BROWN COAL AND LIGNITE IN TASMANIA

Brown coal and lignite deposits are widely distributed in the State. Extensive occurrences have not been proved to exist and the greatest reported thickness of any seam is five feet. The overburden covering the deposits is too great to work the coal by open-cut methods.

Details of the better known deposits are as follows:-

(1) MUDDY CREEK-WEST TAMAR:

One seam of lignite with maximum thickness of five feet, exposed over a length of 100 feet.

Overburden consists of 40 feet of sandstone and mudstone.

Analysis of a sample gave the following result:-

	Per cent
Moisture	7.50
Volatile carbonaceous matter	29.82
Fixed carbon	15.98
Ash	46.70
Sulphur	0.36

(2) MACQUARIE HARBOUR:

Thin seams of brown coal containing lenses of lignite are exposed for short distances at various localities along the north-east shore of Macquarie Harbour. Three seams have been identified with thickness varying from 5 to 18 inches. These are separated by bands of soft clay shales varying in thickness from 4" to 30 feet.

The seams are overlain by 50 to 100 feet of lightly consolidated clay shales, mudstones and sandstone.

The following proximate analyses illustrate the general character of the brown coal:-

	Per cent (1)	Per cent (2)
Moisture	5.84	4.26
Volatile Carbonaceous matter	30.24	22.20
Fixed Carbon	28.22	15.60
Ash	35.70	57.94
Sulphur	1.96	0.42

(3) IRISH TOWN DISTRICT:

(a) Myrtle Hill:

A seam of brown coal with included lignite occurs up to three feet in thickness. The coal is interbedded with quartzite and the whole overlain by a basalt flow 100 feet in thickness. Outcrops are inconsiderable and extent of seam has not been determined.

The following is an analysis of a sample of the best looking material:-

	Per cent
Moisture	9.90
Volatile Carbonaceous matter	51.00
Fixed Carbon	29.90
Ash	9.20
Sulphur	3.61

(b) Edith Creek:

Two horixontal seams of similar coal, separated by 10 feet of conglomerate, outcrop in the creek bed. They vary from two to three feet in thickness. Overburden consists of basalt flows 100 to 150 feet in thickness.

(4) Harland Rise - Evandale District:

A small outcrop of brown coal and lignite, overlain by sands and clays, has been reported in the bed of Rose Rivulet. The thickness, extent and quality of the seam has not been determined.

(5) Ouse and Derwent Rivers:

Lignite beds, consisting generally of altered trunks, stems and twigs of trees, occur near Ouse and Glenora. Those at Ouse are said to be extensive but at Glenora the lignite is reported to occupy lenticular pockets in clays. Other details are not available.

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