

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY  
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MESOZOIC STRATIGRAPHY OF THE  
FROME EMBAYMENT

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FOSSIL FUELS SECTION

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DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY  
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Rept. Bk. No. 80/116  
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MESOZOIC STRATIGRAPHY OF THE  
FROME EMBAYMENT

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ABSTRACT

Mesozoic rocks in the Frome Embayment were deposited in a southern lobe of the Eromanga Basin. The basal Algebuckina Sandstone (Jurassic) consists predominantly of coarse-grained fluviatile deposits with a subordinate fine-grained facies of lacustrine origin. An overlying transgressive Cretaceous sequence is comprised of marginal marine siltstones and shales of the Cadna-owie Formation which grade upwards into marine shales and siltstones of the Bulldog Shale.

To the north, in the area of the southwestern Cooper Basin, a different nomenclature is applied to the Mesozoic sequence, which is considerably thicker than that in the Frome Embayment. Lower Jurassic Hutton Sandstone and Birkhead Formation have been tentatively identified in several drill holes. The Algebuckina Sandstone equivalent (Mooga Formation) consists of the Namur Member, which is predominantly sandstone, overlain by fine-grained siltstones and shales of the Murta Member. The Transition Beds, equivalent to the Cadna-owie Formation, are overlain by marine shales of the Tambo and Roma formations. These units are readily correlated by gamma-ray logs from wells in the area. To the east, in Fortville 3, the Mesozoic section is much reduced: the Murta Member is absent and the Mooga Formation is composed mainly of sandstone.

1. INTRODUCTION

This study deals with the Mesozoic stratigraphy of the Frome Embayment (Fig. 1), which is that area bounded by the Flinders Ranges to the west, the Barrier Ranges to the east and a range of low hills from Scott Hill to Mundaerno Hill

TABLE 1  
WELL DATA

DRILLHOLE	PETROPHYSICS	CUTTINGS	CORE	REFERENCE	SPONSOR
Arboola Bore		Incomplete	No		E.&W.S.
Black Oak Bore		Yes	No	Ker (1966)	E.&W.S.
Bumbarlow 1	Gamma, neutron.	Yes	No	Youngs (1978)	Dept. Mines and Energy
Cherri 1	Gamma, sonic.	Yes	No	Pexa Oil N.L. (1970 a)	Pexa Oil N.L.
Cootabarlow 1		Incomplete	No	Ker (1966)	Enterprise Exploration
Cootabarlow 2		Yes	No		"
Cootabarlow 3		Incomplete	No		"
Fortville 3	Gamma, resistivity, S.P.	Yes	Incomplete	Wopfner & Cornish (1967)	Dept. Mines and Energy
Curra 1	Gamma, sonic.	Yes	No	Pexa Oil N.L. (1970 d).	Pexa Oil N.L.
Kumbarie 1	Gamma, sonic	Yes	No	Pexa Oil N.L. (1970 b)	"
Lake Frome 1	Gamma.	Yes	No	Delhi Petroleum (1968 a)	Delhi Australia Petroleum Ltd.
Lake Frome 2	Gamma, sonic, resistivity.	Incomplete	No	"	"
Lake Frome 3	Gamma, sonic, resistivity.	-	-	"	"
Lakeside		Yes	No	Kerr (1966)	Enterprise Exploration
Mudguard 1	Gamma, neutron, resistivity.	No	No	Youngs (1977)	Dept. Mines and Energy
Muloowurtina 2		No	No	Callen (1970 a)	E.&W.S.
Poontana		Yes	No	Callen (1970 b)	"
Tinga Tingana 1	Gamma, sonic.	Yes	No	Delhi Petroleum (1968 b)	Delhi Australia Petroleum Ltd.
Weena 1	Gamma, sonic.	Yes	No	Pexa Oil N.L. (1970 c)	Pexa Oil N.L.
Yalkalpo 1	Gamma, neutron, resistivity, S.P.	Yes	Yes	Callen (1972)	Dept. Mines and Energy
Yalkalpo 2	Gamma, neutron.	Yes	No	Youngs (1977)	"

For location of wells see plan no. 80-182 (Fig.1)

TABLE 1

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SCALE

MESOZOIC STRATIGRAPHY - FROME EMBAYMENT

DATE Feb. 1980

COMPILED A.J. Truebore

DRN M.R. CKD

WELL DATA

PLAN NUMBER

S 14696

4.11.80

in the south (Ker, 1966). An arbitrary northern limit runs from Moolawatana Station to the Cooranna bore. The Mesozoic sequence underlying this area constitutes what is, essentially, a southern lobe of the Eromanga Basin.

In the South Australian portion of this region outcrop is meagre, being restricted to the northeastern margin of the Mount Painter Block (Fig. 1). However numerous water bores and a number of oil exploration and stratigraphic wells have penetrated the Mesozoic sequence. Table 1 summarises drill holes examined and relevant data available from each.

Drill holes examined from the southwestern portion of the Cooper Basin (Cherri 1, Curra 1, Weena 1, Tinga-Tingana 1, and Kumbarie 1) provide a link between the Frome Embayment and the Cooper Basin region and correlations between the two areas are attempted in this report. However a lack of petrophysical and palaeontological data, especially in the Frome Embayment wells, makes correlations questionable. For similar reasons correlations between wells within the Frome Embayment should be regarded with caution even though some of the lithological subdivisions appear to be consistent over the area.

Despite these reservations, it is important to attempt to trace basinward the Mesozoic sequences of the Frome Embayment, since these thicken dramatically to the north in the Cooper Basin region and have considerable hydrocarbon bearing potential.

## 2. PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

Study of the Mesozoic sequence in the Frome Embayment has been very limited. Whittle and Chebotarev (1952) attempted the

correlation of wells drilled by Enterprise Exploration Ltd. with wells drilled farther north. Brown (1950, 1953) and Ludbrook (1962, 1966) studied the biostratigraphy of Cretaceous sediments in this region. Palynological studies of the Cretaceous sequence were conducted by Dettman (1963) and Dettman and Playford (1969). Ker (1966) incorporated in a hydrological study of the area descriptions of cuttings from many of the wells and also attempted some regional correlations.

The regional geology of the area is described by Callen (1976), and some uncompiled core and cuttings descriptions by the same author (Yalkalpo 1, Mulloowurtina and Poontana) are used in this report. The Mesozoic sequences in Yalkalpo 2, Mudguard 1 and Bumbarlow 1 are described by Youngs (1977, 1978). Similarly well completion reports are available for Lake Frome nos. 1, 2 & 3 (Delhi, 1968a), Cherri 1 (Pexa, 1970a), Gurra 1 (Pexa, 1970d), Kumbarie 1 (Pexa, 1970b), Weena 1 (Pexa, 1970c) and Tinga Tingana 1 (Delhi, 1968b).

### 3. STRATIGRAPHY

Stratigraphic nomenclature in the western and south-western Eromanga Basin is summarised in Table 2.

