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Irrigated land suitability assessment of Haughton Section - Stage I Nine Mile Lagoon to Oaky Creek Burdekin River irrigation area

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Department of Primary Industries **Queensland**

Queensland Government Technical Report

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SUMMARY

The Burdekin River Irrigation Area (BRIA) is being progressively developed, with new farms being released only after thorough land resource investigation has been completed and irrigation infrastructure is in place. The first section released (Mulgrave Section) adjoins this study area (Haughton - Stage 1).

Stage 1 of the Haughton Section comprises 4147 ha of very gently sloping alluvial terrain bounded by Barratta Creek in the East, Nine Mile Lagoon Creek in the south, Haughton Main Channel (HMC) in the west and Oaky Creek to the north. A detailed soil survey of the area was conducted during the dry seasons of 1987 and 1988. The results of the survey were then used to assess the irrigation potential of the area for crops such as sugar-cane, row crops, rice and horticultural crops.

While the topography of the area is simple, with only 2 landscape units present, the soils are not. Furthermore, previous studies indicated that some of the soils in this section were strongly sodic, raising problems for irrigated cropping. This study confirms that soils will be the primary constraint on irrigation options in this area.

Landscape units and soils

There are two landscape units in Haughton Section 1; the Alluvial Plains of the Burdekin and Haughton Rivers; and the Miscellaneous Alluvial Landforms.

The Alluvial Plains. Approximately 80 per cent of the area (3280 ha) was mapped as part of the alluvial plains, landscape unit 2. Soils of this landscape unit comprise Barratta cracking clays and sodic duplex Oakey and Dowie soils. The Barratta clays occupy 1334 ha, often in the lowest positions in the landscape. Between Nine Mile Lagoon and Lagoon Creeks, areas of these clay soils act as pathways for contemporary drainage into Barratta creek.

The sodic duplex soils of the alluvial plains occupy 1946 ha and are located on either low rises or on the sloping margins of the area. Within the alluvial plains there is a much higher proportion of sodic duplex soils when compared to other areas of alluvial plains east of Barratta Creek. This is particularly obvious in the area north of Lagoon Creek. Many of the sodic duplex soils of landscape unit 2 are the shallow-surfaced soil types: 2Dda, 2Dya, 2Dba and 2Ddb. The very sodic Dowie soil types (2Dba, 2Ddb) are extensive (503 ha) and occur in such patterns as to represent a major constraint to the development of the area.

Miscellaneous Alluvial Landforms. The Miscellaneous Alluvial Landforms, landscape unit 6, consist of levees, flood-outs, fans, channel benches and prior streams. These landforms cover 867 ha and comprise a wide range of soils. Such soil complexity reflects the extremely varied composition of parent alluvium from more recent levee deposits along Lagoon and Oaky Creeks, siliceous prior stream deposits and earlier floodouts of Oaky, Lagoon and Nine Mile Lagoon Creeks. In addition to the problem of soil complexity, most of the soils of this landscape unit are highly sodic duplex soils and are situated close to HMC.

In all, some 275 unique map areas (UMAs) were described in Haughton Stage 1, ranging in size from less than 1 ha to 228.3 ha. The modal UMA size of less than 10 ha reflects the complexity of this alluvial landscape; the soils of which show patterns of sequential deposition of alluvium and burial of prior stream systems.

Altogether, the sodic duplex soils occur over 2730 ha or 65 per cent of Haughton Stage 1, almost double the average incidence of these soils in the BRIA. At least 60% by area of the sodic duplex soils in Haughton Stage 1 are strongly sodic (ESP $>$ 15) by a depth of 0.3 m. This adverse chemical characteristic together with shallow surface horizons and significant soluble salt levels at depth, will severely limit soil water entry and extraction by plant roots.

Areas of land suitable for irrigated cropping

In terms of irrigation farm design, the southern part of the area will prove the most difficult, due to problems associated with soil complexity and the distribution of unsuitable soils. In particular, there are large areas of unsuitable soils located close to HMC.

Sugar-cane. A total of 2947 ha of Haughton Stage 1 has been assessed as suitable for the production of sugar-cane under furrow irrigation. While this represents a significant area, sodic duplex soils make up a considerable proportion of the suitable area, usually with a moderate sodicity limitation based on field pH as an indicator. The chemical analyses reported herein indicate that excessive sodicity may be a more severe limitation in Haughton Stage 1 than for other areas of the BRIA with similar sodic duplex soil types. As such, much of this area rated as suitable for sugar-cane may in fact be marginal i.e., class 4, if the sodic duplex soils of the area were more exhaustively analysed.

Row crops. Less land (2270 ha) is suitable for the furrow irrigation of maize and this area could be further reduced if a more severe sodicity limitation does exist. Irrigation farm design based on such a crop would be very difficult due to the limited amount of suitable land and its distribution some distance from HMC. The cropping potential of Haughton Stage 1, however, does improve considerably when a more salt and sodium tolerant row crop such as cotton is considered (2830 ha suitable).

Rice. As it is less costly to reduce the effect of excessive sodicity, rice production by flood irrigation offers perhaps the preferred land use for this area with 2106 ha assessed as suitable. Excessive deep drainage and slope in some areas are the main limitations which reduce the area suitable for rice production.

Horticultural crops. Haughton Stage I does not contain appreciable areas of land suitable for the furrow irrigation of small crops such as capsicums or production of mangoes by means of low volume irrigation. The areas assessed as suitable for the production of such crops are 110 ha and 140 ha respectively.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the Burdekin River Irrigation Area (BRIA), the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QDPI) is undertaking a series of high intensity soil surveys at a scale of 1:25 000. These surveys are principally required to provide the Water Res These surveys are principally required to provide the Water Resources Commission (WRC) with detailed land resource information and an assessment of land suitability for irrigation farm design. This information is also provided to prospective purchasers prior to the release of farms by the WRC and subsequently to new landholders to assist with farm development planning and crop management.

Haughton Stage 1 covers 4147 ha and is located 9 km west of the town of Clare on the left bank of the Burdekin River (shown in Figure 1). Early in 1987, it was thought that Haughton Stage 1 represented the next area after Mulgrave Section to be developed for irrigation with water from the newly constructed Haughton Main Channel even though an earlier broadscale soil survey by Reid and Baker (1984) indicated the existence of substantial areas of highly sodic duplex soils in this area.

Due to the perceived high priority for its development the detailed survey of Haughton Stage 1 commenced in the area between Nine Mile Lagoon Creek and Lagoon Creek (shown in Figure 2) during the dry season of 1987 and then extended to Oaky Creek in 1988 to complete Haughton Stage 1. Preliminary assessments of the irrigation potential of the area were provided to the WRC during the course of the work and these have tended to lower the development priority earlier afforded to Haughton Stage 1.

This report provides a summary of the results of the irrigated land suitability assessment and the detailed soil survey on which it was based. Constraints to irrigation farm design and potential land degradation hazards have been highlighted together with more detail on some of the highly sodic soils of the area.

The map contained in the rear of the report shows the soils of the area at a scale of 1:25 000 and land suitability for five commonly grown crops at a scale of 1:50 000. Working plans showing the same information and the land suitability assessment separately for each crop at a scale of 1:10 000 are available from QDPI.

Figure 1. Location of Haughton Section - Stage 1 survey area (shown by shading).

Figure 2. Physical features and surface contours of Haughton Section - Stage 1, bounded by Haughton Main Channel, Oaky and Barratta Creeks and part of Nine Mile Lagoon Creek.

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2. PHYSIOGRAPHY

2.1 Climate

The climate of the area is characterised by well defined wet and dry seasons with the dry season extending over the cooler months from May to September. The nearest weather recording station to the survey area is situated at Clare, 9 km to the east.

Temperature and evaporation rates for the Haughton Stage 1 area are expected to be very similar to those recorded at Clare; average temperature range is about 20.5 to 32.3° C (October to April) and 13.0 to 27.3° C (May to September) and evaporation is at a maximum over the period October to January. Rainfall is likely to be slightly higher than at Clare due to the convectional influence of adjacent hills to the west of the Haughton River. The average annual rainfall for Clare is 893 mm. Seventy-five percent of the total rainfall falls between December and March and rainfall variability is high.

A more detailed analysis of the weather data recorded for Clare is provided in Donnollan *et al.* (1990).

2.2 Topography

The topography of the survey area is relatively uniform with little variation in elevation; slopes are commonly less than 1 in 200. Approximately 80 per cent of the area is alluvial plain (landscape unit 2) with the residue being miscellaneous alluvial landforms (landscape unit 6). The miscellaneous alluvial landforms consist of levees, flood-outs, fans, channel benches and prior streams located mainly adjacent to the Haughton Main Channel and Lagoon and Oaky Creeks (see accompanying map).

2.3 Surface drainage

Surface drainage of the area between Nine Mile Lagoon Creek and Oaky Creek has followed many different paths over time. This is reflected in surface features such as prior stream patterns, discrete flood-out deposits and fans which have been abandoned and previous drainage depressions which have been infilled by fine textured alluvium.

Some of these features have been highlighted in Figure 3. The main creeks that currently drain the area have been labelled on Figure 3. It should be noted that Lagoon Creek which flows through the centre of Haughton Stage 1 actually commences as an overflow distribution channel of Oaky Creek (shown by arrows).

Outbreaks of Oaky Creek and Nine Mile Lagoon Creek have been numerous and are clearly demonstrated by the prior stream and flood-out patterns such as those adjacent to HMC (Figure 3). The extent and location of some of these features is shown by discontinuous lines in Figure 3.

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Figure 3. Surface drainage features of the Haughton Stage 1 area. Continuous lines indicate broad drainage floors infilled with clay alluvium. Discontinuous lines indicate prior stream and flood-out patterns. The southern boundary of the survey area is shown by *************.

In some instances the prior streams are elevated above the surrounding terrain with very coarse textured soils along the centre of the prior stream (eg. UMA38). In other situations they are evidenced by sandy ridges (eg UMAs 62 and 64 in the south and 224 in the north), flanked by areas of sodic duplex soils which may have developed by prior microtopographic salinisation - solonisation.

Other areas are characterised by intense patterns of very narrow prior streams within large areas of highly sodic duplex soils (eg. UMA72). All prior streams **identified while in** the field have been shown on the 1:25 000 scale soils map with **discontinuous lines.**

Some of the most extensive relict flood-out deposits occur adjacent to Nine Mile
n Creek in the south of the area. Much of this southern area overlies coarse Lagoon Creek in the south of the area. textured material within 1.5 m of the surface. The associated discrete occurrences of raised gravelly deposits (6Dyg4, UMA 19 and 21) suggest a major prior drainage path through this part of the area.

Infilling of previous drainage depressions with finer textured alluvium has been extensive and these areas of cracking clay soils still carry a considerable amount of surface flow towards Barratta Creek where they become incised for short distances (shown by continuous lines on Figure 3).

2.4 Predevelopment flooding

Major floods such as those experienced in 1940, 1946 and 1958 have a probability of occurrence of once in 35 years. Resulting flooding would inundate most of Haughton Stage 1 to a depth of over 1 m (Mclntyre and Associates, unpublished). Inundation would exceed 2 m over about half of Haughton Stage 1 adjacent to Barratta, Lagoon and Oaky Creeks. Such severe flooding of the area occurs due to the outbreak of floodwaters from the Burdekin River further upstream and meeting local runoff along the line of Barratta Creek. Flooding of Barratta Creek would then hold up runoff flowing down both Lagoon and Oaky Creeks. Flooding is particularly deep along Oaky Creek due to supplementation by smaller local creeks within its catchment and the outbreak of floodwaters from the Haughton River near Piccaninny Creek.

Mclntyre and Associates concluded that inundation of much of Haughton Stage 1 may only be for a short duration once the major rivers are no longer breaking their banks. However, the area adjacent to Barratta and Oaky Creeks may remain inundated for a longer period due to the concentration of local runoff and floodwaters down Barratta Creek. These more deeply flooded areas (2 m) are also likely to have the highest rates of flow which would be very damaging to crops. Considering the depth of inundation over existing cane growing areas in the lower Burdekin, Mclntyre and Associates recommended that the 2 m flood depth contour associated with a 35 year flood be adopted as the limit for cane expansion.

2.5 Vegetation

Reid and Baker (1984) provide a description of the general relationships between vegetation and soils over the entire left bank of the BRIA which includes the Haughton Stage 1 area. The area retains most of its original vegetation with minimal clearing of the open woodlands. Appendix I provides a list of both common and scientific names of the species recorded during this soil survey. Table 1 lists the predominant structural form and species of vegetation recorded on each of the soil types mapped within Haughton Stage 1. Structural formation terminology follows that of Walker and Hopkins (1984).

