

Granite hills with New England blackbutt and stringybark



Landform

Deeply dissected mountains to undulating hills and ridges. Granite tors are common.

Areas of granite hills occur in the eastern edge of the region around Eukey, Severnlea and Pozieres.

Woody vegetation

Tall, open forest or woodland of New England blackbutt, broad-leaved stringybark, tumbledown gum, Caley's ironbark, Youman's stringybark, yellow box, black cypress pine, dogwood. Often associated with mixed species of shrubs (predominately acacias and banksias).

Expected pasture composition

** Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species*

Preferred

Wallaby grass, pitted bluegrass, kangaroo grass, paspalum*, weeping grass.

Intermediate

Barbwire grass, corkscrew grass, plume grass, forest hedgehog grass.

Non-preferred

Wiregrasses (purple and dark), weeping lovegrass, blady grass.

Legumes

Glycine, *Desmodium*.

Common forbs

Bracken fern (non-preferred).

Suitable sown pastures

Digit grass, Brunswick grass, tall fescue, annual ryegrass.
White clover, sub clover, serradella (on deeper sands).

Introduced weeds

Blackberry, African lovegrass, cosmos weed, whisky grass.

Soil

Shallow, loamy sands and gritty sands (tenosols).

Description

Surface: Variable, loose to firm; **Surface texture:** loamy coarse sand; **Subsoil texture:** clayey coarse sand with quartz gravel.

Water availability

Very low, PAWC 25–50 mm; depth to hardpan or rock usually 25–50 cm.

Fertility

Low; low organic C, N, P and medium K and Zn.

Salinity

Non-saline

Sodicity

Non-sodic

pH

Slightly acid surface, medium acid subsoil.

Utilisation

20%

Enterprise

Beef and sheep breeding (and wool production).

Land use and management recommendations

- Grazing of native pasture on some areas depending on slope.
- Suitable for nature conservation / bee keeping.
- Small areas of low slope may be suitable for sown pasture.
- Dense shelter belts needed in winter for livestock.
- Manage grazing pressure to maximise ground cover and minimise soil loss.
- Spelling of pastures to maintain cover, pasture vigour and to limit undesirable species.

Land use limitations

- Erosion risk (due to steep slopes).
- Stoniness/ rockiness; waterlogging may occur due to hardpans or rock.
- Shallow effective rooting depth and very low water holding capacity.
- Infertility.

Conservation features and related management

- Habitat for a number of rare and threatened flora species including *Boronia granitica*, *B. repanda*, *B. amabilis*, *Callitris monticola*, *Grevillea scortechinii*, *Hibbertia elata*, *Caladenia atroclavia*, *Pultenaea stuartina*, *Persoonia daphnoides*, *Phebalium whitei*, *P. rotundifolium*, *Thelionema grande* and *Huperzia varia*.
- Remaining areas of this land type should be retained to establish connection with other areas of remnant vegetation and provide wildlife corridors.

Regional Ecosystems

13.12.1, 13.12.10, 13.12.11, 13.12.3, 13.12.4, 13.12.5, 13.12.6, 13.12.6a, 3.9.2.

Land Resource Areas; Land types; Soil associations

Land types (Maher 1996) 4 Rolling granite mountains, 5 Granite hills, 6 Undulating low granite hills.