The most commonly cited Mesozoic formations in the South Australian Eromanga Basin are in the Oodnadatta area, where the Jurassic-Cretaceous sequence consists of the basal Algebuckina Sandstone, Cadna-owie Formation and Mount Anna Sandstone Member (Wopfner et al., 1970). To the south, in the Moolawatana area, a different stratigraphic nomenclature was proposed by Ludbrook (1966) and Forbes (1966). The sequence there consists of the basal Village Well Formation, overlain by the Pelican Well

OODNADATTA AREA		MARREE AREA	MOOLAWATANA AREA	SOUTHERN COOPER BASIN WELLS	
WINTON FORMATION		BLANCHEWATER FORMATION	BLANCHEWATER FORMATION	WINTON FORMATION	
OODNADATTA FORMATION		MARREE	MARREE	TAMBO FORMATION	
Wooldridge Limestone Mbr.	Coorikiana Sandstone Mbr.			Attraction Hill Sandstone Member	
BULLDOG SHALE		FORMATION	FORMATION	ROMA FORMATION	
		Trinity Well Sandstone Member			
CADNA-OWIE FORMATION	Mount Anna Sandstone Member	PELICAN WELL FORMATION	Parabarana Sandstone	Seismic C Horizon	
			PELICAN WELL FORMATION	TRANSITION BEDS	
ALGEBUCKINA SANDSTONE		VILLAGE WELL FORMATION	VILLAGE WELL FORMATION	MOOGA FORMATION	Murta Member
					Namur Member

TABLE 2

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY SOUTH AUSTRALIA			SCALE:	
COMPILED: A.J. Truelove			DATE: March 1980	
DRN: M.R. CKD:			PLAN NUMBER	
4-11-80			S 14698	

Formation which includes the Parabarana Sandstone Member. Despite the proximity of the Moolawatana area to the Frome Embayment, previous workers have adopted the nomenclature of Wopfner et al. (1970) for the basal Mesozoic sandstones and used the name Marree Formation (after Forbes, 1966) for the overlying Cretaceous shale sequence. To avoid confusion, this report will adopt the same approach. The nomenclature applied to wells on the margin of the Cooper Basin is the same as that used by Delhi-Santos and Pexa Oil (Tables 2 and 3); the Mooga Formation (Algebuckina Sandstone equivalent) is subdivided into a lower Namur Member and an upper Murta Member. The overlying Transition Beds are considered to be Cadna-owie Formation equivalents and the Tambo and Roma formations are questionable correlatives of the Marree Formation. The Birkhead Formation and the Hutton Sandstone, underlying the Mooga Formation, are not represented in the Frome Embayment area. Within the Eromanga Basin sequence a widely recognised seismic reflector, the "C-Horizon," occurs near the top of the Transition Beds (Cadna-owie Formation).

The most thoroughly studied section in the Frome Embayment is in Yalkalpo 1, which was fully cored through the Mesozoic sequence and has supplementary palaeontological and petrophysical data (Callen, 1972). Yalkalpo 1 is regarded as a central reference section in the Frome Embayment. Cuttings and core descriptions from this well are included in Appendices A and B respectively. Figure 2 summarises regional relationships between Mesozoic rock units in the Frome Embayment, and Table 4 summarises Mesozoic formation tops penetrated in Frome Embayment wells.



TABLE 3  
STRATIGRAPHIC TABLE

		FROME EMBAYMENT	COOPER BASIN WELLS (S.E. Margin)	
CRETACEOUS	MARREE FORMATION	Grey and blue claystone, carbonaceous and occasionally silty.	ROMA AND TAMBO FORMATIONS	Grey and blue shale with minor sandstone and limestone.
	CADNA-OWIE FORMATION	Grey and blue pebbly claystone and siltstone, often carbonaceous and occasionally sandy and calcareous.	TRANSITION BEDS	Grey shale with interbedded siltstone and very fine to medium grained sandstone.
JURASSIC	ALGEBUCKINA SANDSTONE	Coarse to very coarse grained quartz sandstone and/or blue and grey pebbly shales and mudstones.	MOOGA FORMATION	Interbedded siltstone and shale and very fine grained sandstone
			Murta Mem	
			Namur Member	Coarse grained quartz sandstone with minor interbeds of siltstone and shale.
			BIRKHEAD FORMATION	Grey carbonaceous shale.
			HUTTON SANDSTONE	Massive coarse grained sandstone.

TABLE 3

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY SOUTH AUSTRALIA			SCALE
COMPILED A.J. Truelove	MESOZOIC STRATIGRAPHY - FROME EMBAYMENT STRATIGRAPHIC TABLE		DATE Feb. 1980
DRN M.R. CKD			PLAN NUMBER
4-11-80			S 14697

Yalkalpo 1

Callen (1972) placed the top of the Mesozoic sequence at 81.7 m, where coarse grained Tertiary sandstones are in sharp contact with carbonaceous siltstones and claystones of the Marree Formation.

The top of the Cadna-owie Formation, at 160 m, is picked at the beginning of a gradual downwards increase in the gamma-ray and neutron log counts. A downwards increase in the pebble content of the claystone is the only discernible lithological change.

The top of the Algebuckina Sandstone, at 200.9 m, is marked by a downwards grainsize change from very fine-grained sandstone to claystone, and a sharp decrease in mica content. A basal conglomerate within the Algebuckina Sandstone disconformably overlies green and red Cambrian shales at 216.8 m.

Yalkalpo 2

The sequence here is similar to that in Yalkalpo 1. The top of the Marree Formation occurs at 66 m, where there is a lithologic change downward from coarse sandstone to silty mudstone, with an associated slight increase in the gamma-ray log counts and a large decrease in the neutron log counts, as was found in Yalkalpo 1.

The top of the Cadna-owie Formation is at 156 m and is best characterised by the increased gamma-ray/neutron log responses; it also coincides with a downward increase in pebble content. A sharp decrease in mica content at 216 m by analogy with Yalkalpo 1 indicates the top of the Algebuckina Sandstone; this contact also can be picked from the gamma-ray/neutron logs. No other obvious lithologic changes are evident across this contact. It should be noted that the above subdivisions differ from those of Youngs (1977).

TABLE 4

MESOZOIC FORMATION TOPS, FROME EMBAYMENT WELLS

Measured depths are below well datum.  
 Depths in brackets are subsea depths, in  
 metres  
 NR = not reached

WELL	TOP MARREE FMN	TOP CADNA-OWIE FMN	TOP ALGEBUCKINA	BASE OF MESOZOIC
Yalkalpo No. 1	81.7m (-40m)	160m (-118m)	200.9m (-158.9m)	216.8m (-174.8m)
Yalkalpo No. 2	66m (-16m)	156m (-106m)	216m (-166m)	258m (-208m)
Mudguard No. 1	99m (-57m)	148m (-105.9m)	?187m (-144.9m)	194m (-151.9m)
Arboola	450' (-107m)	748' (-198m)	1060' (-293m)	NR
Lakeside Bore	?600' (-142m)	?750' (-188m)	1010' (-267m)	1073' (-287m)
Black Oak Bore	280' (-62m)	390' (-95m)	ABSENT?	448' (-113m)
Lake Frome 1	460' (-134m)	?	ABSENT	610' (-180m)
Lake Frome 2	410' (-123m)	ABSENT	ABSENT	530' (-160m)
Lake Frome 3	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	
Bumbarlow 1	192m (-161m)	261m (-230m)	357m (-326m)	402m (-371m)
Cootabarlow 3	540' (-135m)	900' (-244m)	1230' (-345m)	1375' (-389m)
Cootabarlow 2	600' (-153m)	1250' (-351m)	1470' (-418m)	1615' (-462m)
Cootabarlow 1	180m (-150m)	363m (-333m)	NR	
Mulloowurtina 2	?555' (-155m)	?1360' (-400m)	NR? (-400m)	
Poontana 1	1070' (-308m)	1440' (-421m)	1632' (-480m)	NR

Mudguard 1

Cuttings from the Mesozoic sequence originally logged by Youngs (1977) are unavailable for inspection, and the petrophysics proved difficult to interpret. Therefore Youngs' (1977) interpretation is tentatively accepted for this report.

