



LAND UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

SLOPES

3.2 Scarp faces along the margins of Unit 3.1, particularly in association with mesa topography, characterized by very steep slopes and relief up to about 70m. Shallow, stony lithosols (Rudossols), with some areas of sandstone outcrop. *Eucalyptus thozetiana* or *Eucalyptus socialis* open woodland with a *Tridax longipes* open hummock grassland understorey.

3.3 Dissected scarp faces with variable slopes and relief up to 30m, draining into narrow channels that feed small alluvial tracks usually about 500m in length. The scarp faces are comprised of bare, white sandstone outcrop, with only small pockets of soils (Rudossols). *Acacia vesicaria* sparse chenopod shrubland with *Enneaeopogon polyphyllus*, *Fimbristylis dichotoma* and *Chloris scarioria* mixed grasses occur on alluvial tracks. Isolated trees of *Eucalyptus thozetiana* are often present on the scarp faces.

4.2 Scarp faces fringing platform or mesa surfaces with moderate slopes and relief up to 15m. White calcareous marl (Calcarosols), usually with stony surfaces. *Enneaeopogon avenaceus* sparse grassland with isolated clumps of *Eucalyptus socialis*, and scattered *Acacia tetragynophylla* and *Santalum lanceolatum*.

MOUNTAINS

1.1 Mountain ridges with bold relief, very steep slopes and conspicuous bedding, drained by narrow, widely-spaced channels. Also includes some areas of lower relief without prominent bedding northwest of Georgina Gap. Mainly absent, with pockets of shallow lithosols (Rudossols) amongst rock outcrop. *Tridax basodesis* sparse hummock grassland with scattered *Acacia* spp. and *Grevillea wickhamii* low shrubs. *Eucalyptus gamophylla* occurs on areas with moderate slopes.

HILLS

1.2 Rocky, steep-sided hills with narrow-crested ridges, drained by widely-spaced deep and narrow valleys. Shallow lithosols (Rudossols) with some areas of rock outcrop. *Acacia anura* and *Acacia kempeana* sparse shrubland with a mainly *Enneaeopogon polyphyllus*. *Themeda triandra* and *Eriachne mucronata* grass understorey.

LOW HILLS

1.3 Hills with low relief, moderate slopes and rounded crests, drained by a close network of narrow drainage lines. Shallow lithosols (Rudossols) amongst rock outcrop. *Acacia anura* and *Acacia kempeana* open shrubland with mixed annual grasses, including *Enneaeopogon polyphyllus*, *Enneaeopogon avenaceus* and *Aristida contorta*.

1.4 Stony hills with low relief and gentle slopes (less than 10%), drained by a widely-spaced network of depressions tributary to the main creek channels. Predominately medium-textured, gravelly, dark reddish brown and usually slightly alkaline and calcareous lithosols (Rudossols). *Acacia anura* and *Acacia kempeana* sparse open woodland (to isolated trees) with an understorey of mainly *Enneaeopogon polyphyllus*, *Enneaeopogon avenaceus* and *Aristida contorta* grasses.

LOW RISES

3.4 Terrace residuals, including gently sloping terrace surfaces fringed by steep scarps, and low rises with smooth rounded crests. Virtually absent. Surfaces are comprised of ironstone gravel and cobbles (Rudossols). Largely bare and devoid of vegetation with minor areas of sparse annual grasses. Isolated *Acacia anura* (often dead), *Eucalyptus thozetiana* and *Eremophila freelingii* occur on small sandstone outcrops.

5.3 Breakaway areas and residuals where the terrace surface has been dissected. These landforms feature low relief and gentle slopes (2-5%), and are drained by an open network of broad depressions. Bare stony surfaces with a mantle of white quartzite gravel predominate. Soil profiles consist of light calcareous brown clay horizons grading to a calcareous yellowish brown medium clay or sandy clay at 0.5m (Calcarosols). *Maireana aphylla* sparse chenopod shrubland in association with annual grasses, mainly *Enneaeopogon polyphyllus*.

5.4 Breakaway areas and residuals where the terrace surface has been dissected, featuring low relief and gentle slopes (2-5%). Shallow, gravelly reddish brown sandy loam horizon containing fine quartzite gravel grading to a yellowish to reddish brown medium clay at 0.4m (Red Kandosols). Carbonate nodules are occasionally present at this depth. *Acacia anura* open woodland over annual grasses, mainly *Enneaeopogon polyphyllus*. Dense *Acacia anura* with *Entropogon acicularis* and *Bothriochloa ewartiana* in drainage depressions.

