

VEGETATION AND CLIMATE

The low lying areas consist dominantly of poorly drained peat soils and support hummocky button grass and sedge varieties. The majority of the area under discussion is covered with a mixture of button grass, low Eucalypts, Titree and Bauera vine. This type of vegetation is exclusive to areas underlain by rock types which produce a very poor soil horizon but a fairly thick peat cover (See Photo No. 2).

Dense rain forest containing Myrtle, Celery Top Pine, Sassafras, Leatherwood and horizontal varieties occur as isolated zones dependant upon more favourable soil types. The influence of rock type and thus soil type on the vegetation is well illustrated at the boundary between the Osmund (Owen Type) Conglomerates and the Mainwaring Group (pyroclastics).

The average rainfall in this area is approximately 80 inches. The west coast climate restricts active field exploration to the period from mid-December to late April. Outside of this period, the weather may be fine and clear occasionally, but snow and very heavy rain storms are possible. Extremely boggy conditions and river flooding make it impossible to work this area during the winter months.