Arboola Bore

Subdivision of the Mesozoic sequence proved difficult, due to the irregular collection of cuttings samples and the absence of any petrophysics. The interpreted formation boundaries therefore should be considered as tentative.

The top of the Marree Formation occurs at 450 ft, where a coarse sandstone is underlain by grey silty shales. The top of the Cadna-owie Formation could not be discerned from the cuttings. The top of the Algebuckina Sandstone is placed tentatively at 1060 ft, where there is a marked lithologic change downward from grey silty mudstone to coarse-grained quartz sandstone. Cuttings were not collected to the base of the Mesozoic.

Lakeside Bore

Cuttings were collected at irregular intervals and no electric logs were run. In the present interpretation, the top of the Marree Formation is tentatively placed at 600 ft and the top of the Cadna-owie Formation probably occurs at about 750 ft, where the granule component of the claystones increases. A change from mudstone to coarse-grained sandstone at 1010 ft is considered to mark the top of the Algebuckina Sandstone. This interpretation differs from that

of Ker (1966). The base of the Mesozoic sequence is placed tentatively at 1073 ft.

#### Black Oak Bore

No petrophysical logs are available for this well. The top of the Marree Formation is picked at 280 ft on the basis of a downward lithology change from coarse-grained sandstone to siltstone and mudstone.

It is difficult to pick the top of the Cadna-owie Formation. Although Ker (1966) placed this boundary at 360 ft, where there is a significant downward increase in sandstone content, the overall downward increase in grain size appears to be gradational. A gravel component becomes significant at 390 ft and, by comparison with surrounding wells, this appears to be a better criterion for defining the formation boundary.

At a depth of 448 ft silty sandstones disconformably overlie red and green Cambrian shales. There is no evidence of the Algebuckina Sandstone: it probably wedges out in the vicinity of this well (Fig. 2).

#### Lake Frome 1

The top of the Mesozoic sequence is placed at 460 ft on the basis of a downward lithological change from sandstone to shale which is reflected on the gamma-ray log; note that this interpretation differs from that in the well completion report (Delhi, 1968a). The base of the Mesozoic sequence occurs at 610 ft where there is a sharp gamma-ray and sonic log response.

A thin Cadna-owie Formation may occur near the base but there is no evidence of Algebuckina Sandstone, suggesting that this formation wedges out near Black Oak Bore.

Lake Frome 2

The top of the Mesozoic sequence is placed at 410 ft on the basis of gamma-ray and sonic log character. The base of this sequence is placed at 530 ft where there is a sharp break in the sonic, gamma-ray and resistivity logs. There is no evidence of Cadna-owie Formation or Algebuckina Sandstone.

Lake Frome 3

Mesozoic sediments are interpreted to be absent in the well completion report (Delhi, 1968a), but a comparison of gamma-ray logs with those from Lake Frome 2 indicates there may be a ten to twenty feet thickness of Mesozoic strata. Both these interpretations show that the Mesozoic sequence is wedging out in the vicinity of the well.

Bumbarlow 1

In this well the top of the Mesozoic sequence is placed at 192 m on the basis of a downward lithology change from coarse sandstone to mudstone and an associated downward increase in gamma-ray readings.

The top of the Cadna-owie Formation is placed at 261 m mainly on the basis of increased gamma-ray log counts. Lithological changes include an increase in the pebble content and a decrease in mica content downwards across the boundary.

The top of the Algebuckina Sandstone occurs at 357 m with a marked decrease in the mica content. A basal conglomerate disconformably overlies red and green Cambrian shales at 402 m.

Cootabarlow 3

Cuttings from this hole were available only between 600 and 980 ft, and Ker's (1966) descriptions are used here to determine stratigraphic picks, which must be regarded with caution. No petrophysical logs are available.

The top of the Mesozoic sequence is placed at 540 ft where the lithology changes downward from a coarse lignitic sand to a bluish mudstone. The top of the Cadna-owie Formation is placed tentatively at 900 ft on the basis of an increase in pebble content of the mudstone. The top of the Algebuckina Sandstone is difficult to define due to lack of information; provisionally the boundary is placed at 1230 ft where the first sandstone occurs. The interpreted base of the Mesozoic sequence is 1375 ft (Ker, 1966).

Cootabarlow 2

The top of the Marree Formation is placed at 600 ft on the basis of a sharp change from sandstone to mudstone. The top of the Cadna-owie Formation is placed tentatively at 1250 ft and is denoted by a downwards increase in pebble content. The basal Cadna-owie Formation consists of calcareous, sandy to silty mudstones with hard quartzitic interbeds and may be an equivalent of the Parabarana Sandstone. There is a sharp decrease in mica content at 1470 ft where the lithology changes from mudstone to conglomeratic sandstone; the top of the Algebuckina Sandstone may be placed here with some certainty.

The base of the Mesozoic sequence is placed at 1615 ft by Ker (1966).

Cootabarlow 1

The top of the Mesozoic sequence is placed at 180 m at a change in lithology from lignitic sandstone to sandy mudstone. The top of the Cadna-owie Formation is placed tentatively at 363 m on the basis of an increased pebble content at this depth. Cuttings are not available to the base of the Cadna-owie Formation. Overall, the formation boundaries correlate very well with the nearby Cootabarlow 2 well.

Muloowurtina 2

No cuttings or petrophysical logs were available from this well, and the following interpretation is based on a preliminary wellsite litho-log compiled by R.A. Callen in 1970 (pers. comm., Jan 1980) which is referenced on the FROME 1: 250 000 sheet (Callen, 1976).

The top of the Mesozoic sequence is placed at 540 ft where the lithology changes from sandstone to claystone. The top of the Cadna-owie Formation could not be defined. The basal unit in the well consists of calcareous, micaceous sandstones and siltstones with abundant granules, and may be an equivalent of the Parabarana Sandstone. The top of the Algebuckina Sandstone was not penetrated.

Poontana 1

The top of the Mesozoic sequence occurs at about 1070 ft where the lithology changes from sandstone to mudstone. The top of the Cadna-owie Formation is placed tentatively at 1440 ft on the basis of a slight increase in grain size and granule component. The top of the Algebuckina Sandstone is placed at 1632 ft on the basis of a lithology change from shale to sandstone. The base of the Mesozoic sequence was not penetrated.



### Cooper Basin Wells

The six wells located near the southern margin of the Cooper Basin (Fig. 3) penetrated a sequence transitional between the marginal Frome Embayment area and the thicker Eromanga Basin sequences to the north (Fig. 4). The nomenclature adopted in this area differs from that in the Frome Embayment (Tables 2 and 3). However, the Murta Member of the Mooga Formation, previously identified in only three of these wells, is identified herein in all wells. The lateral extent of the Murta Member is unknown, but it appears to wedge out southward towards the Frome Embayment, where it is known to be absent (Fig. 4).

