

REPORT ON DRILLING AT CATAMARAN MINE (1936)

Arrangements having been made by the New Catamaran Collieries Pty. Ltd. for several bore holes to be drilled by means of the Mines Department's Surge Drilling Plant on an area to the north-west of main dip adit workings (Mackenzie's workings), drilling was commenced on 4th June, 1936 and continued to 26th September of the same year.

It was desired to ascertain whether the Catamaran coal seam could be located in a workable condition to the north-west of what was considered to be a diabase dyke showing in end of main dip adit.

Two bore sites were selected by the Chief Inspector of Mines, No. 1 Bore was located 11 chains from north-east corner of old mineral section 8242/M (now included in 10471/M, leased to Catamaran Collieries Pty. Ltd.) on a bearing of 246° approximately, and No.2 Bore at 3 chains from No.1 Bore on a bearing of 291° approximately.

The details of the holes are as follows:-

No.1 Bore Hole

	<u>From</u> 0 feet	<u>To</u> 2 feet	<u>Thickness</u> 2 feet
Clay			
Sandstone	2 "	130 "	128 "
Mudstone	130 "	136 "	6 "
Coal	136 "	137 "	1 foot
Sandstone	137 "	148 "	11 feet
Diabase	148 "	203 "	55 "
Sandstone	203 "	230 "	27 "
Coal measures	230 "	250 "	20 "
Mudstone	250 "	253 "	3 "
Weathered or decomposed coal	253 "	259 "	6 "
Mudstone	259 "	272 "	13 "
Sandstone	272 "	274 "	2 "

No.2 Bore Hole

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Thickness</u>
Clay	0 feet	8 feet	8 feet
Sandstone	8 "	150 "	142 "
Coal	150 "	156 "	6 "
Mudstone	156 "	160 "	4 "
Diabase	160 "	232 "	72 "

below

These sections show that in No.1 Bore hole one foot of coal was obtained between 136' and 137' in depth and that/148 feet a thickness of 55' of diabase was passed through. A section plan based on details of bores put down by the Catamaran Boring Co. Pty. Ltd. in 1923 and 1924, others by the Electrolytic Zinc Company, and the two latest bores, indicates that the diabase represents either a faulted portion of the main sill further west, a flexure of the main sill about the point of entry, or a low dipping dyke. Immediately below a depth of 253 feet in No.1 Bore hole a 6 feet thickness of carbonaceous matter, in the form of weathered or partly decomposed coal, was penetrated. This occurrence would appear to represent the Catamaran seam which, at this point, is worthless.

In No.2 Bore hole a coal seam, 6 feet thick, and penetrated between 150 feet from the surface, corresponds (allowing for the dip) with the upper seam of coal pierced in No. 1 Bore hole. Diabase encountered at a depth of 160 feet was not passed at bottom of hole, but the occurrence appears to correspond to the upper portion of the faulted or curved sill drilled in No.1 Bore hole. Difficulty in boring through the diabase was experienced and after 72 feet of drilling at a slow rate the hole was abandoned.

Although the Catamaran seam, as disclosed in No.1 Bore hole, was found to be economically unsuitable, the drilling campaign was insufficient to prove its general characteristics over an area, and it is unfortunate that No.2 Bore failed to reach this coal seam.

F. BLAKE
ACTING GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST

Mines Department,
HOBART.

8th April, 1937