

TRA-25-27

GRAVEL DEPOSITS — PROPOSED HOUSING ESTATE — RISDON

by T. D. Hughes.

The Housing Department of Tasmania has acquired land from Mr. T. R. Beard of East Risdon for a proposed housing development. At the moment no agreement has been reached as to the amount of compensation payable because of the owner's contention that substantial and valuable gravel deposits exist on the property.

The term "gravel deposit" has lately come to be used rather loosely and might mean anything from sand to boulders or a mixture of all sizes and shapes of material. If this is meant here then the deposit is very large. However, the quality of the material, from a road making point of view, is nowhere good and in places very poor.

This "gravel deposit" then falls into four distinct types and the areas may be roughly delineated on a map. Boundaries are not drawn accurately of course, nor could they be, even if the ground were bored, as one type of deposit gradually merges into the next.

- I Material as exposed in the main drainage channel on the eastern portion of the property. This consists of sub-rounded pebbles of siltstone set in a matrix of fine silt. The pebbles generally average about two inches in length but some isolated ones are up to one foot, while the matrix size is sometimes as fine as powder. All this material has been partially sorted by water and the pebbles form irregular layers containing more or less silt. A thickness of more than twelve feet of these pebble beds can be seen in the centre of the area and the average depth should be at least six feet. This should make very poor road material as it contains so much fine silt.
- II On the hill-slopes surrounding Area 1 and underlain by Permian siltstones, is a "gravel" made up of detrital material weathered from the siltstones. This material has not been affected by water action so the pebbles are more angular than those in 1 and more poorly sorted. Boulders up to two feet long can be seen. This material, though better than that in 1, is still of poor quality containing much fine silt and is similar to that obtained in large quantities from the Tunnel Hill area near Bellerive. An appreciable yardage of this material has already been removed.
- III This area extends across the flats from the house to the road on the western boundary and consists of a coarse sand containing a few pebbles. It is formed by the weathering of hard siliceous sandstones which underlie this part of the property.
- IV This sandstone outcrops in places to the north of the house and between the outcrops sand similar to that in Area III occurs. However, it usually contains large boulders of the sandstone.

On the 20th February, last, the Deputy Senior Valuer of the Land Valuation Branch stated that he had been informed that Mr. Beard had received an offer of 3s. per yard for 20,000 yards of gravel located at the western end of the property. This is difficult to believe, as the western end of the property is mainly underlain by sand, so it is assumed that the eastern end of the property is meant. It is not known what the gravel is to be used for, but if for roads, then, in my opinion, it is very poor material.

At this stage no attempt has been made to estimate the total yardage of material obtainable from this property, but if all sand and gravel deposits, that is the materials mentioned in I, II and III above, are to be considered, then the quantities are very large.

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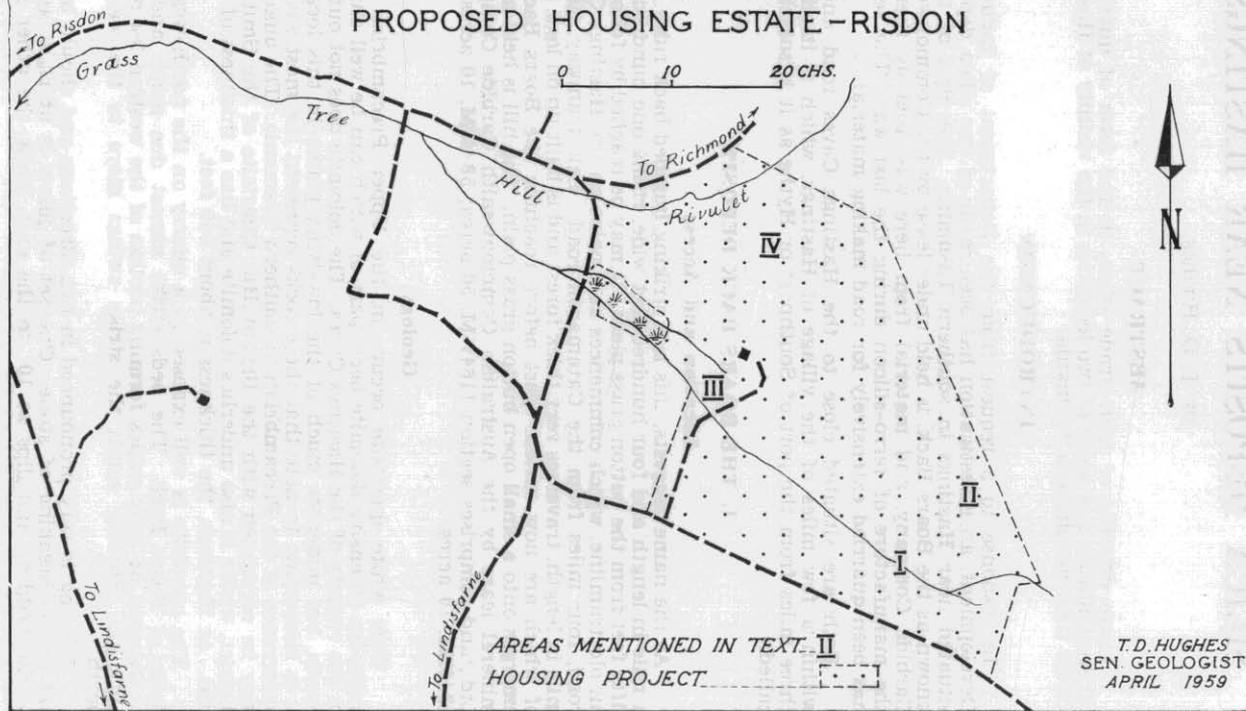


FIGURE 5.

5 cm