Underlying the Mooga Formation (Namur Member) in most wells is a shale-to-siltstone interval that possibly represents a reduced section of the Birkhead Formation. An interval of sandstone underlying this unit is considered equivalent to the Hutton Sandstone (Fig. 3).

#### 4. DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENTS

The general lack of core and the tentative nature of some stratigraphic interpretations constrains any environmental interpretation of the studied sequences. The few available cores (Yalkalpo 1; Fortville 3) have proved invaluable in this respect; they are described in "Selley"-type logs in Appendix A.

Examination of cuttings indicates that the Algebuckina Sandstone in the Frome Embayment normally is comprised of coarse to very coarse-grained, subangular to subrounded, ferruginous quartz sandstone with a basal conglomerate.

Sandstones overlying the basal conglomerate probably represent braided stream deposits; the red colouration of many of the sandstones is in keeping with subaerial deposition.

In several wells the basal Algebuckina Formation conglomerate is overlain by grey shales (Yalkalpo 1 and 2; Bumbarlow 1). These fine grained sediments suggest low energy, lacustrine deposition, probably in a localised depression. Reddish conglomerates which underlie the shales probably are alluvial conglomerates.

The Algebuckina Sandstone thickens basinward, where it is correlated with the Mooga Formation (Fig. 4). The Namur Member of this formation consists mainly of braided stream channel deposits with a minor overbank facies component, whereas the Murta Member is consistently fine-grained and probably represents lacustrine and lacustrine fan-delta deposits.

In the Frome Embayment the Cadna-owie and Marree formations and their respective equivalents are very difficult to distinguish, being very fine-grained. The Cadna-owie Formation generally tends to be slightly coarser-grained with minor glauconite, some lignite, and rare calcareous concretions. In addition the sediments are in part bioturbated, and crustacean and brachiopod fossils occur near the top. The environment of deposition of this formation and the Transition Beds (its northern equivalent) is uncertain but may generally be marginally marine. The formation does not thicken markedly basinward.

In the Frome Embayment the Marree Formation consists of interbedded and bioturbated siltstones and shales with minor glauconite, lignite and marine fossils, all of which indicate a shallow marine environment of deposition. This

formation thickens considerably basinward, where it is correlated with the Roma and Tambo formations.

Towards the southwestern margin of the Frome Embayment, shales of the Marree and Cadna-owie formations grade laterally into siltstones and fine-grained, well-sorted, rounded to very rounded quartz sandstones which may, in part, represent shoreline deposits.

The Mesozoic section in Fortville 3, whose locality is shown in Fig. 1, is similar in many respects to the basin-margin sequences encountered in the Frome Embayment. A log of sedimentary structures from cores in the Transition Beds and Mooga Formation in Fortville 3 is presented in Appendix A. The Transition Beds consist of a series of bioturbated siltstones and mudstones with flaser bedding and cross-laminations, plus slump structures and other soft-sediment deformation. These characteristics, in addition to the occasional presence of red beds, may indicate an intertidal-supratidal environment, consistent with interpretations of the sequence in the Frome Embayment.

A core through the Mooga Formation in Fortville 3 (Appendix A) is composed of medium to very coarse-grained, ferruginous, subrounded quartz sandstones with cross-bedding (individual set sizes average about 1 ft) and minor fining- and coarsening-upward cycles. The sandstones probably were deposited in a braided stream environment.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

The Algebuckina Sandstone, Cadna-owie Formation and Marree Formation comprise the Mesozoic sequence in the Frome Embayment. The prime reference section is a fully cored sequence in Yalkalpo 1, for which palynology and petrophysical logs are available.

The Cadna-owie Formation appears to grade upwards into the Marree Formation, the contact being denoted by a general downward increase in values on the gamma-ray log.

In addition the Cadna-owie Formation is often characterized by a higher pebble content. In some wells in the northern portion of the Frome Embayment, the basal unit of the Cadna-owie Formation consists of calcareous sandstones and siltstones which may equate with the Parabarana Sandstone. Marginal marine conditions predominated during deposition of the Cadna-owie Formation, and shales and siltstones of the overlying Marree Formation and equivalents were deposited in a shallow sea.

In the Frome Embayment the top of the Algebuckina Sandstone is generally marked by a pronounced downward decrease in mica content which may partly be reflected on the gamma-ray logs; a change in source area probably is responsible. Coarse-grained sandstones deposited by braided streams predominate, although locally fine-grained (?lacustrine) facies are recognised.

In the area of the southwestern Cooper Basin the Algebuckina Sandstone is correlated with the Mooga Formation, consisting of the Namur and Murta members. These members are readily distinguishable on petrophysical logs.

The equivalent of the Cadna-owie Formation in this area, the Transition Beds, does not display significant basinward thickening, suggesting that low basinward gradients existed subsequent to deposition of the Mooga Formation. Hence these Transition Beds, which probably are of

marginal-marine origin, probably were deposited during a relatively rapid transgression in a time of minor but reasonably uniform basin subsidence. However, epeirogenic movements may have been renewed during deposition of the shallow-marine sediments of the Roma and Tambo formations, which are considerably thicker than the equivalent Marree Formation of the southern basin margin.

