

Prospects of underground water at Primrose Sands.

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An investigation of the possibilities of obtaining domestic supplies of underground water on seven small blocks of land at Primrose Sands was undertaken at the request of Mr P. Grafton. The properties include Nos. 48, 49 and 55 fronting Broom Street, E1-8 and 9 at the Broom-Boobyalla Streets junction, D-38 on Primrose Road and F1-11 on the Susans Bay Road.

The seven blocks are situated on Primrose Point, a headland of Jurassic dolerite rising 100 m above Frederick Henry Bay. Overlying the dolerite in places are thin localised occurrences of wind-blown sand, the thickness of which rarely exceeds 2-3 m. With the exception of block D-38, where dolerite crops out, all lots are situated on sand.

HYDROGEOLOGY

Dolerite. The dolerite contains some water, but the relatively high cost of drilling such rock, together with its very limited catchment area, recharge and storage capacity, and possibly low water table combine to make it an unfavourable proposition. Drilling is not recommended.

Wind-blown sands. Water may be obtained from the sands, provided that they are of sufficient thickness to have a reasonable storage capacity. However, most of the blocks under investigation lie on sands which are either too thin or of too limited extent (a test auger hole dug on lot 49 struck dolerite-derived clay at 2 m). The most favourably located block would appear to be lot 55 (and to a lesser extent E1-8 and 9). A spear bore or well sunk on lot 55 would be the cheapest and easiest method of obtaining any water present; initially, however, small test holes should be dug to determine the depth to water (if present) and the water quality. Any water obtained should be tested for purity, since drainage from nearby septic tanks may render it useless for domestic supplies.

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