

PROPOSED WATER STORAGE AT KELCIES TIER

To the West of the Bass Highway, behind the Spreyton Racecourse at the Southern approach to Devonport, a dolerite capped hill rises fairly steeply to about 500 feet from the flat country fringing the Mersey River. This is Kelcies Tier. On a flattish platform about halfway up the hill is a reservoir and adjacent to this the Devonport Council is anxious to construct a much larger one.

The rock type outcropping in this area and well exposed in the tunnel through which the pipe line comes, is a Permian mudstone or siltstone of slightly variable grain size. The top of Kelcies Tier is a small dolerite sill which has intruded the mudstone. Both from viewing the aerial photographs and from examination of the ground, it is apparent that a strong step fault of fairly recent origin (probably late Tertiary) has dislocated the mudstone immediately to the west of the proposed site. More recent land slides have resulted in the accumulation of a large mass of debris, broken rock and clay, at the proposed site.

It seems to me that there are two difficulties in the erection of a large water tank on this site. The tank will have to be built on a mass of broken rock and clay resting on a perhaps sloping platform of rock. This first problem is an engineering one but I would suggest that a line of bores (or shafts) should be put down to solid rock to determine the angle of slope of the mudstone beds at this point.

The second problem is geological and involves the possibility of future movement in the existing fault planes. It is extremely unlikely that any such movement will take place in the foreseeable future but I feel that any Geologist should point out that this contingency may arise.

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14th October, 1954.