UR1951/167

TH/2 21st November, 1951.

MEMORANDUM:

UNDERGROUND WATER AT SPREYTON

Mr. F. S. Holmes of Spreyton is anxious to obtain supplies of water so that vegetables may be grown on his property. This is situated on either side of the Sheffield Road adjacent to the Bass Highway and the Railway Line and station at Spreyton.

Many years ago a bore put down in the search for coal at Spreyton encountered at 420 feet from the surface, a porous bed from which artesian water reached the surface at a temperature of 69°F, a pressure of 72 pounds per sq. inch and flowing at the rate of 360 gallons per minute. This information is contained in Mineral Resources No.8, Volume 1, by A.M. Reid who also says that an analysis of the water showed a total mineral content of 21.84 grains per gallon of which the principal salt was $CaCO_3$. There is also a record of artesian water being struck at a depth of 760 feet from the surface, to the West of the Spreyton Station that is North West of the first bore.

The water bearing strata, which lies beneath the mainly impervious, North-dipping Permian Sediments is doubtless the top bed of the South Western leg of a major syncline, which strikes North West.

Mr. Holmes' property lies some 10 chains to the North of the Artesian Well and in order to reach the water from here it would necessitate boring to some five to six hundred feet of this the top 40 feet would need casing.

Not a great deal of the Artesian water seems to be used at present, and as it is reported to flow at the rate of over twenty thousand gallons an hour, it would appear that rather than bore it would be a safer and cheaper scheme to pipe the water from the bore. A small hill rises behind the bore and behind Mr. Holmes' property from which the water could be gravitated without recourse to pumps.

The water observed by Mr. Holmes on his land is merely surface water seeping from this small hill and in my opinion is not connected in any way with the artesian bed.

Signed: T.D. Hughes,
GEOLOGIST.

The Director of Mines,
Hobart.