

TR 10-91

15. BUILDING SITES AT SMITHTON HOSPITAL

by W. L. Matthews

The Board of Management at the Smithton District Hospital are planning a home for the aged and requested a geological report on the proposed site. The home is planned to consist of either a single storey building or detached units.

The site is on the top part of a low sloping (3° - 5°) piece of ground which extends for about 200 yards towards the plain of the Duck River. It fronts on the Bass Highway on the town side of the hospital.

Cambrian basic lava occurs S and W of the hospital and near the front gates of the hospital Cambrian siltstone outcrops. The flood plain of the Duck River is underlain by Smithton Dolomite of probable Upper Precambrian age.

None of these rocks are exposed on the proposed site but a clay, probably derived from Cambrian siltstone, occurs over portion of it and recent sand covers some areas of the lower parts. Because of the clayey nature of the soil on the upper part of the site, water tends to lie on some zones.

A water bore drilled about 30 yards from the W boundary of the block had the following log:—

0 - 2'	Soil.
2' - 4'	Hardpan.
4' - 17'6"	Gravelly clay.
17' 6"-28'	Slate.
28' -30'	Broken slate.
30' -37'	Slate with clay zones.
37' -61' 6"	Slate.

The water table was penetrated at 55 feet.

In view of the low loading of the proposed buildings, there seems little chance of unstable foundation conditions. Adequate drainage of the area should be carried out however.