



**FIGURE 2.2
TERRAIN MAP**

traffic. Tunnels and viaducts would be necessary for practical construction purposes, to limit earthworks volumes and to reduce the impact on the natural environment.

The CRW traverses the North Boambee Valley between the junction of the Pacific Highway and Englands Road and the crossing of the North Coast Railway line at Red Hill. The land use in this area is predominantly agricultural comprising first and second-class banana lands and second class vegetable and citrus lands. The North Boambee urban release area is situated to the south west of the Coffs Harbour urban area. North of the Red Hill area the land use changes from agricultural to pasture and native vegetation lands zoned Rural and Environmental Protection. Within the southern section of the study area, the CRW also traverses the Boambee State Forest.

The Draft Vegetation Management Strategy (VMS) released by CHCC in September 2003 combines the findings of a six-year period of research, mapping and consultation. It documents the importance of native vegetation found on private property and the need to protect that classified as being of high and very high value. The objective of the Strategy is to *'prioritise the protection of high and very high value vegetation subject to economic and sustainability limitations'*. The VMS states that without appropriate protection and conservation *'the diversity and well being of the natural systems will be eroded and the livability of Coffs Harbour will decline'*. Numerous pockets of vegetation classed as being of very high value are present within the Southern Section of the study area (see Figure 2.3). Native vegetation types as defined in the CRAFTI Mapping of the Coffs Harbour area are presented in Figure 2.4, while zoning of the area is shown in Figure 2.5.

2.3 Bucca Valley Section

The topography within the Bucca Valley section of the CHCC Preferred Corridor is shown in Figure 2.2. The Bucca Valley starts around Central Bucca and curves around to the north-west towards Nana Glen. Bucca Bucca Creek drains the valley. The valley is constrained at its northern end by a prominent east/west range of steeply elevated terrain within the Sherwood Nature Reserve. This mountain range reaches a maximum height of approximately 465m above sea level. Sherwood Road runs along the main ridge. Further east Sherwood Road turns into Gentle Annie Road, which is characterised by less rugged terrain towards the coast. A longitudinal section (or profile) of the east/west Sherwood Road ridge is shown in Figure 2.6 to illustrate the significant terrain features. Within the CHCC Preferred Corridor there are two low points in the Sherwood Road ridge (one at the eastern limit of the corridor and the other to the west of the highest point in the ridge). These two locations represent potential points in the terrain where any route option in the CHCC Preferred Corridor could cross the Sherwood Nature Reserve and pass out of the Bucca Valley.

The south-west section of the CHCC Preferred Corridor is dominated by the extremely rugged topography associated with Mount Coramba (elevation 590m above sea level). The western border of the CHCC Preferred Corridor extends north from the mountain.

Bucca Valley is flanked on either side by State Forest. Much of the valley itself, however, is under private ownership, with agricultural and rural residential land uses scattered within the valley. The zoning map shown in Figure 2.5 provides details of the rural and rural residential areas within the study area, including the Bucca Valley. The biodiversity of the area is represented in the Vegetation Map (refer Figure 2.4) and the significant vegetation map developed as part of the CHCC Vegetation Management Strategy (refer Figure 2.3). This latter map identifies areas of vegetation with high ecological value between the State Forests, directly to the north of the Ulidarra National Park. There are also pockets of high and very high value vegetation situated on private property throughout the valley. Bucca Bucca Creek provides a corridor for vegetation of very high value throughout its length along the valley floor. There is also an area of very high value vegetation about 6km long and 2km wide abutting the Sherwood Nature Reserve towards the northern end of the CHCC Preferred Corridor.