

BLU Blue Range Land System

Area: 69.3 km²

Landscape: Low hills with undulating to moderately steep slopes and gently undulating summit surfaces. The landscape is the remnant of an old land surface formed on sandstone. Most has been eroded away, leaving the relatively flat original surface, flanked by steeper slopes underlain by basement rocks or alluvium / colluvium.

Annual rainfall: 360 – 420 mm average

Main soils: Skeletal soil - L1 (Lithic / Petroferric, Leptic Tenosol / Rudosol)
Variable gravelly loamy sand to sandy clay loam over basement rock or massive ironstone at depths usually less than 50 cm.

Mangalo - D1 (Hypercalcic, Red Chromosol / Calcareous, Inceptic, Red-Orthic Tenosol)
Thin to medium thickness coarse loamy sand to sandy loam over a red well structured clay (may be absent or occur as pockets in rock) over rock with abundant fine carbonate in fissures.

Blue Range - D2 (Red Chromosol)
Sandy clay loam over red clay with ironstone gravel grading to sandstone and conglomerate.

Summary: The landscape comprises three components. The summit surfaces occupy about a third of the area and have moderately fertile but shallow soils. They are fully arable. Gentle slopes are semi arable, with moderately shallow soils between rocky outcrops. About a quarter of the land is too steep and / or rocky for cultivation.

Soil Landscape Unit summary: 6 Soil Landscape Units (SLUs) mapped in the Blue Range Land System:

SLU	% of area	Component	Main soils	Prop#	Notes
AKB	18.6	Moderately steep very rocky slopes	Skeletal	V	Non arable slopes due to combination of slope, rock outcrop and shallow soil. Rock outcrop in AKB is sufficiently extensive that the land is mostly non traversable. AKC/AKI are less rocky and accessible. Erosion is more pronounced in AKI .
			Mangalo	C	
AKC	1.7	Moderately steep rocky slopes	Skeletal	E	
			Mangalo	E	
AKI	7.4	Moderately steep rocky slopes with eroded water courses	Skeletal	E	
			Mangalo	E	
DIC	4.5	Gentle slopes	Mangalo	D	Moderately fertile although shallow soil, arable but with moderate water erosion potential.
EJZ	37.3	Gently undulating summit surface	Blue Range	V	Moderately fertile shallow soils, arable but with slight to moderately high water erosion potential.
		Moderately steep slopes	Blue Range	C	
ETC	30.5	Gentle slopes with rocky outcrops	Mangalo	E	Moderately fertile although shallow soil, arable between the rocky reefs. Moderate water erosion potential.
			Skeletal	E	

PROPORTION codes assigned to Soil Landscape Unit (SLU) components:

D	Dominant in extent (>90% of SLU)	C	Common in extent (20–30% of SLU)
V	Very extensive in extent (60–90% of SLU)	L	Limited in extent (10–20% of SLU)
E	Extensive in extent (30–60% of SLU)	M	Minor in extent (<10% of SLU)

Further information: [DEWNR Soil and Land Program](#)

