

Groundwater prospects at Dodges Ferry.

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Mr and Mrs Arnott own a block of land at the junction of Bally Park Road and Arnott Street, Dodges Ferry. Water is required for gardening purposes.

The block is probably underlain by Triassic sandstone (which crops out to the east) but is covered by a veneer of Quaternary sand and sandy clay. A nearby well on an adjoining property was excavated in sand and struck good to medium quality water (700 ppm of total dissolved solids) at 4.3 m. When in use, 500 l are pumped twice daily.

An earlier test pit sunk on the Arnotts' property failed to locate water at 3.6 m. During the present investigation an auger hole was drilled in the centre of the property between the test pit and the owners' residence. The following details were recorded:

<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>
0-0.4	Grey sandy loam.
0.4-1.0	Fine-grained grey sand.
1.0-2.5	Buff-coloured medium-grained sand, cemented in places.
2.5-3.8	Fine-grained pale grey sand.
3.8-4.3	Damp coarser-grained brown sand.
4.3	Water table.

The water is of good to medium quality (600 ppm) and is quite suitable for gardening purposes. It may be obtained either by excavating a well (which should be lined with concrete) to approximately one metre below the water table or by sinking a spear bore to about 2 m below the water table. The former method has the advantage of a larger intake area and storage, but the latter method is probably cheaper and should be relatively easy to install. Spears can be obtained from Mono Pumps (Hobart), who could also supply the necessary pump. The screen size of the spear is important; a screen opening of about 0.15 mm (150 microns) would be suitable.

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