#### 6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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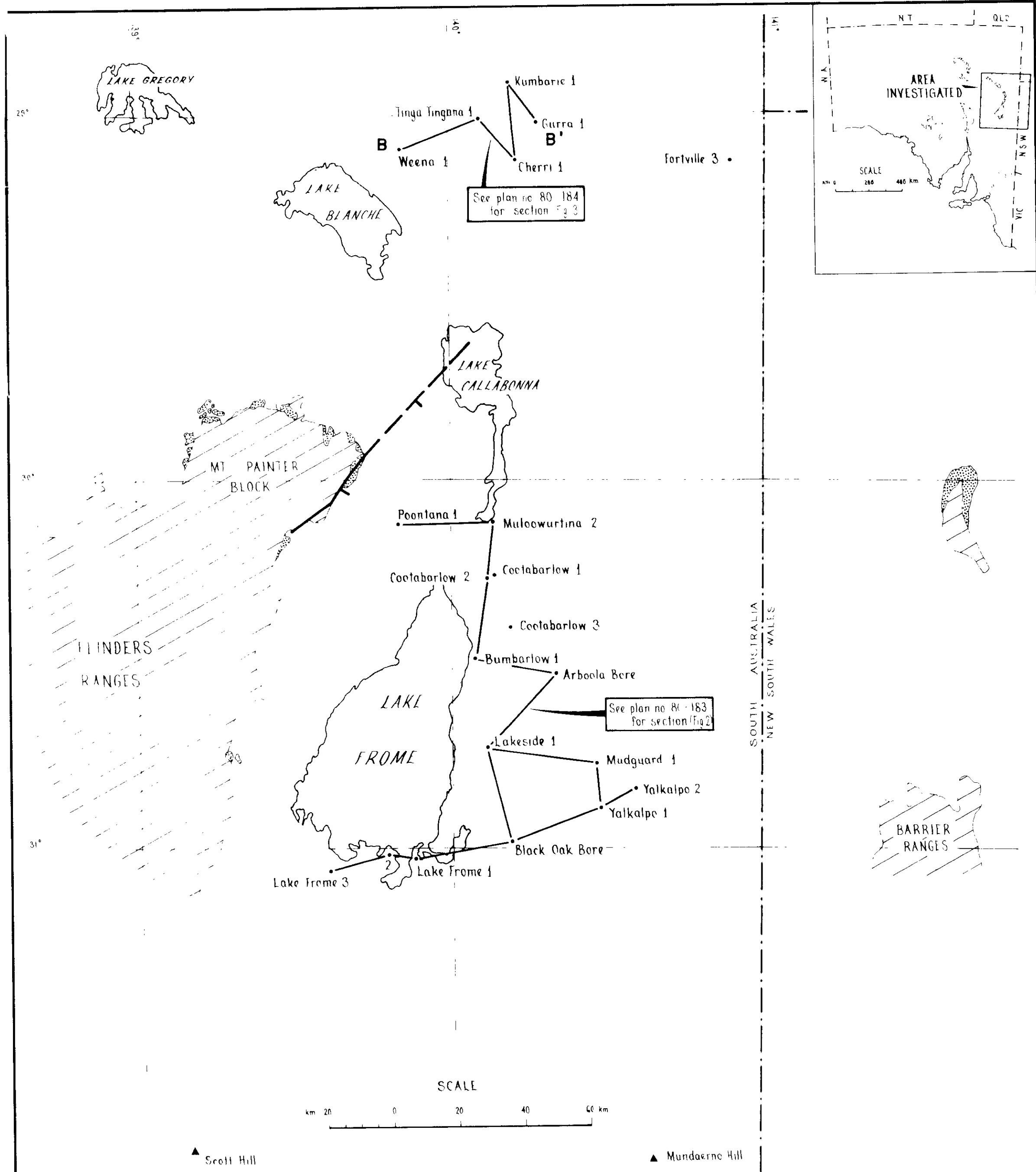
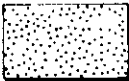




FIG 1

-  Cadna-Owie Formation
-  Pre Mesozoic Outcrop

 <b>DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>		COMPILED A J Truelove	C.D.O. DATE
		DRAWN M R	SCALE As shown
<b>MESOZOIC STRATIGRAPHY FROM LEMBAYMENT LOCALITY PLAN</b>		DATE Feb 1980	PLAN NUMBER
		CHECKED	80-182

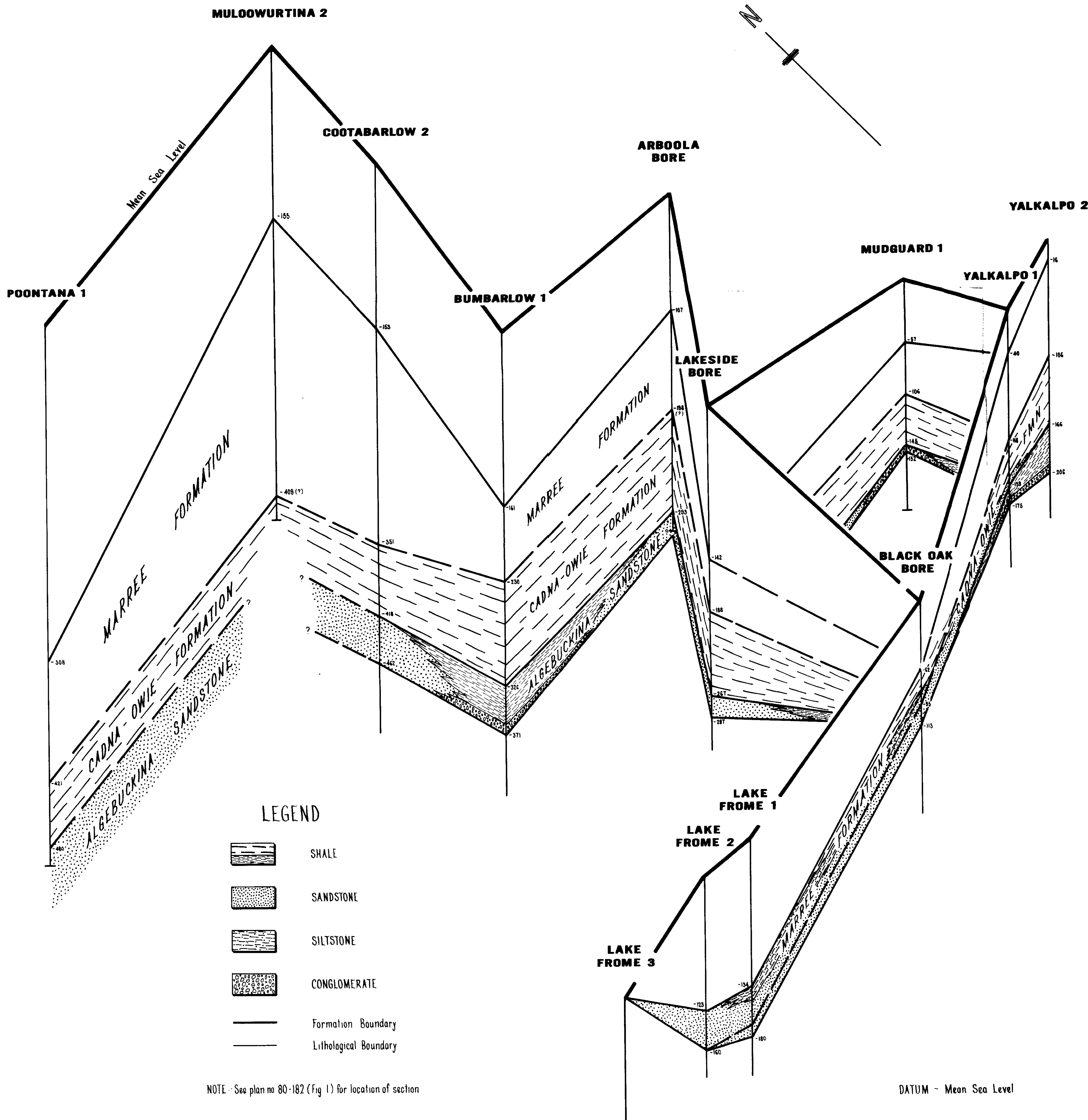



FIG. 2

	DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY SOUTH AUSTRALIA		COMPILED A J Truelove
	MESOZOIC STRATIGRAPHY - FROME EMBAYMENT		DRAWN M.R.
			DATE March 1980
			CHECKED
	MESOZOIC SEDIMENTS - FROME EMBAYMENT ISOMETRIC CORRELATION DIAGRAM		8/11/80 C.O.O. DATE
SCALE As shown			
PLAN NUMBER 80-183			

B

WEST

WEENA 1

TINGA TINGANA 1

CHERRI 1

KUMBARIE 1

GURRA 1

B'

