

TDH/2

12th April, 1956.

MEMORANDUM:-Underground Water at Bruny Island

Several farmers on Bruny Island have requested the local Council to ascertain from the Department whether a water boring plant could be sent to the Island. As a preliminary to this I visited the Island on the 11th April to see if geological conditions are suitable for the formation of reservoirs of underground water. Generally speaking they are not.

The principal rock types occurring in the Island are Permian mudstones, intruded by Jurassic dolerite. Neither of the rocks are aquifers. Minor beds of sandstones do occur in the mudstones and in some localities underground water may occur in these. Small patches of recent alluvium hold a certain amount of water that can be tapped by hand bores.

Of the two properties examined, that of Mr. C.L. Lowe, Barnes Bay is occupied by Permian mudstone intruded by dolerite and it is considered useless to bore here for water. On the other, Mr. R.J. Hansson has some alluvial flats where a hand bore may obtain supplies of water.

It is therefore recommended that the percussion plant should not be sent to the Island, but that a hand boring plant be sent when available and an officer of the Department instruct anyone interested in its use. The first site for the plant would be on the property of R.J. Hansson.

Sgd. Terence D. Hughes

SENIOR GEOLOGIST

The Director of Mines  
Department of Mines,  
HOBART.