

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Rept. Bk. No. 89/89

NEPABUNNA - PROPOSED ARTIFICIAL
RECHARGE SCHEME

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

by

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GROUNDWATER AND ENGINEERING

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DME 1002/74

B00919

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NEPABUNNA - PROPOSED ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE SCHEME

ABSTRACT

Nepabunna's water supply has a salinity of 1300 mg/L and high carbonate hardness (550 mg/L). The latter causes severe scaling in pipes.

Artificial recharge was suggested as a means of introducing low salinity floodwaters into the aquifer to lower salinity and hardness.

Backhoe pitting in the stream bed confirmed the presence of thick clayey gravels and clays inhibiting natural recharge, but showed that they were too deep for modification of the stream bed to be economic.

Instead a scheme was proposed to divert some streamflow into an off-stream storage for later injection. A diversion weir and storage were designed by the Department of Agriculture and an injection well was drilled.

At this stage SACON reviewed the project and decided to proceed with water treatment rather than the artificial recharge scheme.

Subject to testing, the injection well may be suitable for equipping as a standby production well.

INTRODUCTION

Nepabunna is an Aboriginal village of 100 people in the north Flinders Ranges, about 65 km east of Copley by road (Fig 1). Aboriginal Works unit of SACON wished to undertake further drilling to establish a better quality water supply.

SADME advised against this for the following reasons:

- A. SACON had spent a considerable amount running power lines to the existing wells, converting to electric motors and improving the headworks.
- B. Experience showed that it was unlikely that a better quality supply could be developed in this area.

Although a new well might have a lower salinity than the existing well when drilled its salinity and hardness would almost certainly deteriorate under sustained pumping to about that of the existing well.

Instead it was suggested that an artificial recharge scheme might be a better solution.

This report documents SADME's role in the investigation of an artificial recharge scheme.

HISTORY

Up until 1983 Nepabunna had a long history of water supply problems as successive wells tapping limited local aquifers failed to meet demand (Read 1980 and 1983). At least 12 wells had been dug or drilled in attempts to provide Nepabunna with a reliable water supply.

In 1983 a well was drilled 2 km west of Nepabunna (Fig 2 & 3) to tap an extensive limestone aquifer. This ended the shortages in supply, but salinity, while better than the previous wells, was still poor and increased with time. The major problem is the high carbonate hardness (Table 1) which resulted in extensive scale deposition in pipes.

HYDROGEOLOGICAL SETTING

The production well taps an aquifer in the Parara Limestone, close to Mount McKinlay Creek (Fig. 2). Standing water level is about 45 m, showing that the regional gradient is gentle because of relatively high transmissivities and low recharge rates.

Groundwater in this area generally ranges from 1000 mg/L to 3000 mg/L, the better waters generally occurring close to creeks.

TABLE 1 WATER ANALYSES

Well	Date	Ca ²⁺	Mg ²⁺	Na+	K+	HCO ₃ ⁻	SO ₄ ²⁻	Cl ⁻	Conductivity ECU	TDS mg/L	Comment
6636/101	25/1/86	320	60	214	4	495	335	554	3 200	1 740	Production Well
6636/149	13/5/83	142	76	85	5	472	259	153	1 547	954	Production Well
6636/149	26/10/84	188	74	109	4	569	295	177	1 790	990	
6636/149	23/1/86	196	77	130	5	591	320	218	2 100	1 190	
6636/149	5/6/87	210	86	125	3	612	365	193	1 950	1 083	
6636/149	28/2/89								1 930	1 066	
6636/209	13/5/89	152	69	130	4	423	310	179	1 740	982	Proposed Injection Well

WATER DEMAND

SACON have estimated water demand at 12 kL/day (approx 4 ML/year).

However estimates based on hours of pumping suggest an average of 57 kL/day (21 ML/year) (Appendix D). An annual consumption in the range 10 to 20 ML/year is considered likely.

PROPOSED RECHARGE SCHEME

Several options for artificial recharge were considered:

- A. Modification of the stream bed to permit more rapid infiltration of stream flow.
- B. Construction of filter intakes under the stream bed to conduct water to an injection well during stream flows.
- C. Construction of a diversion weir and off stream storage for later injection by injection well.

Backhoe pitting showed (Appendix C) that permeabilities of the stream gravels and underlying weathered limestone were too low for 'A' or 'B' to be successful.

However preliminary investigations by Mr Moore of Department of Agriculture indicated that an off stream storage and diversion weir could be economically constructed near the production wells.

DRILLING

An injection well was drilled 45 m from the production well (Fig. 3). The geological logs are shown in Appendix A and the depth yield graph in Figure 4.

The first attempt was abandoned at 65 m when a hammer bit shanked off. It was left open as an observation well. The second attempt was successful. Details are in Table 2.

Although the well airlifted 20 L/s the aquifer is deep and apparently a finely fissured fault zone rather than the solution joints hoped for.

This makes the well more prone to clogging by larger particles. While most of the coarser suspended solids will settle in the dam, organic matter (algae, shield-shrimps) would develop and could rapidly clog the injection well.

TABLE 2 WELLS DRILLED 1989

<u>Permit No</u>	<u>Unit No</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Yield L/s</u>	<u>Casing</u>	<u>Comments</u>
252707	6636/165	65	0.3	4.5	Observation Well
952707	6636/209	101	20	98m of 125mm PVC slotted 14 to 98m	Injection well

DISCUSSION

After the injection well had been drilled SACON decided to review water supply options for Nepabunna.

