

Underground water prospects in Tertiary sediments at Rowella.

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The property, owned by B. Hewitt, consists of a strip of land about 1.5 km wide and 3.6 km long, aligned NW-SE parallel to Ralston Hill.

GEOLOGY

Tertiary clay, sand and sandstone cover most of the area. In places these are overlain by small patches of Quaternary gravel. Ralston Hill is of dolerite and forms the western margin of the Tertiary basin. Close to the hill bauxites and ironstones are found in the sedimentary succession.

GROUNDWATER PROSPECTS

When uncemented sands are present in the succession they may contain considerable supplies of water. Sediments of a similar age have been drilled in the Longford area, and supplies of 225 l/min were often obtained.

Tertiary sediments of the Tamar Valley have not been drilled for water and information is scanty. However, drilling to 60 m feet near Whirlpool Reach did find thin impersistent uncemented sands.

Tertiary sandstones with ferruginous cement are found on the Rowella Peninsula, but this need not indicate that uncemented sands are present. The quality of water, if present in these sediments, is unpredictable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Bores should be sited on lower ground at least 100 m from the margin of the dolerite hill.

If water is obtained it will be from sand beds. At low pumping rates slotted casing can be used, but at higher pumping rates gravel packing may be needed to prevent sand from collapsing into the hole.

The quality of the water is unpredictable, and may be unsuitable for irrigation.

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