

UNPUBLISHED REPORT 1967/06

Coking coal in Tasmania

by V. M. Threader

Coking indices have not been determined for Tasmanian coals but the following remarks were made by Hills (1922).

The Triassic coals are non-coking although some may be regarded as semi-coking.

The Permian coals are, on the average, higher ranking but occur on a small scale and in narrow bands.

The Preolenna coal (Permian) is undoubtedly the highest grade coal in Tasmania; this is reputed to produce good coke. Reserves are estimated at 5,000,000 tons but the field, 20 miles south of Wynyard, has been defunct for many years. This coal has a high sulphur content but it is stated that the pyrite occurs as segregations rather than disseminations and so could be removed by crushing to one quarter of an inch and washing.

Notes on some typical Tasmanian coal are set out below:

<i>Locality</i>	<i>Volatile (%)</i>	<i>Ash (%)</i>	<i>S (%)</i>	<i>BTU/lb</i>	<i>Production tons p.a.</i>
Mt Christie	20	20	0.4	10,000	14,600
Cornwall	22	18	0.4	10,000	65,600
Seymour	20	24	0.3	9,200	
Catamaran	23	13	0.5	12,000	
Preolenna	32	5-14	5.9	12,200	

The first four relate to Triassic coals and Mt Christie coal is noted as semi-coking.

Only the first two are currently producing, and it is understood that production in both cases could be greatly increased if a market was assured.

Reference

HILLS, C. L.; REID, A. M.; NYE, P. B.; KEID, H. G. W.; REID, W. D. 1922. The coal resources of Tasmania. *Bulletin Geological Survey Tasmania* 7.

[22 March 1967]