

## Underground water prospects near Deloraine

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An examination of Mr R. McCarren's property on the Reedy Marsh Road near Deloraine followed the owner's request for advice on the possibility of obtaining subsurface water for domestic purposes. Water is readily available during the winter months, but is in short supply during summer.

The 100 acre property is underlain entirely by Jurassic dolerite which crops out frequently over the area. No other rock type is present. The owner has reported two springs on the property, but wet weather conditions prevented more detailed examination to establish the presence of these. However, if the springs are permanent and supply sufficient water of good quality, it may be feasible to excavate and dam them for domestic use. It is proposed to visit the property in the drier months to investigate this possibility.

The prospects of obtaining underground water are not favourable. Any water which may be present in the dolerite will be contained in fractures and joints and the success of any bore will depend largely on the number, if any, of such fissures intersected during drilling. It would therefore appear judicious to investigate the possibility of either retaining winter surface water in larger storage tanks for summer use, or damming springs, rather than attempt what may well be an unsuccessful bore.

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