EAST

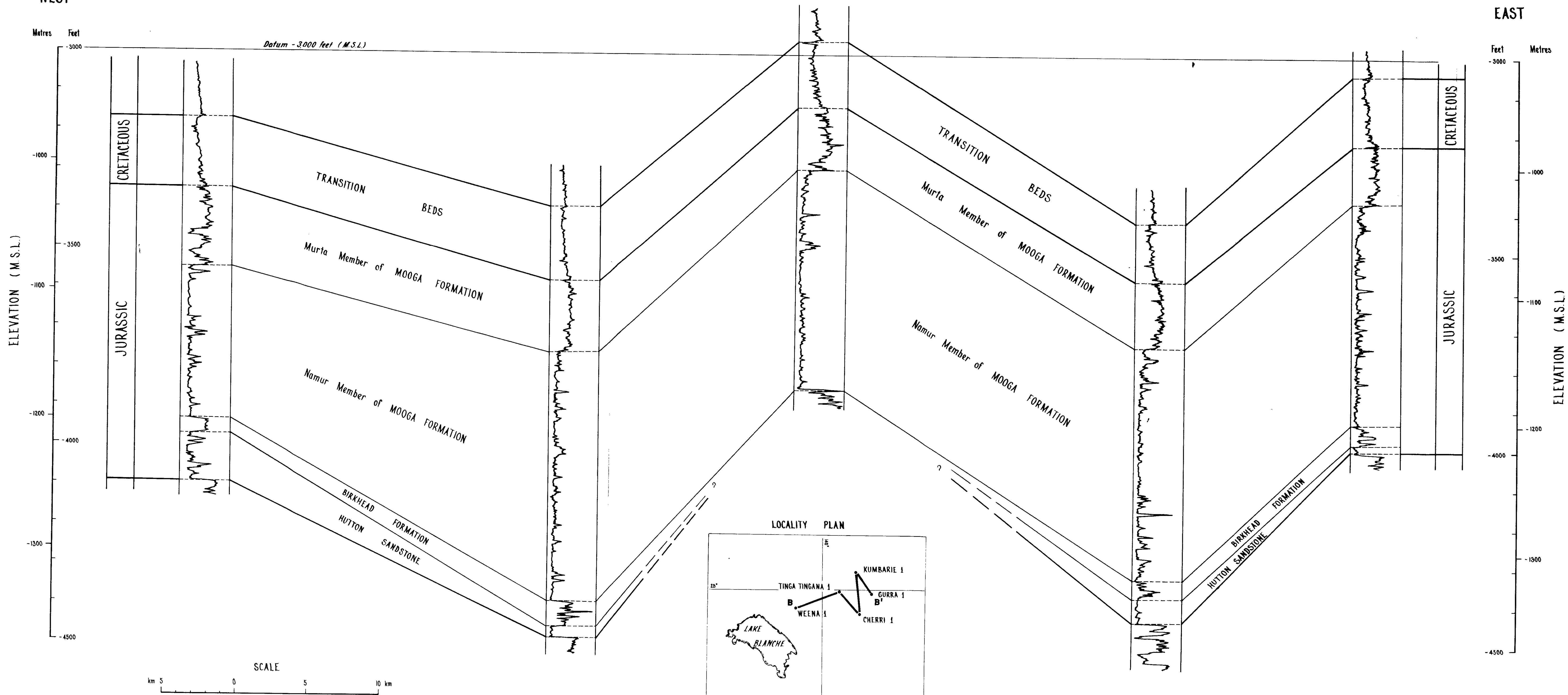
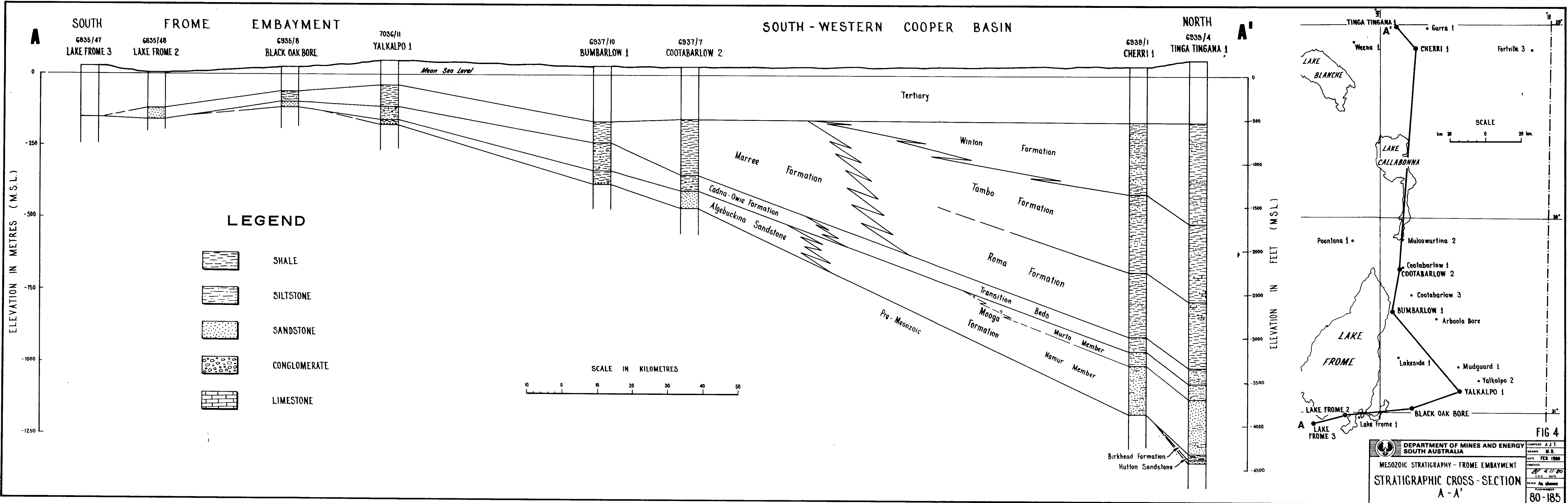


FIG 3

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY SOUTH AUSTRALIA		COMPILED A J Twelve	4-11-80
MESOZOIC STRATIGRAPHY - FROME EMBAYMENT SOUTH-WEST COOPER BASIN GAMMA RAY LOG CORRELATION DIAGRAM		DRAWN M R	DATE
DATE March 1980		SCALE As shown	PLAN NUMBER
CHECKED		80-184	



APPENDIX A

Yalkalpo 1 - Log of core

by R.A. CALLEN

Fortville 3 Log of core

by A.J. TRUELOVE

PROJECT LAKE FROME CENOZOIC  
SADM Stratigraphic drilling project  
LOCATION QUINYAMBIE 1:63,360 FROME 1:250,000  
near L. Yulkaipa

SECTION  
HUNDRED

R.L. 42.5 m  
I.D. 219.67 m

LAT. 36° 51' 47"  
LONG. 140° 31' 50"

[illegible]

REFERENCE FOR GRAIN SIZE, LITHO LOG AND INDURATION

Using method of Selley R.C. 1968  
1 Sed Fac 38 2. pp 363-377  
Sols from Selley & Bouma A.H. 1962  
-morphology of Fluvial Deposits (Elsevier)  
a log  
Diagram  
a.m. 2-2 graph with  
-morphology structure symbols