PLAINS

2.1 Very gently-sloping pediment surfaces, with some small areas of bare rock or ironstone gravel. These plains drain by sheet flow into (Red Kandosols), consisting of gritty, dark reddish brown sandy clay loams at the surface, grading to slightly calcareous, red light clays at about 0.5m. They are slightly alkaline throughout the profile, with carbonate nodules at depth. *Acacia anura* or *Haakea eyreana* sparse (to isolated) shrubland with an open grassland of *Enneaeopogon polyphyllus*, *Enneaeopogon avenaceus* and *Aristida contorta*.

2.2 Broad tributary drainage floors with little surface relief, featuring shallow watercourse channels on their lower reaches. Sandy to medium clay soils (Chromosols) are present throughout the unit. Most areas have been severely scalded and gullied. Erosion has exposed a red saline light clay or sandy clay, usually alkaline and slightly calcareous at depth. Largely bare and devoid of vegetation in its present eroded and saline condition. *Chloris scarioria*, *Sclerolaela* spp. and annual grasses occur on the remaining islands of topsoil, with *Aristida bogotana* colonizing sandy deposits along watercourses.

2.3 Terminal drainage floors (downslope of Unit 2.2) with very low relief and slopes of less than 1%, drained by narrow well defined creek channels. Saline and moderately alkaline texture-contrast soils (Sodosols), dark reddish brown in colour. The profile consists of a sandy clay loam surface horizon 0.2m thick overlying a pedal silt clay or light clay. *Anglex nummularia* shrubland with mainly *Enneaeopogon polyphyllus* and *Entropogon acicularis* grasses in the understorey.

3.1 Terrace surfaces with low relief and very gentle slopes (1% or less), featuring an open network of narrow tributary drainage depressions (gravelly earths (Red Kandosols), with textures grading from a sandy clay loam at the surface to a light clay at about 0.5m. Profiles are neutral or slightly acid throughout. *Acacia anura* open shrubland with occasional *Acacia kempeana* and *Eremophila freelingii* over a *Aristida biglandulosa*, *Enneaeopogon polyphyllus* and *Digitaria coenocia* grass understorey.

3.5 Broad valley floors with gentle slopes and low relief, with a closely-spaced drainage network of deep, narrow watercourses. A pavement of quartzite or sandstone cobbles overlying a white kaolinitic saprolite (Rudossols). *Eucalyptus thozetiana* sparse open woodland (to isolated trees) with *Acacia vesicaria* and *Eremophila freelingii* low open to sparse shrubland understorey with *Enneaeopogon* spp. and *Sclerolaela* spp. grasses and forbs.

4.1 Level, with very low relief residual terrace surfaces, either as low platforms merging with adjacent landforms, or mesa tops where isolated by geologic erosion. Shallow calcareous (Calcarosols) and yellowish red light to medium clay horizon, sandy clay loam in texture and highly alkaline, overlying calcare. *Acacia kempeana* open shrubland with an occasional solitary *Eucalyptus terminalis* or *Grevillea striata* trees, over *Enneaeopogon avenaceus*, *Enneaeopogon cylindricus* grasses and sparse herbage.

4.3 Pediplain surfaces (erosional surfaces formed by scarp retreat), partly mantled by Quaternary colluvium, comprising gently sloping plains with low relief. Stony, highly calcareous (Calcarosols) and alkaline brown sandy clay loam at the surface to medium clay at 0.5m occur between the gully depressions, and yellowish red light to medium clay, occupy the gully depressions. *Enneaeopogon avenaceus* and *Enneaeopogon cylindricus* tussock grassland, with *Eragrostis setifolia* and *Astrida lappacea* within the gully depressions. Sparse *Acacia victoriae* or *Haakea leucopetra* is present on some downslope areas.

4.4 Broad, flat-floored drainage tracks with very gentle fall (approx. 1%). Narrow meandering watercourse channels have developed where the drainage is constricted by adjacent landforms. Slightly calcareous or non-calcareous pillaged cracking clays (Vertosols), consisting of dark brown light clay at the surface, grading to reddish brown medium clay at about 0.5m. They are alkaline throughout. *Astrida lappacea* tussock grassland with scattered *Astrida pectinata* and *Dicanthum sericeum*. *Eragrostis setifolia* is present on poorly drained areas, together with sparse *Sclerolaela bicoloris*, *Dioscorea paradoxa* and isolated *Acacia victoriae*.

