

V REGIONAL GEOLOGY

Only a small part of Tasmania has been covered by detailed geological surveys so the account of the geology of the Island is consequently a little vague.

Pre-Cambrian Rocks

These can be divided into two groups, the regionally metamorphosed schists, quartzites, slates etc. of central-west Tasmania and the little altered sandstones, quartzites, slates, dolomites etc. of the northwest part of the Island. Great thicknesses of these rocks occur, and occasionally they contain metamorphosed and unmetamorphosed igneous rocks.

Cambrian Rocks

These rocks consist of quartzites, slates, dolomites, with thick sequences of volcanics and range in age from Lower to Upper Cambrian. Cambrian rocks have been metamorphosed in some areas.

Ordovician Rocks

These rocks range from conglomerates to sandstones and limestones. The sandstones are siliceous and well-sorted. A shallow water origin for the sandstones is suggested by the presence of annelids and other shallow water fossils. The limestones are richly fossiliferous in places but no coral reefs as such have been reported. Shallow water deposition of some of the limestone is indicated by the presence of calcareous algae. The limestone has a bituminous odour when freshly broken and stylolites are common. Some dolomite is present in the limestone.

Silurian and Devonian Rocks

These rocks consist of conglomerates, quartzites, siltstones, and shales. Limestone which is partly coralline and sometimes dolomitized is present in the Port Hibbs area. A number of granite intrusions took place during the Devonian/Silurian. Devonian and older sedimentary rocks are not exposed in the area of EL 17/65 but a thin section