In general terms, Haughton Stage 1 is lightly timbered, due mainly to the predominance of sodic duplex soils over much of the area (2730 ha or 65 per cent). Sodic duplex soils are also often present as secondary soils in complex soil units which results in reduced tree canopy cover and height. Low to mid-high isolated trees or open woodlands of cabbage gum and beefwood form the predominant vegetation on the sodic duplex soils. A tall shrubland of beefwood and false sandalwood can also occur on some of the most sodic soils of this group. Grasses vary from tussock grassland of blue grasses, black spear grass and kangaroo grass, to sparse tussock grassland of the same species; together with purple top Rhodes grass on the most sodic soils of this group.

Low to mid-high open woodlands of poplar gum with carbeen and cabbage gum associated with tussock grassland of blue grasses, black spear grass and kangaroo grass is the predominant vegetation on the Barratta clays (2Ug soils) of the alluvial plain. Tree canopy cover is greatest on the more low lying areas of 2Ugd soils and least on the slightly more elevated areas of 2Ugh soils which have heavier surface texture.

The tallest and most dense tree cover occurs on the minor areas of better drained soils of levees and prior streams throughout the area. The predominant vegetation on such soils (eg. 6Ucc, 6Dra, 6Dbe, 6Dya) is mid-high woodland to open woodland of grey bloodwood, poplar gum and carbeen, associated with tussock grassland of black spear grass, giant spear grass and golden beard grass.

Table 1. Major distinguishing attributes of the soil types, Haughton Section - Stage I, Nine Mile Lagoon to Oaky Creek, Burdekin River Irrigation Area

Table 1. (Cont.)

 $\label{eq:2.1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\frac{1}{\sqrt{$

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Table 1. (Cont.)

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Table 1. (Cont.)

| Soil type | Series affiliation | Major distinguishing attributes | Great Soil Group | Main Principal Profile Forms | Predominant natural vegetation |
|-----------|-----------------------|---|--|--|---|
| 6Ucb | Hylo | 0.20-0.30 m dark to grey or brown coarse sand to sandy loam A1 horizon over bleached A2 horizon to 0.50-0.60 m over acid to neutral frequently yellow or brown-mottled yellow- brown to brown coarse sand to sandy loam B horizon to $1.50 + m$. | No suitable group, affinities with siliceous sand or earthy sand | Uc2.21 Uc2.22 Uc3.21 | Mid-high woodland of poplar gum, carbeen, grey bloodwood and broad leaf tea-tree associated with tussock grassland of giant and black spear grass. |
| 6Ucc | Burdekin | 0.05-0.50 m dark to brown sand to fine sandy loam A1 horizon over grey, brown or yellow A12 or A2 horizon to $0.50-1.10$ m over acid to neutral brown to yellow sand to light sandy clay loam A3 or B horizon to $1.50 + m$. | No suitable group, affinities with siliceous sand or earthy sand | Uc5.21 Uc5.11 Uc5.23 Uc4.21 | Mid-high woodland to open woodland of poplar gum, grey bloodwood, broad leaf tea-tree and pandanus associated with tussock grassland of giant and black spear grass and golden beard grass. |
| 6Dra | Lancer | 0.15-0.30 m dark to grey sandy loam to light sandy clay loam A1 horizon over occasionally bleached, brown to red-brown sandy loam to light sandy clay loam A2 horizon to 0.20-0.50 m over acid to neutral yellow- mottled red to red-brown medium clay B horizon to $0.85-1.50+$ m over yellow-brown to brown sandy clay loam to sandy clay D horizon to $1.50 + m$. | Red podzolic soil | Dr3.32 Dr3.22 Dr3.31 | Mid-high woodland of grey bloodwood, poplar gum and carbeen with cocky apple associated with tussock grassland of black spear grass, giant spear grass and brown sorghum. |

3. SOILS

3.1 Soil survey methodology

A free survey technique was used which utilised aerial photo interpretation to assist in the location of soil boundaries. Fully rectified colour aerial photographs at a scale of 1:10 000 were used in the field to mark up soil boundaries and mapping sites. Prior to the commencement of field work, WRC surveyors established a 250 x 100 m grid as part of a level survey and this grid permitted the precise location of field mapping sites.

The mapping site intensity was varied depending on soil landscape complexity. The intensity was lowest in areas of cracking clay soils and greatest in the miscellaneous alluvial landforms (landscape unit 6). All field work was conducted by vehicle traverse. A total of 794 mapping sites were described and stored on computer in a site description file. This site intensity is approximately one per 6 hectares which is the maximum recommended for 1:25 000 scale mapping but the minimum for 1:10 000 scale mapping (Reid 1988). The latter scale is currently being used by WRC in the design of 40 to 100 ha sized irrigation farms in the BRIA.

All map unit boundaries and the location of prior streams and gully erosion (where observed) have been entered onto a GIS using the software ARC/INFO.

A description of the soil profile and information on vegetation, soil surface characteristics, microrelief (gilgai) and slope where necessary were recorded at each mapping site using the terminology and codes of McDonald *et al.* (1984). AMG coordinates were determined for each mapping site and added to the site description file.

3.2 Soil taxonomic and mapping units

To distinguish broad land types, Thompson (1977), Reid and Baker (1984) and Thompson *et al.* 1990 identified seven topographic forms within the lower Burdekin Valley. The term "topographic form" has since been replaced by the term "landscape unit" which can be defined as a natural unit of land in which a particular soil or association of soils is developed from a single rock type or complex of rock types. The soils bear a constant relationship to a limited range of landform elements or native vegetation communities and there is a similar drainage net throughout the landscape unit. As such the landscape unit is identical to the broadscale mapping unit known as the land system which many readers may be more familiar with.

In the survey area, only two landscape units were identified. There were: landscape unit 2 - Alluvial plains of the Burdekin and Haughton Rivers and, landscape unit 6 - Miscellaneous alluvial landforms. In Haughton Stage 1, landscape unit 6 comprised alluvial landforms associated with current and relict streams.

The soil taxonomic system developed for the lower Burdekin Valley (Thompson and Reid 1982) identifies each soil type (previously termed a soil profile class) via a four digit alphanumeric code: a number for the landscape unit; two letters for the appropriate subdivision of the Primary Profile Form (Northcote 1979) and one letter to separate each soil type. This final letter denotes either morphological differences or soil characteristics that may significantly influence the performance of that soil type under irrigated crop production. For example, the code 2Ugd denotes a soil type of landscape unit 2 (Burdekin and Haughton River alluvial plains); the "Ug" indicates that the soil type is a uniform textured cracking clay within the Factual Key of Northcote (1979) and the final letter "d" separates this soil type from other soil types of the same landscape unit due to different morphological and chemical characteristics.

During mapping, each soil profile described was assigned to a soil type within the soil taxonomic system outlined above. In some instances soil profiles were classified as a variant of a particular soil type where a morphological difference was observed from that of the modal soil type. A number after the soil type code eg. 2Ugd2 distinguishes the variants and these are listed in Table 2.

In some areas where a land attribute not normally associated with the soil type was identified and was thought to have a significant influence on land use, then the particular mapping unit was identified as a phase of the soil type. A capital letter after the soil type code distinguishes the phase, for example, 2DbbE for an eroded 2Dbb mapping unit.

Each of the soil types mapped within Haughton Stage 1 are listed in Table 1 together with the older soil series nomenclature of Hubble and Thompson (1953). Also listed in Table 1 are the appropriate Great Soil Group terms (where applicable) from Stace *et al.* (1968) and the main Principal Profile Forms (Northcote 1979) for each soil type. As the new Australian soil classification (Isbell 1992) was not available at the time of this survey, equivalent classes according to the new system have not been provided. However, a correlation between Burdekin soil types and the new classification can be found in Loi and Day (in prep.).

In terms of naming the soil mapping units, two types of mapping units were used. A simple mapping unit was used where one particular soil type occupied 70% or more of the mapping unit, and the unit was named after that soil type, eg. 2Ugd. The second unit used was the compound or complex mapping unit in which the dominant soil type occupied less than 70% of the mapping unit. In this case, the compound mapping unit was named after the two most commonly occurring soil types, the one occupying the greatest area being named first, eg. 2Ugd-2Uge.

Each single delineation of a mapping unit has been termed a unique map area or UMA (after Basinski 1978) and given a number. This UMA number and the UMA name (ie. the soil mapping unit name) were added to the site description file. This allows the necessary linkage between the site description file and the UMA file which contains land suitability data for each UMA (see also Section 4 of this report).

| Mapping unit | Area | Number | | Mapping | Area | Number | |
|--------------|--------|-------------------------|------|---------------|--------|-------------------------|--|
| | (ha) | of | | unit | (ha) | of | |
| | | UMAs | | | | UMAs | |
| 2Dba | 317.4 | 22 | | 6Dba | 141.7 | 14 | |
| 2Dba2 | 1.5 | $\mathbf{1}$ | | 6Dba2 | 8.5 | 3 | |
| 2DbaE | 3.4 | \overline{c} | | 6Dba3 | 42.9 | $\mathbf{2}$ | |
| 2Dbb | 146.3 | 13 | | 6DbbE | 29.1 | $\mathbf{1}$ | |
| 2Dbb2 | 21.4 | $\mathbf{1}$ | | 6Dbe2 | 23.7 | $\mathbf{1}$ | |
| 2DbbE | 10.6 | $\overline{2}$ | | 6Dbh | 11.4 | \overline{c} | |
| 2Dbc | 2.4 | $\mathbf{1}$ | | 6Dda | 64.3 | 6 | |
| 2Dbc2 | 17.1 | $\mathbf{1}$ | | 6Dda2 | 30.7 | $\overline{\mathbf{3}}$ | |
| 2Dbd | 51.9 | \overline{c} | | 6Ddb2 | 5.2 | $\mathbf{1}$ | |
| 2DbdE | 4.8 | $\mathbf{1}$ | | 6Dra2 | 9.0 | 3 | |
| 2Dda | 248.1 | 13 | | 6Dya | 37.9 | \overline{c} | |
| 2Dda2 | 148.0 | 5 | | 6Dyb | 41.4 | 9 | |
| 2Ddb | 180.4 | 6 | | 6Dyb2 | 21.2 | \overline{c} | |
| 2Ddc | 10.8 | $\mathbf{1}$ | | 6Dyb3 | 3.1 | \overline{c} | |
| 2Dya | 398.6 | 9 | | 6Dyd | 2.3 | $\mathbf{1}$ | |
| 2Dya2 | 16.0 | $\overline{2}$ | | 6Dye | 31.1 | $\overline{\mathbf{4}}$ | |
| 2DyaE | 11.1 | $\mathbf{1}$ | | 6Dyf | 19.1 | $\overline{\mathbf{4}}$ | |
| 2Dyb | 283.2 | 20 | | 6Dyf2 | 8.9 | $\mathbf{1}$ | |
| 2Dyb2 | 72.0 | $\overline{\mathbf{4}}$ | | 6Dyf3 | 35.1 | $\mathbf{1}$ | |
| $2SP*$ | 1.3 | $\mathbf{1}$ | | 6Dyg | 17.3 | $\overline{\mathbf{4}}$ | |
| Sub-total | 1946.3 | 108 | | 6Dyg2 | 44.3 | 6 | |
| 2Ugc | 6.7 | 1 | | 6Dyg3 | 21.6 | \overline{c} | |
| 2Ugd | 317.9 | 12 | | 6Dyg4 | 18.7 | \overline{c} | |
| 2Ugd2 | 36.6 | $\boldsymbol{2}$ | | 6DygE | 8.6 | $\mathbf{1}$ | |
| 2UgdE | 4.4 | \overline{c} | | 6Dyj | 137.2 | 12 | |
| 2Uge | 341.8 | 16 | | 6Dyj2 | 15.8 | $\mathbf{1}$ | |
| 2Uge2 | 16.5 | $\overline{\mathbf{c}}$ | | 6Dyj3 | 1.9 | $\mathbf{1}$ | |
| 2UgeE | 1.6 | $\mathbf{1}$ | | 6Gna2 | 5.1 | $\mathbf{1}$ | |
| 2Ugf | 8.1 | $\mathbf{1}$ | | 6Uca | 6.7 | $\mathbf{1}$ | |
| 2Ugg | 46.5 | $\overline{\mathbf{4}}$ | | 6Ucb | 8.5 | \overline{c} | |
| 2Ugh | 198.7 | 13 | | 6Ucb3 | 2.2 | $\mathbf{1}$ | |
| 2Ugk | 321.9 | 14 | | 6Ucc | 4.9 | $\mathbf{1}$ | |
| 2Ugk2 | 32.8 | 1 | | 6UgcE | 7.9 | $\mathbf{1}$ | |
| Sub-total | 1333.5 | 69 | | Total | | | |
| Total | | | | Landscape | | | |
| Landscape | | | | Unit 6 | 867.3 | 98 | |
| Unit 2 | 3279.8 | 177 | | | | | |
| | | Total | Area | Mapped | 4147.1 | | |

Table 2. The area and numbers of each mapping unit within Haughton Section - Stage 1, Burdekin River Irrigation Area

2SP* Seasonal or permanent swamps

Variants and Phases

Suffixes

2 Buried soils or D horizons of contrasting or coarser textures underlie the modal soil type at depths less than 1.50 m.

3 Significant variation in depth or field texture of the A horizon to that of the modal soil type.

4 Significant amounts of coarse gravel or cobble within the soil. These coarse fragments are absent from the modal soil type.

