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Water prospects on H.A. Watmore's property, Westbury.

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Mr. Watmore has a small property about 1.5 km west of Westbury and north of the Bass Highway [DQ843028]. It is situated on the side of a hill underlain by dolerite and ranges from about 25-40 m above the level of the flood plain of Quamby Brook. A resistivity probe was undertaken on a selected site above the house, towards the higher part of the property.

The plot of the resistivity results indicate a decreasing resistivity from the surface downward except for a zone at 6-9 m below the surface when there is a small increase. The dolerite is apparently deeply weathered with perhaps a less weathered section at about 6-9 m from the surface.

CONCLUSIONS

Because of the deep weathering suggested by the resistivity curve, drilling would be a less difficult procedure than previously thought. If water is present in the weathered dolerite, a considerable depth would most likely have to be drilled before a permanent supply could be obtained. In fact it would probably need to be extended to about the level of the river (approaching 45 m at the site examined). It is by no means certain that water would be obtained and drilling such a depth would be expensive. The quality of any water obtained could be poor, particularly in weathered rock. If other sources are available for obtaining water such as catchment dams or the town supply, then it is recommended that they be examined closely before a drill hole is sunk.

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