

The route for a drought-proofing gravitational channel from Northern Australia to Victoria passes through areas of suitable soils for irrigation – especially areas of vertisols or deep black clay soils. These soils are deep, fertile and impermeable when wet allowing the farmer to work up channels without excessive losses.

The main areas of Vertisol soils (shown as grey on the map) on the route are (1) the undeveloped Mitchell Grass Downs in Queensland from Blackall, to Barcaldine, Winton and Julia Creek, the (2) semi-developed area in northern NSW west of Moree to Bourke, and (3) the established irrigation areas south of Ivanhoe, Griffith to Deniliquin.