E Areas affected by severe erosion.

The area of each mapping unit within Haughton Stage 1 is shown in Table 2. Also shown in this table is the number of UMAs of each soil type whether it occurs as a simple mapping unit or as the dominant soil type within a compound or complex mapping unit.

3.3 Soil morphology and distribution

3.3.1 Introduction

The soil types mapped within each of the landscape units are listed in Table 1, together with a brief description of the major distinguishing attributes of each soil type. A more comprehensive description of each of the soil types can be found in Thompson and Reid (1982) and in McClurg *et al.* (1993) . It should be noted that the full range of It should be noted that the full range of morphological attributes as listed for each soil type in the two publications above may not necessarily occur within the Haughton Stage 1 area.

3.3.2 Soils of The Alluvial Plains (landscape unit 2)

The Burdekin and Haughton River alluvial plains consist of fine textured sediments deposited during overbank flooding. The sediments have formed a level plain (slopes often less than 0.5 per cent) with very poor surface drainage. This landscape unit occupies some 3280 ha or almost 80 per cent of Haughton Stage 1 (Table 2).

Grey cracking clays (2Ug soils), also known as Barratta clays, occupy 1334 ha of Haughton Stage 1, mainly between Lagoon Creek and Nine Mile Lagoon Creek (see accompanying map). The soil types 2Ugd and 2Uge with lower surface clay content are found in low lying fiats and drainage depressions with slopes often less than 0.2 per cent. These two soil types have light to light-medium clay surfaces that either set hard or have weak self mulching characteristics. In contrast, soil types 2Ugg, 2Ugh and 2Ugk usually occur on slightly more elevated flats and have medium to heavy clay surfaces with moderate to strong self mulching characteristics.

Sodic duplex soils (2D soils), also known as Oakey and Dowie soils, comprise the remaining 1946 ha of landscape unit 2 and are particularly widespread between Lagoon and Oaky Creeks. These soils occur at a slightly higher elevation in the landscape than the Barratta clays, and on slopes usually between 0.2 and 0.5 per cent. Oakey and Dowie soils were also found on steeper sloping areas adjacent to creeks, particularly around the margins of the survey area.

The colour of the clayey upper B horizon of the sodic duplex soils varies greatly from grey to brown or dark. All have B horizons of strong consistency and coarse macro-structure. The depth of the A horizon and the depth at which the field pH becomes strongly alkaline ($pH > 8.5$) are attributes used to separate these soils.

Sodic duplex soil types 2Dba, 2Dya, 2Dda and 2Ddb have the shallowest surfaces being less than 0.12 m in depth and are the predominant soil types within landscape unit 2 (1325 ha). The Oakey soil types 2Dya and 2Dda are strongly alkaline below 0.3 m in depth and particularly widespread in the area between Lagoon and Oaky Creeks. In comparison, the field pH at 0.3 m in both of the Dowie soil types 2Dba and 2Ddb is always in excess of 8.5 which corresponds with strongly sodic characteristics (Donnollan, 1991). Dowie soils occur widely throughout Haughton Stage 1 (503 ha) with the most extensive occurrences adjacent to Haughton Main Channel between Lagoon and Nine Mile Lagoon Creeks. In one unusual occurrence (UMA 72) near the Channel, Dowie soils (2Ddb) were found to be closely associated with linearly distributed uniform sands (soil type 6Ucb) representing buried stream deposits. These relict buried stream deposits were observed to transgress a number of adjacent mapping units throughout Haughton Stage 1, reflecting prior stream paths during periods of higher sea level or more humid climatic regimes.

The Oakey soil types 2Dbb and 2Dyb with deeper surfaces (0.12 - 0.2 m) are also widespread in Haughton Stage 1 (534 ha). These soils occur mainly around the margin of the area along Nine Mile Lagoon and Barratta Creeks. The soil reaction trend for 2Dbb and 2Dyb soil types is similar to the other Oakey soils, 2Dya and 2Dda, described above, in that the pH does not usually reach 8.5 by 0.3 m in depth but will by 0.6 m. Other Oakey soil types, 2Dbc, 2Dbd and 2Ddc, with deeper surfaces $(>0.2 \text{ m})$ and less alkaline soil reaction trends occur as only minor soils (87 ha) within the area.

3.3.3 Soils of landscape unit 6

A very wide range of soil types occurs on the levees, flood-outs and fans of the various creeks and prior streams. The greatest occurrence of these alluvial landforms occurs adjacent to HMC due to overbank flooding of Oaky and Nine Mile Lagoon Creeks.

The uniform sands (soil types 6Uca, 6Ucb, 6Ucc), as mapping units, occupy only 22 ha of the survey area (Table 2). However, they also occur as secondary soils within complex mapping units and extensively in thin linear patterns within many units, reflecting prior stream deposits. Such linear patterns are too thin to be mapped at this scale but the most obvious occurrences have been delineated with a broken line on the soils map. Such sandy soils will have an influence on the design and construction of area works and new irrigation farms particularly where they are elevated in the landscape, for example UMA 38 (6Dye-6Ucb).

All of the 6Uc soil types have yellow-brown to brown B horizons, with textures not exceeding sandy loam to light sandy clay loam. The one occurrence of 6Uca (UMA 189) is located adjacent to Oaky Creek and is transgressed by a prior stream leading to a small lagoon to the north. The soil type 6Ucb is distinguished by the presence of a bleached A2 horizon to a depth of 0.6 m and was found to occur on the major prior stream deposits adjacent to HMC.

Another soil type with a very deep sandy A horizon, 6Dya, has been developed on raised flood-out deposits adjacent to HMC as a result of previous overbank flooding of Oaky Creek. This soil type with A horizons extending to 1.2 m over a yellow-brown or yellow-grey clay B horizon, occurred over almost 40 ha.

By far the most extensive soils within landscape unit 6 are sodic duplex soils, extending over 783 ha. Approximately 73 per cent of the soils within this group have A horizon depths less than 0.3 m. These soils with shallow surfaces have brown, yellowbrown, grey or dark clay B horizons to a depth of about 1 m, overlying buried subsoil horizons, often of lighter texture than the B horizon above. Two of the sodic duplex soil types 6Dbh and 6Dyj within this broad group occupy 166 ha and are distinguished by thin surfaces, less than 0.15 m in depth and are very strongly sodic by 0.3 m. This sodicity level is associated with high pH values (≥ 8.5) at 0.3 m.

Other sodic duplex soils with A horizon depths between 0.15 and 0.3 m have more variable pH and sodicity levels at 0.3 m. Soil types with these characteristics are 6Dba, 6Dyg, 6Dda and 6Ddb and were found mainly on flood-out deposits adjacent to HMC, mainly in the south of the area. Collectively, these four soil types total some 404 ha.

The remaining sodic duplex soils of this landscape unit cover 213 ha; they have deeper surfaces (to 0.6 m in depth) and are not strongly alkaline or sodic (ESP > 6) in the upper 0.9 m of the profile. These soils (6Dbb, 6Dbe, 6Dyb, 6Dye and 6Dyf) have brown, yellow-brown to grey B horizons to about 1.2 m over buried subsoil horizons, often of lighter texture than the B horizon above.

Limited occurrences of the non-sodic duplex soil types 6Dra, 6Dyd and 6Gna make up the remaining 24 ha of landscape unit 6.

3.4 Chemical and physical characteristics

Following the field survey, representative soil profiles from 11 soil types were sampled for laboratory analysis. These sampled soils represent the most extensive soils, in particular, the sodic duplex soils which occupy 66 per cent or 2730 ha of Haughton Stage 1. The morphological and analytical data for the representative soil profiles are listed in Appendix II.

Profiles were sampled at 0 to 0.1 m, 0.1 to 0.2 m, 0.2 to 0.3 m, 0.5 to 0.6 m, 0.8 to 0.9 m, 1.1 to 1.2 m and 1.4 to 1.5 m unless a soil horizon boundary occurred within any particular sampling interval. Eight to ten surface samples (0 to 0.1 m) were also taken from each site and bulked for particular plant nutrient analyses. Analytical methods used and the principles followed in the interpretation of the results are outlined in Bruce and Rayment (1982) and Baker (1991).

In addition to the representative soil profiles, a further 23 sites were sampled mainly to further investigate soil salinity and sodicity levels in the sodic duplex soils. As these additional soil profiles were fully analysed, the results have been incorporated in **the** discussion of soil chemical and physical characteristics which follows. A list of the soil types and UMA's sampled is given in Table 3 and their location is shown in Figure 4.

| Soil type | Representative sample site number | Survey mapping site number | UMA number | Soil type | Representative sample site number | Survey mapping site number | UMA number |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Sodic duplex soils of landscape unit 2 | | | | Sodic duplex soils of landscape unit 6 | | |
| 2Dda | | HTS 195 | 30 | 6Dba | S ₆ | | 29 |
| 2Dda | | HTS 204 | 40 | 6Dba | | HTS 190 | 39 |
| 2Dda | | HTS 209 | 30 | 6Dba | | HTS 327 | 63 |
| 2Dda | | HTS 402 | 30 | 6Dba | | HTS 352 | 63 |
| 2Dda | S ₄ | | 185 | 6Dda | S7 | | 69 |
| 2Dda | | HTS 608 | 225 | 6Dda | | HTS 328 | 69 |
| 2Dya | S5 | | 134 | 6Dda | | HTS 371 | 60 |
| 2Dya | | HTS 596 | 222 | 6Dyb | | HTS 571 | 234 |
| 2Dya | | HTS 660 | 225 | 6Dye | S8 | | 38 |
| 2Dyb | | HTS 98 | $\mathbf{1}$ | 6Dyg2 | S ₉ | | 39 |
| | | | | 6Dyg | | HTS 153 | 29 |
| | | | | 6Dyg | | HTS 397 | 33 |
| | | | | 6Dyg | | HTS 399 | 32 |
| Cracking clays of landscape unit 2 | | | | 6Dyg | | HTS 460 | 173 |
| | | | | 6 Dyj 2 | S10 | | 33 |
| 2Ugd(m) | S1A | | 11 | 6Dyj | | HTS 372 | 59 |
| $2Ugd$ (d) | S1B | | | 6Dyj | S11 | | 33 |
| 2Uge(m) | S ₂ A | | 122 | 6Dyj | | HTS 389 | 33 |
| 2Uge(d) | S ₂ B | | | 6Dyj | | HTS 392 | 33 |
| 2Ugk(m) | S ₃ A | | 13 | 6Dyj | | HTS 393 | 33 |
| $2Ugk$ (d) | S3B | | | 6Dyj | | HTS 470 | 163 |

Table 3. Soil types sampled within Haughton Section - Stage 1, Burdekin River Irrigation Area

It can be seen from Table 3 and Figure 4 that emphasis was placed on sampling of the sodic duplex soils in the south west of the area, particularly in the vicinity of HMC. Some of the larger UMA's in this area have been multiple sampled to provide an understanding of the spatial variation in sodicity and salinity characteristics.

3.4.1 Fertility of surface soils

Very low to low levels of extractable phosphorus and low levels of organic carbon and total nitrogen were found in all three Barratta clay sites sampled (Table 4, Appendix 2). For the same soils, extractable potassium levels were medium to high, extractable copper

Figure 4. Location of representative and additional soil sampling sites, Haughton Section - Stage 1, Nine Mile Lagoon to Oaky Creek, Burdekin River Irrigation Area.
28.

levels medium and extractable zinc levels very low to low on mounds and medium in the surface of depressions. The above data agree with the range of values for representative profiles of the same soil types elsewhere in the BRIA (Donnollan 1991).

