

EXAMINATION OF ROAD METAL QUARRIES--
IN THE VICINITY OF PROCTORS ROAD, KINGSTON

Accompanied by the Council engineer, four (4) quarries were examined. The first two were on Proctors Road within one mile of the Channel Highway while the other two were on the Channel Highway, less than one mile from the Proctors Road turnoff towards Tarcoona.

1. The Proctors Road Quarries

(a) The northern quarry. This is the largest of two on Proctors Road and is situated in relatively fresh, slightly weathered dolerite. The soil cover is about one foot thick and of no trouble in quarrying. The spacing of the jointing in the dolerite is very variable but pieces approximately of two (2) feet diameter should be easily obtained without much secondary blasting. There are two, possibly three, minor faults in this quarry, and only shatter the dolerite without introducing any unwanted clayey material. There is a slight amount of the weathering products of the dolerite (magnesite chiefly) present, but in far too small a quantity to be a hindrance for the use of this dolerite as road metal. This is an excellent quality dolerite for the production of road metal. This quarry could be extended north, south or east with assurance that the same good quality road metal could be won.

(b) The southern quarry. Though much smaller in size the same factors apply here as in the above quarry. There is virtually no variation in quality, this quarry exposing relatively fresh dolerite, good for use as a road metal.

2. The Channel Highway Quarries

These were both situated in mudstones of Permian age. The same conditions apply to both. The mudstone is not very hardened by compaction. There is no hardening by silicification or any other natural cement. In the smaller quarry the size is very limited by the very frequent jointing and bedding lamination, but in the larger quarry (Tyndall's), the jointing is less frequent and is of useful size. In both, however, the rock is so soft as to be decomposing in situ into clay. These quarries are not suitable for road metal.

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27th September, 1956.