## NOTES

Sedimentary Structures: Use column for details, place symbol in grain size column  
Induration code: Use own code & specify here or on separate sheet  
Cement, etc.: Use symbol code  
% Carbonate: State method  
% Sand: State method  
Roundness: Use Power's scale  
Sorting: Follow R. 1948 *Petrology of Sedimentary Rocks* (Strophal) up 103-105  
VP = very poor, P = poor, M = moderate, W = well, VW = very well  
Porosity: State type (whether air-connected pores or not)

Q	Quartz
M	Mica
H	Heavies
F	Feldspar
C	Clays
Other	Other minerals

LOGGED BY RAC	DATE 1973
TRACED BY AP	DRAFTING BRANCH
DEPARTMENT OF MINES SOUTH AUSTRALIA	
CHECKED	SHEET 2 OF 6

## BORE LOG

LAKE FROME CARBONATE  
 PROJECT  
 BADM Stratigraphic drilling project  
 LOCATION QUINYAMBIE 1:65,360 FRAME 1284,000  
 near L. Kalkalpo

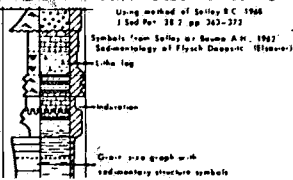
SECTION  
 HUNDRED

R.I. 42-5m  
 T.D. 219-67

LAT. 30° 51' 47"  
 LONG. 140° 31' 58"

DEPTH (METERS)	WENTWORTH GRAIN SIZE SAND	LITHO LOG	INDUR- ATION	FOSSIL SOILS WEATHERING INDURATCH	CARBONATE % CO <sub>2</sub>	MUNSELL COLOR	% SAND	SOUNDNESS & SPECTRY OF CLASTS	GRAIN SURFACE FEATURES	MINERALS						CLASTS	POSS- IBLY	POSSIBLE	SEDIMENTARY STRUCTURES	COMMENTS	ROCK NAME	FORMATION	SAMPLES No. & ANALYSIS	PHOTOS
										Q	M	H	F	C	Other									
120																								
122																								
124																								
126																								
128																								
130																								
132																								
134																								
136																								
138																								
140																								
142																								
144																								
146																								
148																								
150																								
152																								
154																								
156																								
158																								
160																								

## REFERENCE FOR GRAIN SIZE, LITHO LOG AND INDURATION



## NOTES

Sedimentary Structures: Use column for details, place symbol in grain size column  
 Induration code: Use own code & specify here or on separate sheet  
 Cement, etc.: Use symbol code  
 % Carbonate: State method  
 % Sand: State method  
 Roundness: Use Powers scale  
 Sorting: Fels P.T. 1968 Petrology of Sedimentary Rocks (Memphis) pp 103-105  
 VP = very poor, P = poor, M = moderate, W = well, VW = very well  
 Porosity: State type (whether interconnected pores or not)

Q Quartz  
 M Mica  
 H Heavy  
 F Feldspar  
 C Clays  
 Other Other minerals

LOGGED BY RAL DATE 1972  
 TRACED BY A.R. DRAFTER BRANCH  
 DEPARTMENT OF MINES SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
 CHECKED SHEET 4 OF 6

## BORE LOG

HOLE NO. YALFALPO 1

PROJECT LAKE FROME CENOZOIC  
SADM Stratigraphic drilling project  
LOCATION QUINYAMBIE 163,560 FROME 1250,070  
near J. Yalwalpe

SECTION  
HUNDRED

R.L. 42.8m  
T.D. 219.67

LAT. 30° 51' 47"  
LONG. 140° 31' 58"

DEPTH METERS	WINDWORTH GRAIN SIZE SAND	LITHO LOG	FOSIL ACTION S C	FOSIL SOILS WEATHERING INDURATION	ABRASH % MUNELL COLOUR	% SAND % SILT % CLAY	SOUNDNESS & STRENGTH ON TEST	GRAIN SURFACE FEATURES	MINERALS						SORTING SILT CLAY	CLASSES	PORO- SITY	FOSSILS	SEDIMENTARY STRUCTURES	COMMENTS	ROCK NAME	FORMATION	SAMPLES No. & Depth	PHOTOS
									Q	M	H	I	C	Oth.										
160																								
162																								
164																								
166																								
168																								
170																								
172																								
174																								
176																								
178																								
180																								
182																								
184																								
186																								
188																								
190																								
192																								
194																								
196																								
198																								
200																								

## REFERENCE FOR GRAIN SIZE, LITHO LOG AND INDURATION

Using method of Selley P.C. 1968  
J Sed Pet 38:7 pp 262-277  
Symbols from Selley & Rona A.H. 1967  
Sedimentology of Rock Deposits (Elsevier)  
Litho log  
Induration  
Grain size graph with  
sedimentary structure symbols

## NOTES

Sedimentary Structures: Use column for details, place symbol in grain size column  
Induration code: Use own code & specify here on an separate sheet  
Cement, etc.: Use symbol code  
% Carbonate: State method  
% Sand: State method  
Roundness: Use Power's scale  
Sorting: Folk 81, 1968. Percentage of Sedimentary Rocks, through ill pp 103-105  
VP: very poor, P: poor, M: moderate, W: well, VW: very well  
Porosity: State type (whether interconnected pores or not)

Q Quartz  
M Mica  
H Heavies  
F Feldspar  
C Clays  
Other Other minerals

LOGGED BY RAL DATE 1973  
TRACED BY AP DEPARTMENT OF MINES SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
CHECKED SHEET 5 OF 6



## BORE LOG

PROJECT LAKE FROME CENOZOIC  
SADM Stratigraphic drilling project  
LOCATION QUINYAMBIE 163360 FROME 1250000

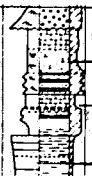
SECTION  
HUNDRED

R.L. 42.5m  
T.D. 219.67m

LAT 30° 51' 47"  
LONG 140° 31' 56"

DEPTH (meters)	WINTWORTH GRAIN SIZE LOG	LITHO LOG	INDUR- ATION	FOSSIL SOILS, WEATHERING INDICATION	CARBONATE % SO	MUSSEL COLOR	% SAND % S	GRAIN SURFACE FEATURES	MINERALS					OTHER MIN.	CLASS	PORO- SITY	FOSSILS	SEDIMENTARY STRUCTURES	COMMENTS	ROCK NAME	CORRELATION EQUIVALENT	TIMES IN MAY	PHOTOS
									Q	M	H	F	C										
200																							
202																							
204																							
206																							
208																							
210																							
212																							
214																							
216																							
218																							
220																							
END HOLE 219.69 m																							

## REFERENCE FOR GRAIN SIZE, LITHO LOG AND INDURATION



Using method of Selley R.C. 1968  
J Sed. Soc. 28.2 pp 363-372  
Symbols from Selley R.C. 1962  
Sedimentology of Fresh Waters, Elsevier  
Linka log  
Induration  
Grain size graph with  
sedimentary structure symbols

## NOTES

Sedimentary Structures: Use column for details, place symbol in grain size column  
Induration code: Use own code & specify base on an separate sheet  
Cement, etc.: Use symbol code  
% Carbonate: State method  
% Sand: State method  
Roundness: Use Fowett's scale  
Sorting: Fall R.L. 1968 Petrology of Sedimentary Rocks through 100-105  
VP: very poor, P: poor, M: moderate, W: well, VW: very well  
Porosity: State type (whether interconnected pores or not)

Q Quartz  
M Mica  
H Heavies  
F Feldspar  
C Clays  
Other Other minerals

CUTTINGS—  
NO CORE/LOG  
Depths 2m out  
according to  
Neutron Log.