(6)* refers to the number of analytical values available for each soil type or group of soil types.

29.

The surface fertility status of all sodic duplex soils analysed is low and below that found for the three Barratta clay soils (Table 4, Appendix 2). In general, the origin of the sodic duplex soils ie. whether the soil occurred in landscape unit 2 or 6 made little difference to surface fertility characteristics with the exception that some soils of landscape unit 6 had slightly lower levels of extractable potassium, organic carbon and total nitrogen when compared to those of landscape unit 2. This is mainly a result of coarser surface textures in some of the landscape unit 6 soils, particularly in the case of 6Dyb and 6Dye and to some extent 6Dba.

When considering all sodic duplex soils together, extractable phosphorus levels were very low to low, as were organic carbon and total nitrogen levels. For the same soils, extractable potassium, copper and zinc were low to medium. Surface fertility data for this group of soils agrees with the range of values for representative profiles of the same soil types elsewhere in the BRIA (Donnollan 1991).

3.4.2 Total phosphorus, potassium and sulphur

All soils sampled from within landscape unit 2 mapping units had similar low levels of total sulphur, values decreasing from a mean of 0.016 per cent in the surface 0.1 m to 0.011 per cent by 1.2 m.

The Barratta clay (2Ug) soils, however, were a little better supplied with total phosphorus and potassium than the sodic duplex Oakey (2D) soils. The mean total phosphorus level for the 0.1 m depth of the Barratta clays was 0.022 per cent compared to the mean of 0.017 per cent in the same depth of the Oakey soils. Total phosphorus in the Oakey soils remained fairly constant with depth while levels decreased in the Barratta clays to 0.015 per cent by 1.2 m. All of the above values are nevertheless regarded as low, with the exception of some slightly higher total phosphorus levels in samples taken from depressions of the Barratta clay soils (mean value of 0.024 per cent at 0.1 m).

Total potassium values in the landscape unit 2 soils increased with depth. Mean values for the sodic duplex (2D) soils ranged from 0.84 per cent at 0.1 m to 1.17 per cent at 1.2 m and 1.1 to 1.44 per cent respectively for the same depths of the Barratta clay soils. These values represent medium to high levels of total potassium.

The sodic duplex soils of landscape unit 6 have even higher total potassium levels, increasing from 1.25 per cent at 0.1 m to 1.55 per cent at 1.2 m. However, total phosphorus and sulphur levels for these soils are the lowest of all soils sampled, averaging 0.015 per cent total phosphorus and 0.01 per cent total sulphur at 0.1 m. These values differ little with depth.

3.4.3 Cation exchange capacity and exchangeable cations

Cation exchange capacity (CEC) and exchangeable cation status are important characteristics of soils as these attributes have a major influence on plant nutrient status and uptake and can influence soil physical properties such as plant available water capacity, uptake of soil water and dispersion.

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Mean clay content and cation exchange data for selected depths of the soils of both landscape unit 2 and 6 are given in Tables 5 and 6 respectively. It should be noted that the clay contents at 1.1 to 1.2 m of several profiles within soil types 2Dda and 6Dda are lower than in the main B horizon above at 0.5 to 0.6 m. This has resulted in lower mean clay contents, cation exchange capacity and exchangeable cations at 1.1 to 1.2 m than at 0.5 to 0.6 m.

(6)* refers to the number of analytical values available for each soil type or group of soil types. ** CEC and exchangeable cations determined at pH 8.5 after ethanol leaching.

Table 6. Mean clay content and cation exchange data for sodic duplex soils of landscape unit 6 sampled within Haughton Section - Stage 1, Burdekin River Irrigation Area

(4)* refers to the number of analytical values available for each soil type or group of soil types. ** CEC and exchangeable cations determined at pH 8.5 after ethanol leaching.

When comparing all soils analysed, mounds of the Barratta clay (2Ug) soils have the highest cation exchange and exchangeable cation status, reflecting higher clay contents at all three selected depths. Soils analysed from the 2Ug cracking clay depressions have lower clay contents and cation exchange capacity status compared to the mound profiles but similar to subsoils of the sodic duplex Oakey soil types (2Dya and 2Dyb). However, the proportion of exchangeable cations varies considerably between the Barratta and Oakey soil types, with much higher exchangeable sodium in the 0.5 to 0.6 and 1.1 to 1.2 m depths in the latter soils.

Exchangeable calcium is highest in the 2Ug mound profiles with exchangeable magnesium and calcium present in approximately equal amounts, as they are also for the 2Ug depression profiles, 2Dda and 6Dda soil types. In the case of the soil types 2Dya, 2Dyb, 6Dba, 6Dyg and 6Dyj, exchangeable magnesium exceeds exchangeable calcium levels, particularly in the subsoil depths. Such high exchangeable magnesium levels may contribute together with the high exchangeable sodium status to cause the subsoil of many of these soil types to disperse readily when wet.

The soil types 6Dyb and 6Dye are quite different to the other sodic duplex soils of landscape unit 6 in that they both have deep sandy A horizons, hence the very low surface clay contents and low exchangeable cation status. The Ca:Mg ratio for these two soil types (6Dyb and 6Dye) is greater than 1.0 for all selected depths. These soils are typical of the raised prior streams of the area and have formed on older alluvial deposits when compared to adjacent flood-outs and fans predominated by the soil types 6Dba, 6Dyg and 6Dyj.

Clay content, cation exchange capacity and exchangeable calcium and magnesium levels throughout all selected depths of the sodic duplex soils 6Dba, 6Dda, 6Dyg and 6Dyj are considerably lower than levels found in the sodic duplex soils of landscape unit 2 (2Dda, 2Dya, 2Dyb). In fact exchangeable calcium and magnesium levels in the surface of all sodic duplex soils of landscape unit 6 are below those recommended as sufficient for plant uptake (Baker 1991).

Exchangeable potassium levels are highest in all three selected depths of the Barratta (2Ug) cracking clays. Surface exchangeable potassium levels in all other soils analysed are also sufficient ie. having over 0.2 meq per 100 g (Baker 1991) although levels often decrease below 0.2 meq per 100g at depth.

The exchangeable sodium status of these soils will be discussed in detail in the next section. One important difference between the soils of the two landscape units is the proportion of exchangeable sodium in the subsoils of the strongly sodic duplex soils. In the Oakey (2D) soils, exchangeable sodium levels increase markedly with depth, however magnesium remains the predominant cation. In contrast, the sodic duplex soils of landscape unit 6 (6Dba, 6Dda, 6Dyg and 6Dyj) have a higher proportion of exchangeable sodium, with sodium dominating the clay exchange in the subsoil in most instances.

The ratio of cation exchange capacity to clay content, also known as the clay activity ratio can be used to indicate the predominant clay mineral present. For the landscape unit 2 soils, the clay activity ratio is quite constant at around 0.55, irrespective of profile morphology. This value indicates the soils have a mixture of non-expanding and expanding clay minerals ie. a mixture of kaolinite, illite and montmorillonite. This agrees with Coughlan (1979) who found by X-ray diffraction that the $\langle 2 \mu m \rangle$ fraction of a Barratta (2Ug) clay soil, which had a clay activity ratio of 0.62, contained a mixture of poorly crystalline montmorillonite, kaolinite, quartz, illite and interstratified kaolinmontmorillonite.

Most selected depths for the sodic duplex soils of landscape unit 6 had clay activity ratios of between 0.4 and 0.5 which indicates a higher proportion of non-expanding clay minerals when compared to the landscape unit 2 soils.

The predominance of non-expanding clay minerals in many of the soils analysed from Haughton Stage 1 will result in a reduced plant available water capacity (PAWC) and a need to irrigate more frequently. Estimates of effective rooting depth and PAWC for the soil types sampled within Haughton Stage I are summarised in Donnollan (1991). Rooting depth is estimated to be between 0.4 and 0.6 m for the strongly sodic duplex soils (2Dda, 2Dya, 2Dyb, 6Dba, 6Dda, 6Dyg and 6Dyj) and 0.9 m for the weakly sodic duplex soils (6Dyb and 6Dye) and the Barratta clay (2Ug) soils. PAWC was estimated as 69 to 95 mm for the strongly sodic duplex soils, 114 mm for the weakly sodic duplex soils and 130 mm for the cracking clays.

3.4.4 Soil pH, sodicity and salinity

Soil pH provides a measure of the degree of acidity or alkalinity of the soil solution which has a major influence on plant nutrient availability. High soil pH may also indicate high levels of exchangeable sodium in the soils of this area (Baker *et al.).*

Soil pH profiles for all analysed soils are shown in Figures 5 and 6. With the exception of the mound profile of the Barratta clay 2Uge (Figure 5d), all soils had surface pH values between 5.5 and 6.7. The soloth soil type 6Dyb remained non-alkaline throughout the profile (Figure 5a), whereas the weakly sodic soil type 6Dye became moderately alkaline by a depth of 1.2 m.

Soil reaction trend within the Barratta (2Ug) clay soils was extremely variable, depending on the soil type and whether the site was sampled from the mound or depression position (Figure 5d). Subsoil pH values by a depth of 1.5 m varied from 7.7 for the 2Ugd depression profile to 8.8 for the 2Ugk mound.

Soil pH increased with depth most markedly in the strongly sodic duplex soil type 6Dyj (Figure 6a) where pH exceeded 8.5 by a depth of 0.3 m in all but one of the sampled profiles. Soil pH at 0.3 m in all other sodic duplex soils was quite variable (Figures 5b, c; 6b, c, d) with many values exceeding pH 8.0. Some sampled soil profiles classified in the field as soil types 2Dda, 2Dyb, 6Dyg, 6Dba and 6Dda had laboratory pH values in excess of 8.5 at 0.3 m in depth and as such have atypical soil reaction trends (Donnollan, 1991).

By a depth of 1.5 m, all sodic duplex soils with the exception of 6Dyb (Figure 5a) have pH values in excess of 8.0 which agrees with general soil reaction trends for the same soil types throughout the BRIA (Donnollan 1991).

Figure 5. Soil pH profiles for (a) weakly sodic duplex soils of landscape unit **6 and (b,c,d) all soils of landscape unit 2, Haughton Section - Stage 1, Burdekin River Irrigation Area. A and B profiles for the Barratta (2Ug) clay soils indicate mound and depression sites respectively.**

Figure 6. Soil pH profiles for strongly sodic duplex soils of landscape unit 6, Haughton Section - Stage 1, Burdekin River Irrigation Area.

There is a close relationship between soil pH and exchangeable sodium percentage (ESP)*, particularly for the sodic duplex soils of the BRIA (Baker et al. 1983), and this relationship is heavily relied upon in the assessment of land suitability. ESP profiles for all analysed soils are shown in Figures 7 and 8.

Extremely high ESP values (mean of 41.6 per cent) were found by a depth of 0.3 m in the strongly sodic duplex soil type 6Dyj (Figure 8a). ESP values for this soil type sampled from within Haughton Stage 1 are much higher than expected from the mean ESP profile for similar strongly sodic duplex soils throughout the BRIA (Donnollan 1991). At a depth of 1.5 m, mean ESP for the sampled 6Dyj profiles reached 65 per cent.

Many of the other sodic duplex soil types (2Dda, 2Dya, 2Dyb, 6Dyg and 6Dba) have ESP values at a depth of 0.3 m and below (Figure 7 and 8), considerably higher than expected from the mean ESP profile for similar sodic duplex soils throughout the BRIA (Donnollan 1991). This is particularly the case for most of the 6Dyg and 6Dba profiles analysed (Figure 8 b, c) and such high ESP values are not always indicated by field or laboratory determined pH. This causes some concern in the assessment of land suitability as ESP cannot be determined in the laboratory for all sodic duplex soil mapping units. Given the number of sodic duplex soils sampled from Haughton Stage 1 with an ESP greater than 25 at 0.3 m depth, the potential of this area for irrigated sugar cane and field crops with the exception of rice must be questioned even though substantial areas have been rated as suitable (usually class 3).

This phenomenon of higher than expected exchangeable sodium within the soils of Haughton Stage 1 may be associated with its close proximity to areas of weathering granite rich in sodium felspars in the catchment of Oaky Creek and its tributaries. All of the strongly sodic duplex soils of this area will have a tendency to disperse strongly when wet, as indicated by dispersion ratio (R1) values of 0.89 to 1.0 by a depth of 0.5 to 0.6 m and high ESP. These soils will become even more dispersive if soluble salts are leached from the soil profile.