5.1 Colluvial terrace surfaces, comprising plains with very gentle slopes (approx. 1%) and low relief, drained by widely-spaced, narrow linear channels. Stony, red, non-calcareous (Red Kandosols) sandy clay loam at the surface to a light clay at about 0.6m. *Sclerolaela* spp. sparse formland with annual grasses, including *Enneaeopogon polyphyllus*, *Aristida contorta* and *Fimbristylis dichotoma*. *Strophis* is present on slightly saline slopes, and scattered *Aristida contorta* grasses on shallow colluvium overlying sandstone.

5.2 Colluvial fan deposits post-dating Unit 5.1, comprising gently-sloping plains (approx. 1% slope) with very low relief. Gravelly, crabbie pillgal relief, with slightly alkaline dark red, fine sandy clay loam or light clay at the surface to a medium clay at 0.6m between the depressions, and dark reddish grey medium clays and slightly acid within the crabbies (Chromosols). *Eragrostis setifolia*, *Astrida lappacea*, *Astrida pectinata* and *Dicanthum sericeum* tussock grassland within the crabbies, the margins support isolated clumps of *Haakea leucopetra* and a sparse groundcover of *Sclerolaela* spp. and *Enneaeopogon polyphyllus*.

5/2/3.1 Colluvial fan deposits post-dating Unit 5.1, comprising gently-sloping plains (approx. 1% slope) with very low relief. Gravelly, crabbie pillgal relief, with slightly alkaline dark red, fine sandy clay loam or light clay at the surface to a medium clay at 0.6m between the depressions, and dark reddish grey medium clays and slightly acid within the crabbies (Chromosols). *Eragrostis setifolia*, *Astrida lappacea*, *Astrida pectinata* and *Dicanthum sericeum* tussock grassland within the crabbies, the margins support isolated clumps of *Haakea leucopetra* and a sparse groundcover of *Sclerolaela* spp. and *Enneaeopogon polyphyllus*. 3.1 component present.

ALLUVIAL PLAINS

6.1 Broad sandy floodplains and floodouts along the Hale River and its major tributaries, up to 800m in width. Level banks and other surface relief are generally absent. Dark reddish brown alluvial soils (Brown Kandosols), sandy loam in texture to a depth of 0.4m, often grading to a coarse sandy clay loam beneath this depth. *Haakea eyreana* sparse open woodland (to isolated trees) and occasionally *Acacia estrophilata* or *Acacia victoriae* over mainly *Aristida holathera*.

6.2 Broad floodout deposits up to 1km in width, fed by shallow watercourse channels. No surface relief. Gravelly dark reddish brown alluvial soils (Brown Kandosols), light sandy clay loam at the surface to a sandy clay loam at 0.5m. *Acacia estrophilata* sparse open woodland (to isolated trees) and occasionally *Haakea eyreana* over *Aristida browniana* and annual grasses.

6.3 Shallow drainage tracks, including flood channels on floodplains, depressions adjacent to floodout areas, and tributary valley floors in low hill country. Medium-textured alluvial soils (Brown Kandosols), dark brown sandy clay loam horizon overlying a dark reddish brown light clay at 0.5m. *Entropogon acicularis*, *Eulalia aurea*, *Themeda triandra* closed tussock grassland with isolated *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Corymbia apparetaria* and *Acacia estrophilata* trees.

6.4 Terminal lobes of floodouts where flood deposition is presently active. Coarse-textured brown alluvial soils (Brown Kandosols) are generally absent, but perennial tussock grasses such as *Entropogon acicularis* may be present.

6.5 Alluvial fans up to 500m long, fed by minor watercourse channels arising in adjacent low hill country. Gravelly brown alluvial soils (Brown Kandosols), usually sandy loam or light sandy clay loam in texture, slightly alkaline and non-calcareous. *Acacia estrophilata* or *Haakea eyreana* sparse open woodland (to isolated trees) over mainly *Enneaeopogon polyphyllus* and some *Aristida holathera* grasses.

