

Mountains, Hills and Ranges

**LAND UNIT 1.18**

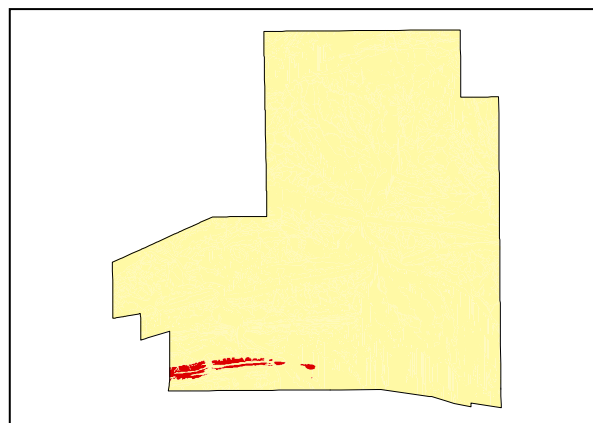
**Pacoota Sandstone Ranges**

**DESCRIPTION:** Ranges and Hill Crests of Pacoota Sandstone with sparse Ghost Gum over Witchetty Bush, Silver Cassia and Fuchsia Bush with annual and perennial grasses in the lower stratum.

**SITES:** 119,123



**Distribution of land unit.**



Area = 2.74 km<sup>2</sup>. 0.83% of mapped area.

**LAND CAPABILITY:**

ATTRIBUTES	
SLOPE (%)	80
RELIEF (m)	400
SOIL DEPTH (m)	0.10
SURFACE CONDITION	Loose
DEPTH to SUBSTRATE (m)	0.10
REACTION TREND (pH)	6.0
OUTCROP (%)	85
RUNOFF	Very rapid
PERMEABILITY	Slowly permeable
DRAINAGE	Well drained
SALINITY (µs/cm)	19.6

DEVELOPMENT RISKS	
EROSION	Severe
ROCK FALL	Severe
SHEET FLOODING	None
INUNDATION	None
SALINITY	None
ALKALINITY	None
ACIDITY	Very Slight

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

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**TECHNICAL DETAILS****LAND UNIT 1.18****DESCRIPTION:** High Mountain Ranges of Pacoota Sandstone.**GEOLOGY:** Part of the Late Cambrian to Early Ordovician Larapinta Group. Fossiliferous sandstone with minor interbedded siltstone and occasional limestone.**LANDFORM:** Very Steep strike ridge mountains with relief >400m. in some areas, and slopes up to 100% make up the landform of this land unit. Individual ridges can be up to 350m wide and 3.5km long. Continual erosion of the sandstone has produced pockets of soil on the steep slopes, between larger rocks, sufficient to enable vegetation to establish. The mountain range crests, that are relatively flat in parts, have developed deeper soil profiles due to sheet wash erosion. In other areas, jagged pyramids of rugged, resistant sandstone form outcrops of this land unit. In such areas an interrupted drainage channel network has been formed that develops into an integrated system on the lower slopes. Runoff is very rapid with water draining quickly and being moderately slow to permeate through the minimal soil profile.**SOIL:** Example from **Site 123**.  
MGA. Coords 7367440mN, 375125mE

<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b> Lithosol. Rudosol - RU, CY, CZ, I, M, T					
<b>SURFACE:</b> 40% 200-600mm angular sandstone fragments and 10% 600mm-2m angular tabular sandstone boulders.					
DEPTH (m)	HORIZON	TEXTURE	pH	SALINITY ( $\mu\text{s/cm}$ )	OTHER DETAILS
0.00 - 0.10	A1	Sandy clay loam (SCL)	6.0	19.6	Dark reddish brown (2.5YR3/4). 30% 2-6mm angular fine gravelly sandstone fragments and 20% 20-60mm angular medium gravelly sandstone fragments.

**VEGETATION:** **Site 92** (Albrecht, D. and Pitts, B. 1999).

<b>UPPER STRATUM</b> - Isolated trees	
Dominant species	
Other species	Ghost Gum, Mulga.
<b>MID STRATUM</b> - Open shrubland	
Dominant species	Mulga, Native Fuchsia, Rock Fuchsia Bush, Silver Cassia
Other species	Ruby Saltbush, <i>Senna artemisioides subsp. alicia</i> , Blunt-leaf Cassia,
<b>LOWER STRATUM</b> - Isolated clump of tussock grasses	
Dominant species	Buffel grass, Woollyoat Grass,
Other species	Dwarf Lantern Flower, Slender Lantern Bush, Bunched Kerosene Grass, Weeping Emu Bush, Woolly Cloak Fern, Rock Fern, Mulga Fern, Cotton Panic Grass, Oatgrass, Limestone Grass, Woollybutt Grass, <i>Euphorbia centralis</i> , Tropical Speedwell, Eight Day Grass, Green Peppergrass, Veined Peppergrass, Fitzgibbon's Daisy, Low Bluebush, Velvet Hibiscus, Bandicoot Grass, Dwarf Mulga Grass, Hairy Mulla Mulla, Large Green Pusytail, Tall Saltbush, White Paper Daisy, Buck Bush, Tall Copper Burr, Cartwheel Burr, Fire Sida, Zig-zag plant, Nodding Thread-petal, <i>Tephrosia supina</i> , Mulga Grass, Bindieye, Five-minute Grass, Purple Plumegrass.

(See Appendix 3 for botanical names)