ESP profiles for the weakly sodic duplex soil types 6Dye and 6Dyb (Figure 7a) are similar to that reported in Donnollan (1991) where subsoils do not become sodic (ESP 6 to 15) until a depth of 0.9 m.

For the three Barratta (2Ug) cracking clay soils analysed, 2Ugd and 2Ugk profiles were sodic (ESP 6 to 15) by 0.6 m and strongly sodic (ESP \geq 15) by 0.9 m (Figure 7d); as expected from similar soils elsewhere in the BRIA (Donnollan 1991). However, both mound and depression 2Uge profiles had atypically much higher ESP values at 0.3 m and below, with this soil becoming strongly sodic by a depth of 0.6 m. All of the clay soils analysed from this area will have a tendency to disperse strongly when wet, as indicated by dispersion ratio (R1) values of 0.89 to 0.99 by a depth of 0.5 to 0.6 m and significant exchangeable sodium present at that depth. If soluble salts are leached from these soils, they will tend to become even more dispersive.

* $ESP = Exchangeable Na/CEC x 100$ where $CEC = cation exchange capacity$.

Figure 7. ESP profiles for (a) weakly sodic duplex soils of landscape unit 6 and (b,c,d) all soils of landscape unit 2, Haughton Section - Stage 1, Burdekin River Irrigation Area. A and B profiles for the Barratta (2Ug) clay soils indicate mound and depression sites respectively.

Figure 8. ESP profiles for strongly sodic duplex soils of landscape unit 6, Haughton Section - Stage 1, Burdekin River Irrigation Area.

Electrical conductivity (EC) profiles for all sampled soils are shown in Figures 9 and 10. Profiles of the strongly sodic duplex soil type 6Dyj (Figure 10a) had the highest soluble salt levels of all soils analysed. Most 6Dyj soil profiles had medium to high EC by a depth of 0.6 m, with two profiles having high EC at 0.3 m. The maximum salt bulge at 0.6 to 0.9 m for these soils confirms an effective rooting depth of less than 0.6 m.

Maximum soluble salt levels in other sodic duplex soil types, 2Dda, 2Dya, 6Dyg, 6Dba and 6Dda (Figures 9b, c and 10 b, c, and d respectively) reached medium by 0.6 m, confirming an effective rooting depth of less than 0.6 m. EC values in most profiles of these soil types decreased below a depth of 0.9 m.

Soluble salt levels in the weakly sodic duplex soil types 6Dye and 6Dyb (Figure 9a) are very low to low in the upper 1.2 m of the profile. This result conforms with the mean EC (1:5) profile reported for similar soils elsewhere in the BRIA (Donnollan 1991). From the EC profiles for the 6Dye and 6Dyb soils analysed, there should be no restriction to plant roots within the upper 1.2 m.

EC values for the Barratta clay (2Ug) soils from Haughton Stage 1 (Figure 9d) were all medium below a depth of 0.9 m which confirms this as the effective rooting depth. Soluble salt levels decreased little between 0.9 and 1.5 m.

Figure 9. Electrical conductivity profiles for (a) weakly sodic duplex soils of landscape unit 6 and (b,c,d) all soils of landscape unit 2, Haughton Section - Stage 1, Burdekin River Irrigation Area. A and B profiles for the Barratta (2Ug) clay soils indicate mound and depression sites respectively.

Figure 10. Electrical conductivity profiles for strongly sodic duplex soils of landscape unit 6, Haughton Section - Stage 1, Burdekin River Irrigation Area.

4. LAND EVALUATION

4.1 Current land use

At the time of the survey (1987-88), the area comprising Haughton Section - Stage 1 was being used for beef cattle grazing on native pastures. No tree clearing or poisoning had taken place. The area was made up of "Camerons" (Lot 2, Barratta) south of Oaky Creek, now resumed by the Water Resources Commission, part of "Barratta Gully" (Lot 3, Barratta) and part of the stock route and adjacent Camping Reserve No. 34. The location of these holdings can be seen in Figure 2.

4.2 Method of assessing land suitability

Land suitability assessment provides an estimate of the potential of land for a particular form of land use. In Queensland, land is assessed on the basis of five land suitability classes with suitability decreasing from class 1 to 5 (Land Resources Branch staff, 1990). A short definition of the classes is as follows:

- Class 1 Suitable land with negligible limitations;
- Class 2 Suitable land with minor limitations;
- Class 3 Suitable land with moderate limitations;
- Class 4 Marginal land presently unsuitable; and
- Class 5 Unsuitable land.

More detailed definitions of each of the suitability classes is given in Appendix Ill.

Land resource information gathered during soil surveys, as well as the results of laboratory analyses on selected soil profiles, are used in assessing land suitability. In Haughton Section - Stage 1, as in other areas in the BRIA, the suitability of each individual mapping unit or unique map area (UMA) was assessed as to its suitability for a range of furrow-irrigated crops, including sugar-cane; flood irrigation of rice, and low volume irrigation of two selected tree crops.

Each of the three irrigation methods considered requires a different land suitability classification system (Donnollan and Day 1986). These classification systems were developed by first determining the land use requirements for each particular crop irrigation method being assessed. Soil and land characteristics which cause land to have less than optimum conditions for a particular crop - irrigation method were recognised as limitations. Local soil and land attributes that will provide a measure or an estimate of the effects of each limitation were then selected and ranked as subclasses in terms of the increasing degree of severity imposed by each limitation on that irrigated land use.

The limitations were grouped into four categories depending on their effects as follows:

- **Crop productivity** limitations nutrients, salinity, sodicity; and for tree crops, soil depth;
- Water management limitations water availability, excessive permeability, soil complexity, internal drainage; and for rice, deep drainage;
- **Land surface management limitations** rockiness, slope, microrelief, surface condition and wetness; and
- Degradation limitations erosion and salinity outflow potential.

Details of limitation subclasses and the framework of each of the land suitability classification systems are given in Appendices IV, V and VI and are discussed more fully by McClurg (in press). When assessing the suitability of each UMA, the highest limitation subclass assigned usually determined the overall land suitability class. However, for UMA's which had two or more limitation subclasses with the same ranking, consideration was given to downgrading the overall land suitability class further, particularly if there were any interactions between these limitations.

Land was assessed for the following crop-irrigation methods:

using **flood irrigation** (paddy) - rice; and

using **low volume irrigation** - mangoes and avocadoes.

4.3 Results of the land suitability assessment

Access to the land suitability data base for all 19 crops is available through the Ayr office of the Department; but for immediate planning purposes the assessment for five of the most commonly grown crops are discussed here. These crops are sugar-cane, maize, rice, capsicums and mangoes. A summary of the suitability of the land for these five crops is given in Table 7 and is illustrated on the accompanying map.

| Land Suitability Class | Area of land (ha) assessed within each land suitability class | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------|------|-----------|---------|
| | Sugar-cane | Maize | Rice | Capsicums | Mangoes |
| | | | | | |
| $\overline{2}$ | 533 | 16 | 416 | 16 | 17 |
| 3 | 2414 | 2254 | 1690 | 94 | 123 |
| Total Suitable | 2947 | 2270 | 2106 | 110 | 140 |
| 4 | 1069 | 1746 | 1392 | 3906 | 3895 |
| 5 | 131 | 131 | 649 | 131 | 112 |

Table 7. The suitability of Haughton Section - Stage 1, Burdekin River Irrigation Area, for five crops produced under furrow irrigation (sugar-cane, maize and capsicums), flood irrigation of rice and low volume irrigation of mangoes

For each UMA, the complete land suitability assessment for the five main crops, including individual limitation subclasses, is given in Appendix VII (sugar-cane, maize and rice) and VIII (capsicums and mangoes).

Sugar-cane. Based on the summary in Table 7, it would appear that sugar-cane is the most appropriate crop for Haughton Stage 1, with 2947 ha or 71 per cent of the area assessed as suitable. Sodicity, soil distribution complexity and occasionally plant water availability are the most restrictive of all limitations, causing land to be rated as marginal (class 4) for sugar-cane. However, based on the chemical analysis of the sodic duplex soils of the area, sodicity may in fact be a more severe limitation than indicated by the current method of assessment. This conclusion has been discussed fully in Section 3.4.4. Given that 2780 ha or 66 per cent of Haughton Stage 1 is comprised of sodic duplex soils, the potential of this area for irrigated sugar-cane must be questioned as higher inputs such as gypsum application will always be required to achieve acceptable yields. The area is also remote from existing tramlines and the provision of such infrastructure will be very expensive.

Maize. The area assessed as suitable for maize production (2270 ha or 55 per cent) is considerably less than for sugar-cane due in part to the greater sensitivity of maize to excessive sodicity and adverse soil surface conditions. This estimate of the area suitable for maize will be further reduced if the sodicity limitation is as severe as soil analyses indicate. However, the potential of Haughton Stage 1 for the irrigated production of a more sodium tolerant row crop such as cotton is considerably higher (2830 ha or 68 per cent suitable), at least on the current system of assessment.

Rice. Soil distribution complexity, excessive deep drainage, sodicity and occasionally slope or gradient are the main limitations which reduce the area of Haughton Stage 1 suitable for rice to 2106 ha or 51 per cent. This result does indicate the somewhat restricted potential of the area for rice production. However, if the sodicity

limitation is actually more severe than the assessment indicates, the additional inputs such as higher fertiliser rates to achieve an acceptable yield will not be as expensive as the inputs required to grow crops such as sugar-cane and maize in this area.

Capsicums and Mangoes. Very little area of Haughton Stage 1 has been rated as suitable for the furrow irrigation of capsicums or low volume irrigation of mangoes. The most restrictive limitations for capsicums are soil permeability, adverse soil surface conditions and excessive sodicity. The effect of these limitations can be reduced to some extent by growing such horticultural crops on beds under plastic mulch and using trickle irrigation. However, the strongly sodic and very shallow surfaced sodic duplex soil types 2Dba, 2Dda, 2Ddb and 2Dya should still be regarded as unsuitable irrespective of the irrigation technique employed.

Surface wetness, excessive sodicity and salinity and restricted internal drainage are the main limitations which result in most of Haughton Stage 1 being rated as unsuitable for the low volume irrigation of mangoes.

4.4 Management considerations

Most of the soils of Haughton Stage 1 fall within two of the broad soil groups defined by Donnollan (1991). These are the cracking clays and the sodic duplex soils. Donnollan further subdivided each of these broad soil groups into a number of subgroups, as their characteristics and associated landform features require the adoption of specific management strategies for successful irrigated crop production.

A more comprehensive discussion of limitations to irrigated land use and management options appropriate to each of the soil subgroups is provided in Donnollan (1991). A summary of this information as it relates to the soils of Haughton Stage 1 is provided below.

4.4.1 Group 1. Cracking clays

These soils comprise the Barratta clays of subgroup 1A (2Ugc, d and e) and **subgroup** 1B (2Ugf, g, h and k). Collectively the Barratta clays occupy 1334 ha of Haughton Stage 1.

The most commonly assigned land suitability classes for the Barratta clays are class 2 or 3 for sugar-cane; class 3 for maize; class 2 or 3 for rice and class 4 for capsicums and for mangoes. Appendices VII and VIII provide the land suitability classes assigned to each particular area or UMA.

Barratta clays are generally suitable for furrow irrigation of sugar-cane and a range of row crops due mainly to high plant available water capacity, gentle slopes and low soluble salt levels to at least 0.6 m. Generally they are suitable for rice due to restricted internal drainage and gentle slopes. However, they are unsuitable for furrow irrigation of horticultural crops due to slow permeability within the root zone and are

unsuitable for low volume irrigation of mangoes due to restricted internal drainage and excessive wetness.

As these soils occur on slopes less than 0.2 percent and have gilgai up to 0.3 m vertical interval in their natural state, precision levelling will be required to provide adequate surface drainage. After the first crop, a light brushing may be required to compensate for differential settling of fill in the gilgai depressions. It is also important that low spots, sufficiently deep to hold water after flushing, are not present in rice bays to attract geese with subsequent puddling and loss of production.

Shorter furrow lengths (less than 600 m) are suggested for sugar-cane and row crops where the land slope is 0.1 per cent or less to improve irrigation efficiency and avoid waterlogging. More frequent, high volume irrigation over a short duration will also improve irrigation efficiency as water entry becomes very slow after surface cracks close.