SAND PLAINS

3.6 Narrow, flat-floored drainage tracks, comprising an open tributary drainage network on Unit 3.1. Watercourse channels are generally absent. Coarse-textured yellowish red alluvial soils (Uc 5.21) (Red Kandosols). Textures grade from sandy loam at the surface to sand clay loam at 0.5m. *Acacia anura* woodland, with occasional *Acacia estrophilata*, over a mainly *Enneaeopogon polyphyllus* and *Aristida hygrometrica* grass understorey.

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

5.5 Extensively scalded and gullied, narrow tributary drainage floors of very low relief and slope, 100 - 200m wide on Unit 5.1 together with broad drainage floors 400 - 800m along Georgina and Mulga Creeks, and north-east of Gidgee Bore. Dark reddish brown sandy loam surface horizon up to 0.2m deep overlying a slightly redder sandy clay or light clay (Red Chromosols). *Maireana aphylla* sparse chenopod shrubland in association with mainly *Enneaeopogon polyphyllus* with scattered tussocks of *Entropogon acicularis* and *Digitaria coenocia* and herbage species.

5.6 Narrow, linear depressions less than 100m in width, draining the terrace surface (Unit 5.1) in the eastern part of the study area. Dark red sandy clay loam horizon 0.1m deep overlying a dark red sandy clay (Red Chromosols). *Maireana aphylla* sparse chenopod shrubland in association with mainly *Enneaeopogon polyphyllus* with scattered tussocks of *Entropogon acicularis*, *Digitaria coenocia*, *Bothriochloa ewartiana* and *Dicanthum sericeum*.

Example of Land Unit Descriptions

Landunit	Landunit description	Soil description
1.3	Hills with low relief, moderate slopes and rounded crests, drained by a close network of narrow drainage lines. Shallow lithosols (Rudossols) amongst rock outcrop. <i>Acacia anura</i> and <i>Acacia kempeana</i> sparse shrubland with mixed annual grasses, including <i>Enneaeopogon polyphyllus</i> , <i>Enneaeopogon avenaceus</i> and <i>Aristida contorta</i> .	Vegetation description

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:
Grant, A. R., PASTORAL LAND SURVEY OF HALE PLAIN (THE GARDEN STATION)
Report Number TM 871. Soil and Land Resources Unit.
Conservation Commission of the Department of the Northern Territory, Alice Springs, NT.

TECHNICAL REFERENCES:
McDonald R.C, Isbell R.F, Speight J.G, Walker J. and Hopkins M.S (1998).
"Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook", 2nd edition, Inkata Press, Melbourne.
Isbell R.F (1996). "The Australian Soil Classification". CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.

GENERAL FEATURES

Land unit boundary	Water tank
Property boundary	Trough
Extent of Mapping	Water pipeline
Minor road - unsealed	Bullock Pit
Local road / track	Yard
Landing ground	Watercourse, mainly dry
Malpa Bore	Spot Height
Bore	Mountain Range
Well	
Dam	

VEGETATION CLASSES

Closed Forest	Grassland
Woodland	Hummock Grassland
Cop	Forbland
Woodland	Bare Surface
Shrubland	
Chenopod Shrubland	

MAP LOCALITY

1:100,000 MAP SHEET INDEX

BURT 5617	LAURENCE 5723	RIDDIOCH 5853
ALICE SPRINGS 5659	UNDODDYLA 5736	FERGUSON RANGE 5860
PEACH 5649	SANTA TERESA 5748	PULLINORE 5848

SOIL TYPES

Calcarosols
Chromosols
Dermosols
Kandosols
Rudossols
Vertosols

GENERAL INFORMATION

Cartography by R. Kobenstein - May 2017
Geospatial Services, Water Resources Division,
Department of Environment and Natural Resources,
Northern Territory of Australia.
Web: <http://maps.nt.gov.au>
Map Reference: Halep_Land-Resources_25k

Base Information Data Sources:
Northern Territory Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
Geoscience Australia, Australian Government

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NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

Land resource information has been derived from aerial imagery interpretation and field data describing landform, soil and vegetation. Mapping has been collected according to the national standards and prepared at a scale of 1:100,000. Enlarging this map beyond this scale will not provide further detail.
A site inspection should always accompany mapping for specific areas.

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LAND RESOURCES of HALE PLAIN (THE GARDEN STATION) and UTERRKIWE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (NT Portion 6319)