

PHYSIOGRAPHY & GENERAL REMARKS

PHYSIOGRAPHY:

The area of the grid is an undulating erosional surface with a relative relief of 600' above the Queen River which follows the soft Gordon Limestone formation along the western edge of the area. The major creeks draining into the Queen River are distinctly controlled by fault structures, particularly Lynch Creek which cuts through the centre of the gridded area. Minor creeks appear to have no such control. On either side of the Queen River, erosional adjustment to structure has produced hogback ridges in the Cambrian Miners Slate (to the east of the Lynch Creek area) and in Silurian quartzites (to the west of the Lynch Creek area). The Cambrian Volcanics are represented by rounded hills and ridges generally elongated north-south. In the area of deep clay cover, the rounding is marked.

VEGETATION:

The original vegetation of dense rainforest timber has been removed by bush fires and early mining activities at Mt. Lyell. Regeneration has not occurred and the resultant bush is mainly tea-tree scrub, with blackberry bushes and thick undergrowth in creeks. Barer hilltops are covered by thick bracken.

CLIMATE:

Rain falls in every month of the year, but is highest in the winter months (May-September). Average rainfall at Queenstown is 105 inches per year. Higher readings are generally recorded nearby. The dominant wind directions are north-west and south-west. The Mt. Lyell smelters, which operated for over 60 years in the past, are approximately three miles north-east of the Lynch Creek area.

SOILS:

In considering the soil types, several important factors must be considered. Firstly, the West Coast region of Tasmania was subjected to extensive pleistocene glaciation which removed the then existing soil cover. As a result, "A" horizons are