Wet season trafficability is a major problem on the Barratta clays. Implementation of a controlled traffic - permanent bed system will increase the period when cultural operations can be undertaken successfully. Such operations should not be undertaken until the soil moisture content is nearing the lower plastic limit to avoid excessively cloddy seed beds.

Satisfactory germination and establishment of crops including sugar-cane can be achieved on Barratta clays by planting dry on furrow crests at a shallow depth and then wetting them slowly.

4.4.2 Group 2. Sodic duplex soils

These soils exhibit a very distinct change in texture from either a sandy or loamy surface (A) horizon to a dense sodic clay subsoil (B horizon). All of the soils of this group are sodic $(ESP > 6)$ in some part of the subsoil and have been divided into three very distinctive subgroups depending on the depth of the surface (A) horizon, the level of sodicity and at what depth subsoils become sodic (Donnollan, 1991). These soil characteristics will require the use of specific management techniques for successful irrigated crop production.

The strongly sodic duplex soils 2Dba, 2Ddb, 6Dbh and 6Dyj make up subgroup 2A. These soils occupy 670 ha of Haughton Stage 1. Characteristics of these soils include thin surface (A) horizons (less than 0.15 m), and subsoils that become strongly alkaline (pH 7.9 to 9.0) and strongly sodic (ESP $>$ 15) by 0.3 m. In this area, analysed soil profiles demonstrate extremely high ESP levels in excess of 25 at 0.3 m (see Section 3.4.4). Because of the influence of these characteristics on plant available water capacity, plant nutrition and general soil physical conditions, sodic duplex soils of subgroup 2A have been assessed as class 4 for all crops, i.e. as marginal land, currently unsuitable. Research is currently being undertaken by the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations on the amelioration of such sodic duplex soils. Management practices being investigated include the application of gypsum in solid form and via irrigation water, deep ripping, improved subsoil drainage and more appropriate irrigation methods.

Sodic duplex soils with a slightly deeper surface (A) horizon and subsoils that become strongly alkaline ($pH > 7.9$) and strongly sodic ($ESP > 15$) by 0.6 m make up subgroup 2B. Soil types that comprise this subgroup are 2Dbb, 2Dbd, 2Dya, 2Dyb, 2Dda and 2Ddc, totalling 1423 ha of the Burdekin and Haughton River alluvial plain; and 6Dba, 6Dda, 6Ddb and 6Dyg, totalling 404 ha of relict alluvial landforms such as floodouts and fans.

The sodicity levels in most of these soil types are higher than expected when compared with soil profiles analysed from other areas of the BRIA and this has had a major influence on the assessment of land suitability. The most commonly assigned land suitability classes for sodic duplex soils of subgroup 2B in this area are class 3 or 4 for sugar-cane and maize, and class 4 for furrow irrigation of capsicums and low volume irrigation of mangoes. In most instances, sodic duplex soils of landscape unit 2 are class 3 for rice due to restricted internal drainage and low slopes. In contrast, those of landscape unit 6 are usually class 4 for rice due mainly to the presence of coarser textured material within 1.5 m of the surface. Appendices VII and VIII provide the land suitability classes assigned to each particular mapping unit or UMA. While not specifically assessed, horticulture crops are best grown under trickle irrigation and plastic mulch on these soils.

The sodic duplex soils of subgroup 2B have a restricted plant available water capacity of 50 to 80 mm (Gardner and Coughlan 1982) due to high levels of exchangeable sodium. This feature also restricts root proliferation and water entry into the soil, necessitating high irrigation frequency. Deep ripping to 0.6 m, taking care not to overturn the subsoil, can improve infiltration and thus the recharge of the soil water deficit of these soils (Smith and McShane 1981, Gardner and Coughlan 1982). Combining deep ripping with gypsum application in either the solid form or via irrigation water will further improve infiltration and soil water recharge (Smith and McShane 1981) and improve crop establishment. More frequent, high volume irrigation over a short duration may also improve irrigation efficiency.

Sodic duplex soils of this subgroup have medium soluble salt levels below a depth of 0.6 m. Leaching of this salt down the profile away from the root zone can be achieved by the growing of a number of rice crops (Smith and McShane 1981, Gardner and Coughlan 1982).

Due to their impermeable subsoils, sodic duplex soils of subgroup 2B require precision levelling to avoid problems with surface wetness. Furrow slopes of about 0.2 per cent on runs of less than 600 m are suggested to avoid excessive slumping of ridges and to maximise the opportunity for infiltration. Extreme care should be taken when levelling soils of this **subgroup to** minimise removal of topsoil. The topsoil or A horizon depth for most of the soils of this subgroup is less than 0.2 m.

Other sodic duplex soils with thick surfaces (A horizons > 0.3 m) and subsoils that do not become strongly alkaline ($pH > 7.9$) and sodic ($ESP > 6$) until a depth of 0.9 m make up subgroup 2C. Soil types 2Dbc, 6Dbe, 6Dyb, 6Dye and 6Dyf comprise this subgroup and total some 203 ha of Haughton Stage 1.

characteristics. Some of these soils are suitable for trickle irrigation of mangoes, depending on subsoil sodicity. In this area, occurrences of these soil types are not large and the narrow shape of some mapping units causes them to be assessed as class 4, particularly when associated with very dissimilar soils.

4.5 Constraints to irrigation farm design

Haughton Stage 1 presents a number of difficulties for subdivision and design of irrigation farms. The main difficulties are (i) the extent and distribution of land assessed as unsuitable for irrigation, (ii) the incidence of relict alluvial landforms and (iii) existing erosion and erosion hazard areas.

Flooding, particularly in areas adjacent to Barratta and Oaky Creeks may also prove to be a major constraint to development. It is recommended that flood modelling be a part of detailed investigations of the area prior to its development. Groundwater investigations and modelling of groundwater responses under various crop-irrigation scenarios should also be carried out. This is particularly important if the area is developed for rice production and if there are barriers to groundwater flow away from the area.

4.5.1 Extent and distribution of land unsuitable for irrigation

Approximately 1100 ha or 26 per cent of Haughton Stage 1 has been assessed as unsuitable for the irrigation of all five main crops, sugar-cane, maize, rice, capsicums and mangoes. This proportion of unsuitable land is the highest yet encountered on the Left Bank of the BRIA. Areas assessed as unsuitable for all five crops for Mulgrave, Northcote, Jardine and Haughton Stage 3 Sections represent 22, 7, 9 and 13 percent of total areas surveyed respectively. The high proportion of unsuitable land in Mulgrave Section is a result of the inclusion of extensive upland areas in the south of the survey area.

A listing of the unsuitable UMAs for Haughton Stage 1 and the limitation subclasses that are responsible for this outcome are shown in Table 8. Soil distribution complexity, erosion hazard, sodicity, soil surface conditions (for maize and capsicums), gradient, deep drainage (for rice) and salinity for mangoes are the main limitations which have been assessed as severe and resulted in these UMAs being class 4 or 5.

Much of this unsuitable land is located adjacent to Haughton Main Channel (see map in rear pocket). This will necessitate the construction of lateral channels to serve the more suitable land some distance from HMC. Very little suitable land will be able to be commanded direct from HMC and this will add to the cost of development of the area.

 $\ddot{}$

, Limitations: m-plant water availability, pd-soil distribution complexity, id-internal drain
--permeability, t-gradient, so-sodicity, sa-salinity, ps-soil surface conditions, dd-deep drai ribution complexity, id-internal drair
<mark>-soil surface conditions, dd-deep</mark> drai iC
JF
JE oil Type, C-Complex, Limitations: m-plant water availability, pd-s
tness, e-erosion, p-permeability, t-gradient, so-sodicity, sa-sali
jl depth. S-Sugar-Cane, Mz-Maize, R-Rice, Cap-Capsicums, Mg-Mango osion, p-permeability, t-gradient, so-sodicity, sa[.]
S-Sugar-Cane, Mz-Maize, R-Rice, Cap-Capsicums, Mg-M .
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Within the parcels of more suitable land some distance from HMC, unsuitable areas are interspersed, often as linear shaped areas. This feature will limit the number of farms that can be subdivided from the area and will result in considerable areas of unsuitable (class 4 land) within some farms. This is highly undesireable.

When comparing the land suitability maps for each of the main crops, the potential for rice production seems to be far worse than for sugar-cane. However, as explained more fully in Sections 3.4.4 and 4.3, the widespread occurrence of strongly sodic soils (60 per cent of the total area) and the likelihood of this limitation being more severe than currently assessed, places some doubt on the potential of the area for sugarcane production. The somewhat isolated nature of Haughton Stage 1 in terms of all weather road access and distance from existing cane railways present further disincentives to the development of the area for cane production.

Some of these features of the area are of course advantageous if a more salt and sodium tolerant crop such as cotton were to be grown in the BRIA. This crop would need to be isolated from areas of cane where aerial application of herbicides is often practised. Approximately 2826 ha of Haughton Stage 1 has been assessed as suitable for the irrigated production of cotton.

4.5.2 Incidence of relict alluvial landforms

As discussed in Section 2.2, outbreaks of Oaky Creek and Nine Mile Lagoon Creek over the survey area have been numerous, resulting in a high degree of soil complexity. Some of the resultant relict alluvial landforms will cause problems with subdivision of the area and future irrigation.

In some instances (e.g. UMA 62 and 64 in the south and 224 in the north), these major relict features occur as sandy ridges, elevated above the surrounding land. These highly permeable ridges are flanked by areas of saline and sodic soils which may represent past outflow or discharge areas. Other relict alluvial landforms have been identified as prior streams (e.g. UMAs 38, 42 and 43). These features are often raised above the surrounding land and are characterised by coarse textured permeable soils along the centre of the prior stream, flanked by deep surfaced sodic duplex soils representing flood-outs of the previous stream.

In other areas of Haughton Stage 1, there are less obvious prior streams characterised by permeable sandy soils, traversing areas of less permeable sodic duplex soils and cracking clays (e.g. UMAs 50, 72, 119 and 122). Areas with such soil complexity should be excluded from the subdivision layout where possible to avoid excessive deep drainage losses and difficulties with on farm irrigation layout.

4.5.3 Existing erosion and erosion hazard areas

During the field survey many localised areas of soil erosion were observed, mainly along the sloping margins of the area to the north, south and east of the area. In most instances sodic duplex soils occupy the sloping margins and if disturbed will further erode. The

location of areas of significant erosion, where observed in the field, have been recorded and can be shown on 1:10 000 scale working plans of the soils of the area.

A number of creeks with eroded margins which act as outlets for surface flow into Barratta Creek have been mapped (e.g. UMAs 96, 103 and 256) and a major erosion gully occurs along the southern boundary of the survey area.

A satisfactory buffer should be established between any planned farms and all of the above areas, whether already severely eroded or highly susceptible to further erosion if disturbed.

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APPENDIX I

VEGETATION OF HAUGHTON SECTION STAGE I

- COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAMES

Grasses:

APPENDIX II

MORPHOLOGICAL AND ANALYTICAL DATA FOR REPRESENTATIVE SOIL PROFILES -HAUGHTON SECTION- STAGE 1, BURDEKIN RIVER IRRIGATION AREA

SOIL TYPE: ZUGG
SITE NO: SIA **A.R.G.** REFERENCE: 513 970 mE 7 813 995 mN ZONE 55

GREAT SOIL GROOF: Grey clay
PRINCIPAL PROFILE FORM: Ug3.2 SOIL TAXONOMY UNIT: FAO'UNESCO UNIT:

TYPE OF MICRORELIEF: Normal gligai
VERTICAL INTERVAL: .25 m
HORIZONTAL INTERVAL: 10 m COMPONENT OF KICRORELIEF SAMPLED: Mound SURFACE COARSE FRAGMENTS: No coarse fragments

PROFILE MORPHOLOGY:

CONDITION OF SURFACE SOIL WHEN DRY: Periodic cracking

HORIZON DEPTH Al 0 to .03 m Greyish yellow-brown (10YR4/2) moist; silty clay loam; massive; dry; moderately weak. azsb .03 to .20 m Greyish yellow-brown (IOYRS/2) moist, dull yellowish orange (IOYR//2) dry, dry sporadically
bleached; few fine distinct brown mottles; light medium clay; moderate 2-5mm angular blocky secondary; dry; moderately firm. B21 .20 to .42 m Greyish yellow-brown (10YR4/2) moist; many medium prominent brown mottles; medium heavy clay; moderate 2-Smm angular blocky secondary; moist) moderately firm. B22 .42 to .62 m Dark greyish yellow (2.5¥4/2) moist; few fine faint brown mottles; medium heavy clay; strong 5-10mm angular blocky secondary; moist; moderately firm; few medium manganiferous nodules. b∠sk .b∠to ./bm - Yellowish brown (2.515/3) mkolst; tew tine faint brown mottles; medium neavy clay; strong 5-iumm
angular blocky secondary; moist; moderately weak; common medium carbonate nodules, very few medium
mangani B24 .76 to 1.62 m Yellowish brown (2.5Y5/3) moist; medium heavy clay; strong 5-10mm angular blocky secondary, parting
to moderate 100–200mm lenticular tertiary; moist; moderately weak; few medium carbonate nodules, very few medium manganiferous nodules. B25 1.62 to 1.80 m Dull yellowish brown (IOYR5/3) moist; medium clay; moderate 5-10mm angular blocky secondary,
parting to moderate 100-200mm lenticular tertiary; moist; moderately firm. -------------------------. 1:5 Soil/Water !Particle Size! Exch. Cations ! Total Elements ! Moistures !Disp. Ratio! Exch ECEC ! pH 2 : 1 : pH EC Cl ! CS FS S C ! CEC Ca Mg Na K ! P K S : ADM 33* 1500*! R1 R2 ! Al Acid : 1CaCl2! ! Depth !1:5 Soil/Water !Particle Size! Exch. Cations ! Total Elements ! Moistures !Disp.Ratio! Exch Exch ECEC ! pH !
! ! pH EC Cl ! CS FS S C ! CEC Ca Mg Na K ! P K S ! ADM 33* 1500*! R1 R2 ! **: : @** 4oc @i05c: **@ I05C ! @ i05c : @** Soc ,. @ I05C **: @ 40c : @** I05C :@ 4oc: I .. ! 1 8 0.10 1 5.9 .03 .001 !

