

Late Tertiary "Newer" volcanics (basalt flows) extensively overlie the Launceston Beds and because the Tertiaries occupy topographically low areas there is widespread veneering by uppermost Tertiary and Quaternary marsh and swamp deposits, alluvium and colluvium.

3.2 Local Geology of the Rosevale Coalfield

The Rosevale Coalfield comprises three discrete brown coal deposits, the Loatta, Pipers Lagoons and Selbourne deposits, together with a less well defined area having coal potential referred to as the Hillcrest prospect (Figure 3.2).

The coal deposits lie close to the eastern edge of the Cressy Graben, in a series of restricted "embayments" in the pre-Tertiary basement (locally Jurassic dolerite).

Individual coal basins are constrained by outcropping or sub-cropping dolerite and in certain cases the contact between Tertiary sediments and basement rocks is steep, suggestive of penecontemporaneous downwarping or fault displacement.

At Rosevale the Tertiary Launceston Beds comprise a monotonous sequence of interbedded clays, carbonaceous clays and brown coal, with minor sandy intercalations. They have yet to be subdivided stratigraphically. The strata pinch out towards the basin margins by onlap onto basement, and thicken rapidly towards the depositional centres. Total thickness represented locally is not known - one drillhole has penetrated 152m of Tertiary sediments without significant change in lithology.