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Underground water prospects, Wattle Hill.

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Mr B. Newitt owns a 140 hectare property near Wattle Hill Road, approximately 6 km north-east of Sorell. Underground water is required to supplement surface supplies for irrigation.

The property occupies gently undulating elevated land which, although sloping to the north-west, rises abruptly from the surrounding country in all other directions. The potential catchment area for underground water is therefore somewhat limited.

The farm is underlain entirely by Tertiary basalt, some of it highly vesicular. A well some 13 m deep sunk near the farm house on the southern part of the property apparently intersected the water table at about 7-8 m. Unfortunately this cannot be verified as the well has long since been filled in.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Present surface drainage is by way of a shallow depression running north-west through the centre of the property. A bore placed in this depression about 75-100 m downslope from the farm house is likely to be successful. However, yields from basaltic rocks have been found to be variable, and as the catchment area is somewhat limited, quantities of water sufficient for irrigation purposes may not be obtained.

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