

UR 1953/107

MEMORANDUMWATER SUPPLY FOR PROPOSED ABBATOIRS
KING ISLAND

In June of this year, in company with Mr. Dobner of the Public Works Department, I visited King Island and selected sites for drilling for underground water. The first hole put down yielded a water supply of something like 1,200 gallons an hour, which was quite adequate. Since then the proposed site of the Abbatoirs has been changed to the south side of the Aerodrome and to get the water to here would involve the laying of underground pipes and cable beneath the drome. Consequently I have again visited the Island to try and locate closer supplies of water.

I should state first that in my opinion it is extremely doubtful that adequate supplies could be obtained anywhere within a reasonable distance to the south and east or west of the drome.

The whole question of underground water in this area depends on the depth below the surface of the granite roof. Unfortunately recent sand masks practically the whole ground surface but here and there definite granite outcrops may be observed and all along the shore line granite outcrops. About a mile to the north of the drome, where the previous bore located water this roof slopes off sufficiently to allow water to accumulate in a reasonable depth of recent sand and limestone. To the south, however, this is not so and granite outcrops to the south side of Three Rivers.

The only hope of obtaining adequate underground supplies is in some undulation or major fault in the granite roof and I have indicated on the attached plan the most hopeful position for this to occur.

In this area, to the west of the drome, and in the vicinity of the North Road there are plentiful supplies of surface water (obtained from small creeks, lagoons and shallow wells) for stock purposes but the very fact that this water runs in or near the surface seems to suggest that it does not supply an underground table. The scale of the Abbatoirs water requirements is many times that of a farmer's stock needs; but it might be possible to obtain sufficient water by drawing from a number of holes.

Therefore, although small supplies of water may be obtained at no great depth within 7,000 feet of the proposed site, it is not considered that such a supply as was obtained to the north of the drome, could be struck anywhere within two miles.

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The Director of Mines,
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