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The geological map of the area, depicting dolerite occupying topographic highs, and sediments the valleys, is basically correct. However, the accepted interpretation, on which the drilling programme was based, of coal measures having been exhumed from beneath the 150m plus thick Hummocky Hills dolerite sill, is clearly wrong. What we are looking at are thin, rafted, baked sediment remnants overlying a major sill, and through which dolerite feeders have intruded (the topographic highs) to a former upper sill (paralleling the apparent relationship between the hornfelsed coal measures and dolerites on the crest of the Hummocky Hills a little to the north). That the Ross Sandstone, which underlies the coal measures immediately to the south of the drilled area, seems also to have been invaded by dolerite suggests the main (lower) sill transgresses the Ross Sandstone - coal measures contact and is stratigraphically "low" in the Triassic pile. Thus prospects for locating coal bearing sediments beneath the dolerite elsewhere in the region appear poor.

No further work is planned in the area.

4.3 Geological Evaluation During Quarter Ended 22 May 1984

Geological re-evaluation of the Loatta deposit, consequent upon the October-December 1983 drilling programme, was essentially completed during the reporting period.

Geological log printouts, analytical data printouts, and geophysical logs (in microfiche format) of holes drilled during the previous programme, and geological logs of the four holes completed during the 22 May quarter, accompany this report.

The recent drilling at Loatta indicates a simpler stratigraphic picture than previously given, largely as a result of regrouping and recorrelation of seams. An uppermost banded coal interval, A, which ranges in thickness over 5 - 10m is restricted to the central portion of the deposit in a downthrown block, and occurring as it does very close to surface, is limited by erosion. Approximately 10m of clay separates the A seam interval from a banded B seam interval, which ranges in thickness over 10 - 30m.