

3rd February, 1949.

MEMORANDUMLimestone at King Island.

Opportunity was taken, while investigating Underground Water Resources for the Closer Settlement Board, to visit two limestone deposits at King Island. The first of these, situated near Missons old home about half a mile south of the Naracoopa Road and within a hundred yards of the Sea Elephant River, is not worthy of consideration. All that can be seen are a few lumps of Tertiary limestone that have been taken from a shallow hole in the ground, now filled with water.

The second deposit is fairly extensive, but unfortunately the greater part of it occurs between high and low tide levels. Four miles north of Naracoopa, on the East Coast, is a small creek, Blowhole Creek. A cart track from the new road to the Cable Station leads to the mouth of this creek. For three-quarters of a mile north of this, Bryozoa Limestone of Miocene Age outcrops in shallow platforms along the shore below high water mark. A grab sample taken at intervals along these outcrops gave the following analysis:-

	Per cent.
Insoluble	0.7
Fe ₂ O ₃ + Al ₂ O ₃ etc.	0.8
CaO	54.7
MgO	0.4
Ignition Loss	43.3

To the south of Blowhole Creek is a smaller outcrop but portion of this does occur above high water level. It measures some 400 x 30 feet and rises to about 10' above low water level. The top 7'6" was sampled and gave the following analysis:-

	Per cent.
Insoluble	1.4
Fe ₂ O ₃ + Al ₂ O ₃ etc.	1.6
CaO	52.6
MgO	0.8
Ignition Loss	43.2

The bottom 2'6" is evidently of inferior grade as the analysis of this was :-

	Per cent
Insoluble	16.0
Fe ₂ O ₃ + Al ₂ O ₃ etc.	12.0
CaO	34.6
MgO	1.5
Ignition Loss	32.8

This bed of limestone as measured was not covered by overburden, but doubtless it extends in shore under the sand dunes. At 100 feet from the creek mouth is a small outcrop along the bank.

The quality of the greater portion of the limestone is exceptionally good, sufficient quantities for agricultural needs exist, and the deposit is easily accessible, but unfortunately most of it occurs below the high tide mark.

I understand the District Agricultural Officer has made a survey of the limestone deposits of the Island.

Signed T.D. Hughes,
GEOLOGIST

The Director of Mines,
HOBART