

Mountains, Hills and Ranges

LAND UNIT 1.04

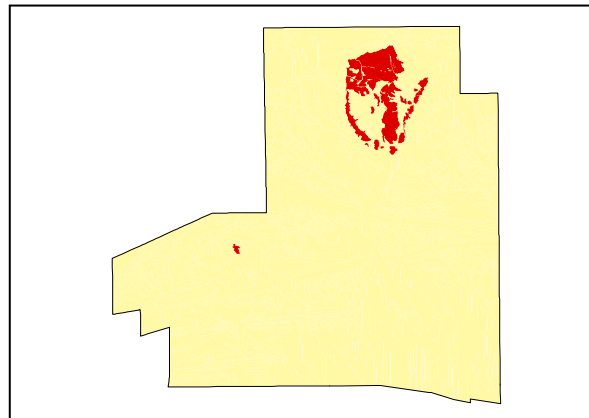
Alice Springs Granite Hills

DESCRIPTION: Rugged mountains and hills comprised of Alice Springs Granite supporting Witchetty Bush and Mulga over annual grasses and forbs.

SITES: 032, 136



Distribution of land unit.



Area = 10.49 km², 3.19% of mapped area.

LAND CAPABILITY:

ATTRIBUTES	
SLOPE (%)	34
RELIEF (m)	50
SOIL DEPTH (m)	0.15
SURFACE CONDITION	Loose
DEPTH to SUBSTRATE (m)	0.15
REACTION TREND (pH)	7.0
OUTCROP (%)	80
RUNOFF	Very Rapid
PERMEABILITY	Moderately permeable
DRAINAGE	Rapidly drained
SALINITY (µs/cm)	68.5

DEVELOPMENT RISKS	
EROSION	None
ROCK FALL	Moderate*
SHEET FLOODING	None
INUNDATION	None
SALINITY	None
ALKALINITY	None
ACIDITY	None

* Hazards associated with rockfall may increase if development is undertaken on the lower slope of this land unit.

CAPABILITY CLASS					
Formed Roads	Shallow excavations	Septic Disposal	Horticulture	Building Foundations	Landscaping
Poor	Very Poor	Very Poor	Very Poor	Good	Poor

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TECHNICAL DETAILS**LAND UNIT 1.04**

DESCRIPTION: Rugged mountain ranges and hills of Alice Springs Granite.

GEOLOGY: Middle Proterozoic Alice Springs Granite with dominant muscovite and biotite.

LANDFORM: Steep Low Hills with maximum relief of 50m. Slopes of up to 34% are covered with large floating boulders and stony material with extensive bedrock outcrop. Due to the rocky nature of the land unit drainage features are not well formed with potentially very rapid runoff dispersed by large sub angular to rounded rock fragments on the slopes. Permeability is moderate and drainage would be rapid due to the highly fractured and laminated nature of the rock and the sandy texture of the remnant soil.

SOIL: Example from **Site 136**
MGA. Coords: 7381448mN, 385893mE

CLASSIFICATION: Lithosol. Rudosol - RU, CY, CZ, AR, F, K, T

SURFACE: Loose with 5% 2m angular to subangular large granite boulders and 15% 200-600mm subangular granite stones. Soil formation is limited to areas between larger rock fragments that are protected from erosional wash.

DEPTH (m)	HORIZON	TEXTURE	pH	SALINITY (µs/cm)	OTHER DETAILS
0.00 - 0.15	A1	Clayey Sand (CS)	7.0	68.5	Reddish brown (2.5YR4/4) 40% 2-6mm fine gravelly angular quartz fragments and 10% 20-60mm coarse gravelly angular quartz and granite fragments. Apedal single grain structure with a sandy fabric.

VEGETATION: **Site 88** (Albrecht, D. and Pitts, B. 1999).

UPPER STRATUM - Usually absent	
Dominant species	
Other species	Whitewood.
MID STRATUM - Tall sparse shrubland	
Dominant species	Witchetty Bush.
Other species	Silver Cassia, Dead Finish, Ruby Saltbush, Rock Fuchsia Bush, Wild Orange, Native Fig, Long-leaf Corkwood, Spearwood, Blunt-leaf Cassia.
LOWER STRATUM - Sparse grassland	
Dominant species	
Other species	Dwarf Lantern Flower, Wild Hops, Buffel Grass, Woolly Cloak Fern, Mulga Fern, Cotton Panic Grass, Woollyoat Grass, Mountain Wanderrie, Tropical Speedwell, Silver Indigo, Silver Tails, Five-minute Grass, Desert Lantern Flower, Boggabi, Flat-awned Threeawn, Rock Fern, Hill Everlasting, Australian Carrot, Orange Spade Flower, Green Peppergrass, Low Bluebush, Native Millet, Knobbybutt Paspalidium, Blanket Fern, Striped Mintbush, Large Green Pusstail, Tall Saltbush, Fire Sida, Smooth Mustard, Kangaroo Grass, Bullockbush, Pale-leaf Mistletoe, Caustic Weed (A), Woolly Glycine, <i>Heliotropium</i> sp. (one or both of <i>H.cunninghamii</i> & <i>H.tanythrix</i>), Sturts Hibiscus, Bush Banana, Velvet Hibiscus, <i>Oxalis perennans</i> , Clements Paspalidium, Buck Bush, Hill Sida, Shrub Sida, Dwarf Swainsona.

(See Appendix 3 for botanical names)