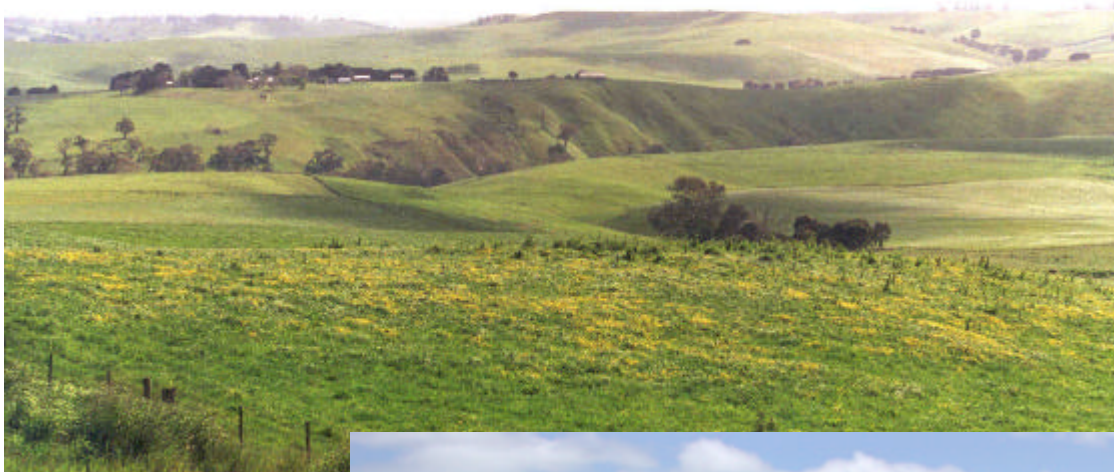


Merino Tablelands Land Unit

This unit consists of the Cretaceous non-marine sandstone of the dissected Merino Tablelands. The tablelands were thought to have formed under swamp conditions and a warm climate. As a result, the soils tend to be high in clay and there are carbon-rich seams of charcoal at depth in some of the profiles. The main soil type used to represent this land unit is a black cracking clay (Vertosol) that can be sodic at depth. This soil type, along with Black Sodosols, Chromosols and Dermosols, is commonly found on the broad crests or drainage lines. The slopes often consist of Brown Chromosols, Sodosols or Dermosols, although black soils can also occur on the slopes. The lower slopes commonly have Grey Vertosols or Sodosols as the major soil type. The reasonably deep sodic soils on short steep slopes tend to be prone to landslip. The grey soils, in particular are prone to water erosion.



Plates 40 & 41 Overlooking the dissected nature of the Merino Tablelands. The evident plateau of both Plates is the peneplain of the Dundas Redgum Land Unit.

