

TRIS-31-31

6. Stone lease 761P/M, Forcett

V.M. Threader

A stone lease has been applied for by R.J. Price for the purpose of quarrying sandstone for the manufacture of concrete blocks. It lies approximately 800 m south-east of the P.W.D. road metal quarry on the road linking the Arthur Highway with Dodges Ferry.

The material appears to be an indurated fine-grained white sandstone which does not crop out although fragments of it occur in the black sandy soil. It is exposed in several pits to a depth ranging from 0.3-1.6 m. This is usually underlain by a bed of brown clay, or sometimes by an unweathered hard white sandstone. The presence of opaline silica was noted by the petrologist, G.B. Everard (see p. 116). In certain circumstances this can lead to the formation of gels which swell and cause concrete failure and it would therefore be advisable to submit samples to the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Soil Mechanics for testing.

Reserves of this material are extremely limited and it is estimated that useable material is restricted to 50% of the lease area and some of this has already been removed by previous workers. The quantity now available is approximately 1.2 ha (3 acres) to a depth of 0.6 m or 7,650 m² (10,000 yd²). As the quarry product would require washing to remove organic matter and clay and also crushing and screening, it is considered too small to be of economic value.