

URI974-45

Groundwater prospects at Safety Cove, near Port Arthur

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Mr A.L. Briggs owns a 100 ha property, "Wellard Park", on the Safety Cove road 4 km south of Port Arthur [EN697202]. The land is gently undulating, rising slightly to the west. Most of the available surface drainage has been effectively utilised by dams, but the owner finds difficulty in maintaining a constant water supply for a dairy and piggery.

The area is underlain by Permian mudstone and pebbly sandstone, exposures of which occur along the foreshore near the property. The rocks are subhorizontal and well jointed, and a large catchment area exists to the west.

A drilling site is recommended in a shallow valley some 200 m south-west of the owner's residence. If this site is chosen piping costs would be minimised, and a power supply is available nearby. The underlying sediments are generally reliable sources of groundwater. Quantities of the order of 15-30 l/min can be expected from a successful bore, and water qualities should be sufficient for the envisaged uses. Experience has shown that groundwater in Permian sediments is generally found in the first 30-40 m, and if the bore remains dry to this depth it should be abandoned.

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