

**ATLAS OF
AUSTRALIAN RESOURCES
Third Series**

Volume 1

**SOILS
and
LAND USE**



Division of National Mapping, Canberra, 1980

PREFACE

The production of a periodically revised national atlas containing a summary of contemporary geographic knowledge is an important component of the program of government publication in many countries.

In Australia the first edition of the *Atlas of Australian Resources* was published between 1953 and 1960 and the second edition, or Second Series, between 1962 and 1977.

The third edition is also being published serially but, unlike the earlier ones, in bound volumes each containing the maps and commentaries of two or more related topics. On present plans there will be ten volumes in the Third Series.

Both topics in this volume have been completely recast. The main component of each topic is a large map folded into the volume; the commentaries are intended to supplement the maps, as in the earlier series. For those who wish to have the maps separately, both have been published without commentaries in the *Australia 1:5 000 000 Map Series*.

Following previous practice, a specialist from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization's Division of Soils was asked to contribute the map and commentary on soils. Mr K. H. Northcote met this request with a novel map derived from the standard soils map of Australia which he and

his colleagues had just produced. As he says in the introduction to his commentary, it seemed timely to attempt an interpretative map more suitable for the general reader. Readers wishing to know more about the derivation of the map should find the appendixes to his commentary of interest.

The author of the topic 'Land Use', both map and commentary, was Frank Bullen of National Mapping's Geographic Branch. Quite apart from the recent changes in land use which the map reflects, it is an advance on earlier versions: it embodies finer distinctions in intensity of land use and yet presents them in a more easily understood way. Landsat imagery, which first became available during the 1970s, was an important source of information, especially for the classification of grazing land.

Production of this volume has been a team effort involving, as well as the authors, various members of National Mapping's geographic and cartographic staff. Laurance Hazlewood supervised the geographic work and Murray de Plater, assisted mainly by Phil Woodward and Lyn Jones, was responsible for cartographic production.

Grateful acknowledgement is also made to the National Atlas Advisory Committee, whose recommendations in 1973 remain useful guidelines for planning and producing the Third Series.

Trevor Plumb

Editor

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