

UR 1957/267

267

HGWK/3

11th December, 1957

MEMORANDUM

DAM SITE, KING BOROUGH

At the request, and in the company of Mr. J.L.B. Fowler, consultant to the Kingborough Council, I visited an area in the vicinity of "The Bonnet" about eight miles south from Hobart, to inspect the site of a probable dam intended for the storage of water to be used for domestic purposes.

The site is situated at an altitude of approximately 700 feet above sea level, in the second saddle north from the Bonnet Hill and on the ridge extending from the Bonnet northerly towards Mount Nelson.

Two test holes have been sunk to depths of approximately six and nine feet respectively. From the bottom of the deeper hole a drill hole has been extended to solid rock at a depth of about 12 feet from surface.

It was suggested that a second drill hole be put down from the opposite end of the test hole to confirm the presence of solid rock. It is possible that the first drill hole may have encountered only a boulder.

In the second test hole a quantity of water had been placed to determine whether or not soakage would be great. I was assured that there had been no loss of water during a 24 hour test except what would be expected from evaporation and capillary attraction. This can be assumed as fact for within a very short distance a water hole of approximately 4 feet depth holds its water without loss.

The country rock occurring in the vicinity of the dam site is dolerite which occurs continuously from the main road, along the length of the rough track to the dam site, and will certainly be confirmed by the second drill hole still to be put down.

On the surface the dolerite has weathered and in the test holes some 18 inches of hard clay occurs at the surface and is underlain by decomposed doleritic material as far as tested.

It is to be expected that this material will pack well during the construction of an earth dam and will form an impervious wall.



(H.G.W. Keid)
CHIEF GEOLOGIST

The Director of Mines,
HOBART