1 0.10 1 5.6 .04 .002 ! 2 33 31 34 ! 14 3.3 3.1 .20 .57 ! .019 1.20 .016 ! 2.8 10 ! .66

1 0.20 1 6.1 .02 .001 ! ! ! ! 1 3.6 ! **! B 0.I0 I** 5.9 .03 **.001 ! ! ! ! ! ! ! l** l 0.20 I 6.1 .02 .001 ' ! ! ! 3.6 ! ! ! ' ! 0.30 ! 6.4 .02 .001 ! 2 12 21 68 ! 30 9.8 8.i 1.3 .38 ! .015 1.18 .011 ! 5.4 21 ! .45 l ! ! l 0.60 ! 7.6 .13 .015 ! 1 II 23 67 l 34 16 14 2.8 .48 ! .009 1.39 .008 ! 4.8 21 ! .85 ! ! ! l 0.90 I 8.7 .53 .046 ! 2 II 23 64 ! 30 18 15 4.3 .43 ! .015 1.45 .017 I 4.0 20 I .78 l ! ! '. 1.20 ! 8.6 .62 .084 ! 2 I0 24 65 ! 34 46 15 5.3 .36 ! .019 1.50 .015 ! 5.8 ! ! ! ! **! 1.50 !** 8.3 .73 .084 **! ! ! ! 4.0 l ! ! !**

! .. I,

* -35kPa (-0.33bar) and -1500kPa (-15 bar) using pressure plate apparatus.

SUBSTRATE MATERIAL: CONFIDENCE SUBSTRATE IS PARENT MATERIAL:

SLOPE: LANDFORM ELEXENT TYPE: Plain LANDFORM PATTERN TYPE:

VEGETATION

STRUCTURAL FORM: Mid-high open woodland DOMINANT SPECIES: Eucalyptus alba

ANNUAL RAINFALL:

SOIL TYPE: 2Ugd SITE NO: SIB **A.M.G. REFERENCE: 513 970 mE 7 813 995 mN ZONE 55**

GREAT SOIL GROOP: Grey clay
PRINCIPAL PROFILE FORM: Ug5.24
SOIL TAXONOMY UNIT: FAO UNESCO UNIT:

TYPE OF MICRORELIEF: NORMAL gligal
VERTICAL INTERVAL: .25 m
HORIZONTAL INTERVAL: 10 m
COMPONENT OF MICRORELIEF SAMPLED: Depression
SURFACE COARSE FRAGMENTS: No coarse fragments

SLOPE:
LANDFORM ELEMENT TYPE: Plain
LANDFORM PATTERN TYPE:

VEGETATION STRUCTURAL FORM: Mid-high open woodland DOMINANT SPECIES: Eucalyptus alba

SUBSTRATE MATERIAL: CONFIDENCE SUBSTRATE IS PARENT MATERIAL:

ANNUAL RAINFALL:

PROFILE MORPHOLOGY:

CONDITION OF SURFACE SOIL WHEN DRY: Periodic cracking

,, 0.I0 ,, 5.6 .13 .002 ,, 3 17 35 44 I. 28 8.3 4.0 .28 .87 ,, .037 1.24 .025 I 3.7 16 ,, .56 ,, ,, ,, ,, 0.20 ,, 6.1 .05 .001 ,, ,, ,, ,, 3.3 ,, ,, ,, ,, ! 0.30 I. 6.1 .05 .004 ,, 3 19 31 49 I. 25 9.7 5.8 .98 .38 ,, .OIB 1.14 .008 ,, 5.0 18 ,, .74 ,, ! ! ! 0.60 : 5.9 .29 .040 ,, 3 20 30 49 I. 25 9.9 7.0 2.2 .20 ! .012 1.12 .007 ,, 4.9 18 ,, .89 I. ,, ,, ,, 0.90 ! 6.6 .43 .061 I. 2 19 30 52 ,, 26 I0 8.5 3.4 .23 ,, .010 1.17 .009 I 4.2 17 I. .88 ,, ,, I. ,, 1.20 ,, 7.5 .52 .073 I. 1 14 28 58 I. 30 13 12 5.1 .23 ! .017 1.42 .011 ,, 7.2 ,, ! l ,, **! 1.50 !** 7.7 .69 .i00 ,, ,, ,, ,, 8.5 ! ,, ,, ,, ,, .. I.

9 Depth 10rg.C 1Tot.N ! Extr. P 1 HCl 1CaCl2 Extri DTPA-extr. ! Extractable ! P : Alternative Cations !
1 (W&B)! 1Acid Bicarb.! K ! K P ! Fe Mn Cu Zn B !SO4S NO3N NH4N !Buff Equil! CEC Ca Mg Na K !
1 metres ! % ! mg/kg ! m

1, B 0.10 1, 1.6 ! .11 ! 24 19 ! .65 ! 110 134 2.4 1.9 ! : , 1

I. .. ,, * -33kPa (-0.33bar) and -1500kPa (-15 bar) using pressure plate apparatus.

SOIL TYPE: *2*Uge
SITE NO: S2A
A.M.G. REFERENCE: 511 440 mE 7 815 460 <mark>mN ZONE 55</mark> GREAT SOIL GROUP: Grey clay PRINCIPAL PROFILE FORM: Ug3.2 SOIL TAXONOMY UNIT: FAO UNESCO UNIT: TYPE OF MICRORELIEF: Normal gilgai
VERTICAL INTERVAL: .15 m
HORIZONTAL INTERVAL: 9 m
COMPONENT OF MICRORELIEF SAMPLED: Mound
SURFACE COARSE FRAGMENTS: No coarse fragments SUBSTRATE MATERIAL: CONFIDENCE SUBSTRATE IS PARENT MATERIAL: SLOPE:
LANDFORM ELEMENT TYPE: Plain
LANDFORM PATTERN TYPE: VEGETATION STRUCTURAL FORM: Low open woodland DOMINANT SPECIES: Eucalyptus alba, Eucalyptus tessellaris, Eucalyptus papuana ANNUAL RAINFALL:

PROFILE MORPHOLOGY :

CONDITION OF SURFACE SOIL WHEN DRY: Hard setting, periodic cracking

* -33kPa (-0.33bar) and -1500kPa (-15 bar) using pressure plate apparatus.

SOIL TYPE: 2Uge SITE NO: S2B **A.M.G.** REFERENCE: 511 440 mE 7 815 460 mN ZONE 55 GREAT SOIL GROUP: Grey clay
PRINCIPAL PROFILE FORM: Ug3.2
SOIL TAXONOMY UNIT: FAO UNESCO UNIT: TYPE OF MICRORELIEF: Normal gilgai
VERTICAL INTERVAL: .15 m
HORIZONTAL INTERVAL: 9 m
COMPONENT OF MICRORELIEF SAMPLED: Depression
SURFACE COARSE FRAGMENTS: No coarse fragments SUBSTRATE MATERIAL:
CONFIDENCE SUBSTRATE IS PARENT MATERIAL: SLOPE: LANDFORM ELEMENT TYPE: Plain LANDFORM PATTERN TYPE: VEGETATION STRUCTURAL FORM: Low open woodland DOMINANT SPECIES: Eucalyptus alba, Eucalyptus tessellaris, Eucalyptus papuana ANKOAL RAINFALL:

PROFILE MORPHOLOGY:

CONDITION OF SURFACE SOIL WHEN DRY: Hard setting, periodic cracking

* -33kPa (-0.33bar) and -1500kPa (-15 bar) using pressure plate apparatus.

SOIL TYPE: 2Ugk SITE NO: S3A **A.M.G.** REFERENCE: 514 150 mE 7 813 050 mN ZONE 55 GREAT SOIL GROUP: Grey clay
PRINCIPAL PROFILE FORM: Ug5.25
SOIL TAXONOMY UNIT:
FAO UNESCO UNIT: TYPE OF HICRORELIEF: MOTMAI gilgai
VERTICAL INTERVAL: .10 m
HORIZONTAL INTERVAL: 12 m
COMPONENT OF MICRORELIEF SAMPLED: Mound
SURFACE COARSE FRAGMENTS: No coarse fragments SUBSTRATE MATERIAL:
CONFIDENCE SUBSTRATE IS PARENT MATERIAL: SLOPE:
LANDFORM ELEMENT TYPE: Plain
LANDFORM PATTERN TYPE: VEGETATION STRUCTURAL FORM: Mid-high open woodland DOMINANT SPECIES: Eucalyptus alba, Eucalyptus tesselleris ANNUAL RAINFALL:

PROFILE MORPHOLOGY:

CONDITION OF SURFACE SOIL WHEN DRY: Periodic cracking, self mulching

* -33kPa (-0.33bar) and -1500kPa (-15 bar) using pressure plate apparatus.

PROFILE MORPHOLOGY:

CONDITION OF SURFACE SOIL WHEN DRY: Periodic cracking

SOIL TYPE: 2Dda SITE NO: \$4 **A.M.6.** REFERENCE: 511 530 mE 7 818 030 mN ZONE 55

GREAT SOIL GROUP: Solodic soil PRINCIPAL PROFILE FORM: Ddl.33 SOIL TAXONOMY UNIT: FAO UNESCO UNIT:

TYPE OF KICRORELIEF: No microrelief SURFACE COARSE FRAGMENTS: Very few mnall pebbles, subangular unspecified coarse fragments

PROFILE MORPHOLOGY:

CONDITION OF SURFACE SOIL WHEN DRY: Hard setting

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SUBSIRATE MATERIAL:
CONFIDENCE SUBSTRATE IS PARENT MATERIAL:

SLOPE: LANDFORM ELEMENT TYPE: Plain LANDFORM PATTERN TYPE:

VEGETATION STRUCTURAL FORM: Tussock grassland DOMINANT SPECIES

ANNUAL RAINFALL:

SOIL TYPE: 2Dya
SITE NO: S5
A.M.G. REFERENCE: 511 020 mE 7 815 320 mN ZONE 55

GREAT SOIL GROUP: Solodic soil PRINCIPAL PROFILE FORM: Dy2.33 SOIL TAXONOMY UNIT: FAO UNESCO UNIT:

TYPE OF HICROKELIEF: Normal gilgal
VERTICAL INTERVAL: .05 m
HORIZONTAL INTERVAL: 6 m
COMPONENT OF MICRORELIEF SAMPLED: Mound
SURFACE COARSE FRAGMENTS: No coarse fragments

PROFILE MORPHOLOGY:

CONDITION OF SURFACE SOIL WHEN DRY: Hard setting

HORIZON DEPTH DESCRIPTION

* -33kPa (-0.33bar) and -1500kPa (-15 bar) using pressure plate apparatus.