Nodular

## APPENDIX B

Cuttings logs from the Frome

Embayment wells

Arboola Bore  
Black Oak Bore  
Bumbarlow 1  
Cootabarlow 1  
Cootabarlow 2  
Cootabarlow 3  
Lake Frome 1  
Lake Frome 2  
Lakeside Bore  
Poontana 1  
Yalkalpo 2

by A.J. TRUELOVE

LOGGER/DATE A.D. Treloare Jan, 1990

T.D. (DRILLER)

T.D. (LOGGER)

[illegible]

- Grain size graph with sedimentary structure symbols

Porosity Type: state whether pores are interconnected or not.

[illegible]

JOB NO 1444

KB

GEI.

LOGGER/DATE 4/20/74

DEPTH FROM TO

JOB NO. 1444



DEPTH FROM	TO	DESCRIPTION	REMARKS
0	1	...	...
1	2	...	...
2	3	...	...
3	4	...	...
4	5	...	...
5	6	...	...
6	7	...	...
7	8	...	...
8	9	...	...
9	10	...	...
10	11	...	...
11	12	...	...
12	13	...	...
13	14	...	...
14	15	...	...
15	16	...	...
16	17	...	...
17	18	...	...
18	19	...	...
19	20	...	...
20	21	...	...
21	22	...	...
22	23	...	...
23	24	...	...
24	25	...	...
25	26	...	...
26	27	...	...
27	28	...	...
28	29	...	...
29	30	...	...
30	31	...	...
31	32	...	...
32	33	...	...
33	34	...	...
34	35	...	...
35	36	...	...
36	37	...	...
37	38	...	...
38	39	...	...
39	40	...	...
40	41	...	...
41	42	...	...
42	43	...	...
43	44	...	...
44	45	...	...
45	46	...	...
46	47	...	...
47	48	...	...
48	49	...	...
49	50	...	...
50	51	...	...
51	52	...	...
52	53	...	...
53	54	...	...
54	55	...	...
55	56	...	...
56	57	...	...
57	58	...	...
58	59	...	...
59	60	...	...
60	61	...	...
61	62	...	...
62	63	...	...
63	64	...	...
64	65	...	...
65	66	...	...
66	67	...	...
67	68	...	...
68	69	...	...
69	70	...	...
70	71	...	...
71	72	...	...
72	73	...	...
73	74	...	...
74	75	...	...
75	76	...	...
76	77	...	...
77	78	...	...
78	79	...	...
79	80	...	...
80	81	...	...
81	82	...	...
82	83	...	...
83	84	...	...
84	85	...	...
85	86	...	...
86	87	...	...
87	88	...	...
88	89	...	...
89	90	...	...
90	91	...	...
91	92	...	...
92	93	...	...
93	94	...	...
94	95	...	...
95	96	...	...
96	97	...	...
97	98	...	...
98	99	...	...
99	100	...	...

**JOB NO 1444**

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY-SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
CLASTIC LITHOFACIES DATA SHEET (A) DRILL CUTTINGS

[illegible]

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY-SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## CLASTIC LITHOFACIES DATA SHEET (A) DRILL CUTTINGS

LOGGER/DATE

DEPTH FROM	TO	TEMP.	WIND	WAVE	WEATHER	REMARKS
10	15	18	10	10	10	10
15	20	18	10	10	10	10
20	25	18	10	10	10	10
25	30	18	10	10	10	10
30	35	18	10	10	10	10
35	40	18	10	10	10	10
40	45	18	10	10	10	10
45	50	18	10	10	10	10
50	55	18	10	10	10	10
55	60	18	10	10	10	10
60	65	18	10	10	10	10
65	70	18	10	10	10	10
70	75	18	10	10	10	10
75	80	18	10	10	10	10
80	85	18	10	10	10	10
85	90	18	10	10	10	10
90	95	18	10	10	10	10
95	100	18	10	10	10	10
100	105	18	10	10	10	10
105	110	18	10	10	10	10
110	115	18	10	10	10	10
115	120	18	10	10	10	10
120	125	18	10	10	10	10
125	130	18	10	10	10	10
130	135	18	10	10	10	10
135	140	18	10	10	10	10
140	145	18	10	10	10	10
145	150	18	10	10	10	10
150	155	18	10	10	10	10
155	160	18	10	10	10	10
160	165	18	10	10	10	10
165	170	18	10	10	10	10
170	175	18	10	10	10	10
175	180	18	10	10	10	10
180	185	18	10	10	10	10
185	190	18	10	10	10	10
190	195	18	10	10	10	10
195	200	18	10	10	10	10
200	205	18	10	10	10	10
205	210	18	10	10	10	10
210	215	18	10	10	10	10
215	220	18	10	10	10	10
220	225	18	10	10	10	10
225	230	18	10	10	10	10
230	235	18	10	10	10	10
235	240	18	10	10	10	10
240	245	18	10	10	10	10
245	250	18	10	10	10	10
250	255	18	10	10	10	10
255	260	18	10	10	10	10
260	265	18	10	10	10	10
265	270	18	10	10	10	10
270	275	18	10	10	10	10
275	280	18	10	10	10	10
280	285	18	10	10	10	10
285	290	18	10	10	10	10
290	295	18	10	10	10	10
295	300	18	10	10	10	10
300	305	18	10	10	10	10
305	310	18	10	10	10	10
310	315	18	10	10	10	10
315	320	18	10	10	10	10
320	325					

WELL COMPANY / NAME / NO. *TALENT 2*

KB

GEI.

LOGGER/DATE

DEPTH FROM	TO	TEMP.	WIND	WAVE	WEATHER	REMARKS
10	15	18	10	10	10	10
15	20	18	10	10	10	10
20	25	18	10	10	10	10
25	30	18	10	10	10	10
30	35	18	10	10	10	10
35	40	18	10	10	10	10
40	45	18	10	10	10	10
45	50	18	10	10	10	10
50	55	18	10	10	10	10
55	60	18	10	10	10	10
60	65	18	10	10	10	10
65	70	18	10	10	10	10
70	75	18	10	10	10	10
75	80	18	10	10	10	10
80	85	18	10	10	10	10
85	90	18	10	10	10	10
90	95	18	10	10	10	10
95	100	18	10	10	10	10
100	105	18	10	10	10	10
105	110	18	10	10	10	10
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145	150	18	10	10	10	10
150	155	18	10	10	10	10
155	160	18	10	10	10	10
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260	265	18	10	10	10	10
265	270	18	10	10	10	10
270	275	18	10	10	10	10
275	280	18	10	10	10	10
280	285	18	10	10	10	10
285	290	18	10	10	10	10
290	295	18	10	10	10	10
295	300	18	10	10	10	10
300	305	18	10	10	10	10
305	310	18	10	10	10	10
310	315	18	10	10	10	10
315	320	18	10	10	10	10
320	325					

[illegible]



JOB NO. 1444

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY-SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
CLASTIC LITHOFACIES DATA SHEET (A) DRILL CUTTINGS

[illegible]