

DEPARTMENT OF MINES
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Rept. Bk. No. 19/271

REPORT ON UNDERGROUND WATER PROSPECTS

Sect. 85, Hd. Onkaparinga

- W.H. Scholz -

Advice is desired on the prospect of obtaining a supply of water from underground sources by boring to be used for irrigation purposes.

The property is underlain by a thick series of argillaceous (clayey) and siliceous slates. These rocks are not as a rule regarded as a good quifer, or water-bearing formation, for on decomposing they form a clay which is carried down into any cracks or joints in the rocks by percolating ground water and seal them up. Exceptions occur where these beds have been considerably shattered and disturbed by geological earth movements - the ground water in such cases being stored in the fault or shatter-zone.

No direct evidence of the presence of such a fault-zone was noticed during the examination of the area, although the existence of a small permanent spring in the main gully which crosses the property is suggestive that some fracture-zone in the slates occurs in the immediate vicinity of the spring.

It is recommended, therefore, that a trial borehole be drilled a short distance upstream from the spring, and in the corner formed by two division fences. The exact spot has been pointed out on the site.

The maximum depth to which drilling should proceed to test this site is about 140 ft.

It is suggested that touch be kept with this Department during drilling operations in order that further advice can be given if desired.

RWS:JB

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