SUBSTRATE MATERIAL:
CONFIDENCE SUBSTRATE IS PARENT MATERIAL:

SLOPE:
LANDFORM ELEMENT TYPE: Plain
LANDFORM PATTERN TYPE:

VEGETATION

STRUCTURAL FORM: Low open woodland DOMINANT SPECIES: Eucalyptus alba, Grevillea striata

ANNUAL RAINFALL:

SOIL TYPE: 6Dba SITE NO: \$6 A.M.G. REFERENCE: 511 900 mE 7 812 380 mN ZONE 55

GREAT SOIL GROUP: Solodic soil
PRINCIPAL PROFILE FORM: Dy3.33
SOIL TAXONOMY UNIT:
FAO UNESCO UNIT:

TYPE OF MICRORELIEF: No microrelief SURFACE COARSE FRAGMENTS: No coarse fragments

SUBSTRATE MATERIAL: CONFIDENCE SUBSTRATE IS PARENT MATERIAL:

SLOPE:
LANDFORM ELEMENT TYPE: Plain
LANDFORM PATTERN TYPE:

VEGETATION STRUCTURAL FORM: Tussock grassland DOMINANT SPECIES

kNNQAL RAINFALL:

PROFILE MORPHOLOGY:

CONDITION OF SURFACE SOIL WHEN DRY: Hard setting

SOIL TYPE: 6Dda SITE NO: \$7 **A.M.G.** REFERENCE: 509 640 mE 7 813 580 mN ZONE 55

GREAT SOIL GROUP: Sologic soil
PRINCIPAL PROFILE FORM: Dd2.33
SOIL TAXONOMY UNIT:
FAO UNESCO UNIT:

TYPE OF MICRORELIEF: No microrelief SURFACE COARSE FRAGMENTS: No coarse fragments

SUBSTRATE MATERIAL: CONFIDENCE SUBSTRATE IS PARENT MATERIAL:

SLOPE: 0.0 %
LANDFORM ELEMENT TYPE: Plain
LANDFORM PATTERN TYPE:

VEGETATION STRUCfURAL FORM: Tussock grassland DOMINANT SPECIES

ANNUAL RAINFALL:

PROFILE MORPHOLOGY:

CONDITION OF SURFACE SOIL WHEN DRY: Hard setting

SOIL TYPE: 6Dye SITE NO: S8 **A.M.6.** REFERENCE: 511 060 mE 7 812 210 mN ZONE 55

GREAT SOIL GROUP: Solodic soil PRINCIPAL PROFILE FORM: Dy3.33 SOIL TAXONOMY UNIT: FAO UNESCO UNIT:

SLOPE: LANDFORM ELEMENT TYPE: Prior stream LANDFORM PATTERN TYPE:

SUBSTRATE MATERIAL:
CONFIDENCE SUBSTRATE IS PARENT MATERIAL:

VEGETATION STRUCPURAL FORM: Kid-high open woodland DOMINANT SPECIES: Eucalyptus alba, Eucalyptus tessellaris, Eucalyptus polycarpa

ANNUAL RAINFALL:

PROFILE MORPHOLOGY:

CONDITION OF SURFACE SOIL WHEN DRY: Firm

SURFACE COARSE FRAGMENTS: No coarse fragments

SOIL TYPE: 6Dyg*2*
SITE NO: S9
A.M.G. REFERENCE: 511 690 mE 7 811 950 mN ZONE 55

GREAT SOIL GROUP: SOIOdic SOII
PRINCIPAL PROFILE FORM: Dy3.43
SOIL TAXONOMY UNIT:
FAO UNESCO UNIT:

TYPE OF MICRORELIEF: NO MICTOTELIET
SURFACE COARSE FRAGMENTS: No coarse fragments

ANNUAL RAINFALL:

SUBSTRATE MATERIAL: CONFIDENCE SUBSTRATE IS PARENT MATERIAL:

VEGETATION
- STRUCTURAL FORM: Mid-high open woodland
- DOMINANT SPECIES: Eucalyptus polycarpa, Eucalyptus papuana, Grevillea

SLOPE: LANDFORM ELEMENT TYPE: Prior stream LANDFORM PATPERN TYPE:

striata

PROFILE MORPHOLOGY:

CONDITION OF SURFACE SOIL WHEN DRY: Firm

SOIL TYPE: 6Dyj2 SITE NO: SlO **A.M.G.** REFERENCE: 510 575 mE 7 8ii 550 mN ZONE 55

GREAT SOIL GROUP: Solodic soil PRINCIPAL PROFILE FORM: Db2.33 SOIL TAXONOMY UNIT: FAO UNESCO UNIT:

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TYPE OF MICRORELIEF: NO MICTOTEIIEI
SURFACE COARSE FRAGMENTS: No coarse fragments

PROFILE MORPHOLOGY:

CONDITION OF SURFACE SOIL WHEN DRY: Firm

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* -33kPa (-0.33bar) and -1500kPa (-15 bar) using pressure plate apparatus.

SOBSTRATE MATERIAL:
CONFIDENCE SUBSTRATE IS PARENT MATERIAL:

SLOPE:
LANDFORM ELEMENT TYPE: Plain

VE6ETATION STRUCTURAL FORM: Tussock grassland DOMINANT SPECIES

ANNUAL RAINFALL:

SOIL TYPE: 6Dyj SITE NO: SII **A.M.G.** REFERENCE: 510 090 mE 7 812 200 mN ZONE 55

GREAT SOIL GROUP: SOICCLIC SOIL
PRINCIPAL PROFILE FORM: Db1.33
SOIL TAXONOMY UNIT:
FAO UNESCO UNIT:

TYPE OF MICRORELIEF: NO microrelief
SURFACE COARSE FRAGMENTS: No coarse fragments

SLOPE:
LANDFORM ELEMENT TYPE: Plain
LANDFORM PATTERN TYPE:

VEGETATION
STRUCTURAL FORM: Tussock grassland
DOMINANT SPECIES

SUBSTRATE MATERIAL:
CONFIDENCE SUBSTRATE IS PARENT MATERIAL:

ANNUAL RAINFALL:

PROFILE MORPHOloGY:

CONDITION OF SURFACE SOIL WHEN DRY: Hard setting

APPENDIX **HI**

IRRIGATED LAND SUITABILITY CLASSES, BURDEKIN RIVER IRRIGATION AREA

Five land suitability classes have been defined for use in Queensland, with land suitability decreasing progressively from Class 1 to Class 5. Land is classified on the basis of a specified land use which allows optimum production with minimal degradation to the land resource in the long-term.

- Class 1 **Suitable land with negligible** limitations. This is highly productive land requiring only simple management practices to maintain economic production.
- Class 2 **Suitable land with minor limitations** which either reduce production or require more than the simple management practices* of class 1 land to maintain economic production.
- Class 3 **Suitable land with moderate limitations** which either further lower production or require more than those management practices of class 2 land to maintain economic production.
- Class 4 **Marginal land which is presently considered unsuitable due to severe** limitations. The long term significance of these limitations on the proposed land use is unknown. The use of this land is dependent upon undertaking additional studies to determine whether the effects of the limitation(s) can be reduced to achieve sustained economic production.
- Class 5 **Unsuitable land with extreme limitations** that preclude its use.

Land is considered less suitable as the severity of limitations for a land use increase, reflecting either (a) reduced potential for production, and/or (b) increased inputs to achieve an acceptable level of production and/or (c) increased inputs required to prevent land degradation. The first three classes are considered suitable for the specified land use as the benefits from using the land for that land use in the long term should
contruciable the inputs required to initiate and maintain production. Decreasing land outweigh the inputs required to initiate and maintain production. suitability within a region often reflects the need for increased inputs rather than decreased potential production.

Class 4 is considered presently unsuitable or is used for marginal land where it is doubtful that the inputs required to achieve and maintain production outweigh the benefits in the long term. Additional studies are needed to determine whether the effect of the limitation(s) can be reduced to achieve sustained production.

Class 5 is considered unsuitable having limitations that in aggregate are so severe that the benefits would not justify the inputs required to initiate and maintain production in the long term. It would require a major change in economics, technology or management expertise before the land could be considered suitable for that land use. Some class 5 lands however, such as escarpments, will always remain unsuitable for agriculture.

^{*} Where more than simple **management practices are** required, this may involve changes in land preparation, irrigation management, the addition of soil ameliorants and the use of additional measures to prevent land **degradation.**

APPENDIX IV LAND SUITABILITY CLASSIFICATION FOR FURROW IRRIGATION OF SUGAR-CANE, GRAIN CROPS AND SMALL CROPS, BURDEKIN RIVER IRRIGATION AREA.

* Salt tolerance limits specific to these crops not available.

Legume seeds include mungbean, chickpea, pidgeon pea and dolichos.

** Sodium tolerance limits unavailable for beans and legume seeds.

WATER MANAGEMENT FACTORS (Govern water distribution efficiency and trafficability)

* PAWC = Plant Available Water Capacity

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** Texture terms are as defined in Northcote (1979).

B horizon permeability markedly different between soils:

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 $\sim 10^7$

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eg. small closed depressions. Areas which are wet for most of the year or pond water for considerable periods and require major drainage and reclamation works

eg. swamps.

 $w4$

 $w3$

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APPENDIX V LAND SUITABILITY CLASSIFICATION FOR FLOOD IRRIGATION OF RICE, BURDEKIN RIVER IRRIGATION AREA.

LAND SURFACE MANAGEMENT FACTORS

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Note that any UMA with a wet soil phase (W) is class 4.

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LAND SURFACE MANAGEMENT FACTORS

Based on field observation and influence on machinery use (FAO 1983). Sizes relate to the class intervals in McDonald et al. (1984).

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. SUITABILITY OF EACH UMA FOR SUGAR-CANE, MAIZE AND RICE, HAUGHTON SECTION - STAGE 1, BURDEKIN RIVER IRRIGAT

omplex, ST-Soil Type, n-fertility, m-plant water availability, pd-soil distribution complexity, id-internal drain
icrorelief, w-wetness, e-erosion, ss-secondary salinisation, r-rockiness/stoniness, p-permeability, t-gradie ater availability, pd-soil distribution complexity, id-internal dr
ry salinisation, r-rockiness/stoniness, n-permeability, t-gradient a
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C-Complex, ST-Soil Type, n-fertility, m-plant water availability, pd-soil distribution complexity, id-internal drainage,
g-microrelief, w-wetness, e-erosion, ss-secondary salinisation, r-rockiness/stoniness, p-permeability

C-Complex, ST-Soil Type, n-fertility, m-plant water availability, pd-soil distribution complexity, id-internal drainage,
g-microrelief, w-wetness, e-erosion, ss-secondary salinisation, r-rockiness/stoniness, p-permeability

APPENDIX VIII SUITABILITY OF EACH UMA FOR CAPSICUMS AND MANGOES, HAUGHTON SECTION - STAGE 1, BURDEKIN **RIVER IRRIGATION AREA.**

C-Complex, ST-Soil Type, n-fertility, m-plant water availability, id-internal drainage,

ps-soit surface conditions, t-gradient, g-microrelief, w-wetness, e-erosion, ss-secondary satinisation, pd-soil distribution complexity, r-rockiness/stoniness, so-sodicity, sa-salinity, d-soil depth, p-permeabitity.

122 N 2Uge 2Ugk 2Dyc 3 2 3 2 4 4 ! 4 ! 3 3 4 4 ! 4 ! 78.9 123 N 2Dbb 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 4 5 4 $\frac{1}{4}$, 3 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ 4 $\frac{1}{5}$ C-Comptex, ST-Soit Type, n-fertility, m-plant water avaitabitity, id-internal drainage, ps-soil surface conditions, t-gradient, g-microrelief, w-wetness, e-erosion, ss-secondary satinisation, pd-soit distribution complexity, r-rockiness/stoniness, so-sodicity, sa-satinity, d-soil depth, p-permeabitity.

APPENDIX VIII (CON

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C-Complex, ST-Soil Type, n-fertility, m-plant water availability, id-internat drainage, ps-soil surface conditions, t-gradient, g-microretief, w-wetness, e-erosion, *ss-secondary* salinisation, pd-soit distribution complexity, r-rockiness/stoniness, so-sodicity, sa-salinity, d-soit depth, p-permeability.

C-Complex, ST-Soil Type, n-fertility, m-plant water availability, !d-internal drainage,

ps-soil surface conditions, t-gradient, g-microrelief, w-wetness, e-erosion, ss-secondary salinisation, pd-soil distribution complexity, r-rockiness/stoniness, so-sodicity, sa-salinity, d-soil depth, p-permeability.

APPENDIX VIII (CONT.)

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APPENDIX VIII (CONT.)

