31 |

| Mapping Unit | Landscape unit | Landform element | Vegetation | Attributes of dominant soils | Dominant Principal Profile Forms |
|---|-----------------|---|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Channel Benches and Drainage Depressions | | | | | |
| S ₁ | Alluvial plains | Channel benches, back plains and braided drainage depressions; seasonally flooded; slopes <1% development | Open woodland of coolibah, river red gums and bauhinia | Deep to very deep, complex or cracking and non cracking, silty, light, to light medium brown and grey clays (0.80 to 1.80 m) minor texture contrast soils; extensive seasonal scalding and minor gilgai; carbonate segregations and gypsum in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend | Uf 6.31 |
| S ₂ | Alluvial plain | Drainage depressions; seasonally flooded; slopes 1 to 2% | Mitchell grass open tussock grassland to open woodland of boree, coolibah and mimosa | Moderately deep, brown and grey light medium to medium cracking clay 1.0 to 1.40 m with self-mulching surface; minor seasonal scalding; silcrete stone cover 1 to 10% moderately calcareous throughout; carbonate segregations and gypsum in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reactions trend | Ug 5.34 |

Figure 1. Locality map Rosebank Research Station



*Fig 10 with
Charlie Ellis
"ART FORM"*



Rosebank Research Station

Land Resource Survey

Reference

| Code | Landscape unit | Landform element | Vegetation | Attributes of dominant soils | Dominant Principal Profile Forms |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Rolling Downs | | | | | |
| RD ₁ | Gently undulating plains - grasslands | Lower, mid and upper slopes; slopes < 3% | Mitchell grass open tussock grassland | Moderately deep, grey/brown cracking medium clays (60 to 120 cm) with strongly self mulching surfaces; incipient gilgai development on flats with weakly developed linear gilgais on slopes; silcrete stone cover 0 to 10%; minor sandstone outcrops; alkaline soil reaction trend; moderately calcareous | Ug 5.32 |
| RD ₂ | Gently undulating plains - grasslands | Upper slopes and crests; slopes 1-2% | Mitchell grass open tussock grassland | Moderately deep, brown cracking light-medium clays (80 to 100 cm) with incipient cracking on gilgai mounds; sink holes and minor scalding; extensive sandstone outcropping; alkaline soil reaction trend; highly calcareous | Ug 5.32 |
| RD ₃ | Gently undulating plains - grasslands | Mid to upper slopes; slopes 2-3% | Mitchell grass open tussock grassland | Moderately deep, brown cracking, medium clays (90 to 100 cm) with strongly self-mulching surfaces; linear gilgai and sink holes throughout; carbonate segregations in deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend; highly calcareous | Ug 5.32 |
| RD ₄ | Gently undulating plains - grasslands | Lower slopes and flats adjoining stream channels; slopes < 1%; subject to periodic inundation | Mitchell grass open tussock grassland | Deep, colluvial brown cracking medium-heavy clays (80 to 180 cm) with strongly self-mulching surfaces; incipient normal gilgai; silcrete stone cover < 10%; alkaline soil reaction trend, moderately calcareous | Ug 5.34 |

Woodlands

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|---------|
| W ₁ | Gently undulating plains - woodlands | Lower, mid and upper slopes; slopes < 2% | Open woodland of boree, whitewood, mimosa and false sandalwood | Deep, brown, light medium clay (70 to 180 cm) with a fine granular self-mulching surface; gilgais; silcrete stone cover 1 to 10%; localised outcrops of sandstone; manganese and carbonaceous material in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend; highly calcareous | Ug 5.34 |
| W ₂ | Gently undulating plains - woodlands | Lower slopes; subject to periodic inundation; | Open woodland of boree, gidgee, Mitchell grass, saltbush | Deep, light to medium, grey clay to 170 cm; granular weakly self-mulching surface; incipient gilgai with carbonate nodules on mound surface; silcrete stone cover < 1%; alkaline soil reaction trend; highly calcareous | Ug 5.24 |
| W ₃ | Gently undulating plains - woodlands | Lower slopes; subject to periodic inundation; | Open woodland of boree, saltbush, lignum | Degraded, deep, brown and grey clays to 170 cm; crusted to massive surface; seasonally scalded with pockets of self-mulching surfaces; incipient gilgai development; moderately calcareous at surface to highly calcareous at depth; carbonate segregations in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend | Ug 5.24 |
| W ₄ | Gently undulating plains - woodlands | Hill slopes and hill crests; slopes < 3% | Open woodland of boree, whitewood, false sandalwood | Moderately deep, grey, weakly self-mulching light medium clay (90 to 120 cm); moderately calcareous throughout; gypsum in deep subsoil; incipient gilgai; silcrete stone cover 2 to 20%; alkaline soil reaction trend | Ug 5.22 |
| W ₅ | Gently undulating plains - woodlands | Mid and lower slopes; slopes < 2% | Tall shrubland to low woodland of gidgee and false sandalwood | Weakly cracking to non cracking yellowish brown, light-medium clay (60 to 130 cm); weakly granular surface; silcrete stone cover 60 to 80%; carbonate segregations and gypsum crystals in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend; very highly calcareous throughout | Uf 6.31 |

Crests, Ridges and Benches

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|---------|
| C ₁ | Gently undulating plains - woodlands | Benches, crests and ridges; slopes < 3% | Open woodland of whitewood, mimosa and false sandalwood | Moderately shallow to shallow, non cracking brown light clays (20 to 90 cm); very highly calcareous throughout; sandstone outcrops common with silcrete stone cover 1 to 50%; minor intergrades of cracking clays; carbonate segregations and gypsum in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reaction trend | Uf 6.31 |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|---------|

Scalds

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|---------|
| M ₁ | Gently undulating plains - scalds | Mid and lower slopes; slopes < 2% | No perennial vegetation | Brown, light medium clays (40 to 70 cm) extensively scalded with saline, crusted or massive surfaces; silcrete stone cover 5 to 80%; A horizon eroded; moderately calcareous; alkaline soil reaction trend; gypsum common in deep subsoil | Uf 6.31 |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|---------|

Channel Benches and Drainage Depressions

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--|--|--|---------|
| S ₁ | Alluvial plains | Channel benches backplains and braided drainage depressions; | Open woodland of coolibah, river red gums, bauhinia, | Deep to very deep, complex or cracking and non cracking, silty, light, to light medium brown and grey clays (80 to >108 cm) minor texture contrast soils; extensive seasonal scalding and minor gilgai flooded; slopes >1% development; carbonate segregations and gypsum in the deep subsoil; alkline soil reaction trend | Uf 6.31 |
|----------------|-----------------|--|--|--|---------|

| | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--|---|---|---------|
| S ₁ | Alluvial plain | Drainage depressions; seasonally flooded; slopes 1 to 2% | Mitchell grass open tussock grassland to open woodland of boree, coolibah, mimosa | Moderately deep, brown and grey light medium to medium cracking clay 100 to 140 cm with self-mulching surfaces; minor seasonal scalding; silcrete stone cover 1 to 10% moderately calcareous throughout; carbonate segregations and gypsum in the deep subsoil; alkaline soil reactions trend | UG 5.34 |
|----------------|----------------|--|---|---|---------|