

Department of Mines, Tasmania.

GE/3

Hobart.

27th January, 1956

MEMORANDUM

Seven (7) borehole samples, collected on the site for the new bridge at Huonville, by Public Works engineers, have been examined microscopically and megascopically.

It was stated that the use of a powerful water jet having failed to make any impression on supposed alluvial material on the bed of the Huon River, a percussion drill was used to test the material and obtain samples. Six (6) samples from borehole No. 5 down to a depth of 19'7", and one (1) sample from borehole No. 4 at a depth of 7'4" were examined.

The samples showed no differences of any significance, one from another, so that the deposit may be considered as being more or less homogeneous as far as rock and mineral content is concerned. The material in general consists of rounded pebbles of quartzite and dolerite, and broken pieces of the same. The dolerite pebbles are much rougher and less rounded than those of the quartzite. Angular fragments of quartz and quartzite make up the bulk of the material, but there is much angular dolerite, which gives it a greenish appearance in proportion to the amount present. The fine material consists of quartz grains, fragments of quartzite and dolerite, magnetite, ilmenite, ferromagnesian minerals and felspar. There are occasional fragments of shale, slate, carbonaceous and other material.

It is evident therefore that the deposit is one of coarse alluvium brought down by the river. However, the fresh felspar crystals and unweathered fragments of dolerite can have travelled only a relatively short distance, and the deposit must be of Recent age.

The geological map suggests that either sandstone of the Triassic System, or Mudstone of the Permian System may underlie the alluvial deposits at Huonville.

Sgd. (G. EVERARD)

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