The review concluded that the diversion and storage works needed to be much more substantial (and hence more costly) and that water treatment was more attractive.

Either reverse osmosis or ion-exchange softening could be used.

The former would require increased groundwater pumping. The latter would produce a high sodium water unsuitable for garden use.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The injection well as drilled should be capable of accepting about 10 L/s.
2. The injection well is liable to clogging.
3. As the recharge scheme is not to proceed the well drilled as an injection well may be suitable for use as a standby production well.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. If the desalination option is proceeded with the production well should be test-pumped to confirm that the present well and pump-setting are adequate for the resulting increased demand.
2. If it is desired to equip the new well for production a pumping test should be carried out to determine the amount of interference.
3. Because of the location of the new well it must be sealed to prevent entry of floods.



R E READ

SENIOR GEOLOGIST

REFERENCES

- Read, R.E., 1981. Nepabunna Water Supply, 1980 Drilling. SADME
unpubl. report 81/13.
- Read, R.E., 1984. Nepabunna Water Supply - 1983 Drilling, SADME
unpubl. report 84/99.

APPENDIX A
GEOLOGICAL LOGS

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6636/169

6636/209

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PROJECT Nepabunna-Recharge

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY—SOUTH AUSTRALIA

LOCATION OR COORDS

WATER WELL LOG

HOLE NO: PIV22702

SEC. MD Out of

El. Surface

El. Ref. Point

m

m

Datum

UNIT / NO.

6636/165

DME

AQUIFER

SUMMARY:

DEPTH TO
WATER CUT (m)DEPTH TO
STANDING WATER (m)

INTERVAL TESTED

From: To:

sec

SUPPLY

Test Length (hrs)

Method

TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS

milligrammes/litre Analysis No:

59

63

64

45

small

0.1

0.3

Air lift while drilling

"

"

"

"

W—

DEPTH (m)

GRAPHIC
LOGROCK / SEDIMENT
NAME

GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

FORMATION / AGE

DEPTH
CORE
SAMPLE

CASING

Dip (m) From (m) To (m)

0 3
3 9Gravel
Limestone

Light brown sandy gravel
Some nodules of medium-grey salty limestone,
mostly weathered to yellow brown friable
siltstone.

Quaternary
Parara Limestone
Cambrian

9 12

Limestone

Less weathered, but still some moderate brown
silty limestone

Weathered zone at 10m.

12 39

Limestone

Medium grey, silty

39 48

Limestone

As above, but still showing some staining.

48 54

Limestone

Medium grey, silty limestone,

54 65

Limestone

Dark grey, silty limestone with pyrite. Some with
vein calcite.

REMARKS:

* NOTE: sec 200gcs ~

Drilling stopped at 65 m when bit shanked off.

DRILL TYPE Rotary

COMPLETED 11/5/89

CIRCULATION Air

LOGGED BY R. Read

DATE 11/5/89

SHEET 1 OF 1

A-1

PROJECT		NEPABUNNA - recharge		MINES DEPARTMENT — SOUTH AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING DIVISION				HOLE NO: P/N 95207	
LOCATION OR COORDS				WATER WELL LOG				UNIT / STATE NO	
								6536/209	
SEC.	HD OUT OF	EL Surface		m				DM	
		El Ref Point		m	Datum				

AQUIFER	SUMMARY:	DEPTH TO WATER CUT (m)	DEPTH TO STANDING WATER (m)	INTERVAL TESTED		SUPPLY			TOTAL	DISSC'VED	SOLIDS
				From:	To:	L / s	Test Length (hrs)	Method	milligrammes/litre	Analysis No.	
		53		0	55	0.8					
		57		0	57	1.4			977	W —	3182/89
		77		0	88	8.5			944		3183/89
		99		0	101.6	20+			927		3184/89
									958		3185/89

DEPTH (m)		GRAPHIC LOG	ROCK / SEDIMENT NAME	GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION	FORMATION / AGE	DEPTH CORE SAMPLE	CASING		
From	To						1a(m)	From(w)	To(w)
0	3		Gravel	No samples, similar to PN 22702	Quaternary Parara Limestone, Cambrian				
3	63		Limestone	Similar to PN 22702 Weathered zone at 31m, rapid drilling and yellow brown colour					
63	65		Limestone	Dark grey silty limestone					
65	66		Limestone	Weathered, to soft yellow brown rock, rapid drilling.					
66	76		Limestone	Dark grey, silty.					
76	77		Limestone	Broken, rapid drilling					
77	97		Limestone	Dark grey silty limestone					
97	99		Calcite vein	Fractured vein calcite with pyrite veinlets.					
99	101		Limestone	Dark grey, silty					

REMARKS: * See depth yield graph for more detail	* NOTE: 110 l / day = 1000gal / hr.	
	DRILL TYPE ROTARY	COMPLETED 15/5/89
	CIRCULATION: AIR	LOGGED BY: R E READ
SHEET.....1 OF 1		DATE 13/5/89

APPENDIX B
MODELLING OF PROPOSED RECHARGE SCHEME

An attempt was made to model the behaviour of the proposed scheme using the following assumptions:

1. Storage volume of off stream storage is 10 ML.
2. Daily creek flow at the proposed site is 1/40 of flow at the gauging station at Wertaloona, when this is over 40 ML/day.
3. Injection rate is 500 kL/day.

The design volume of the dam is 13 ML. Allowing for losses by leakage and evaporation this has been assumed to be 10 ML.

The catchment area is 24 km² compared to 1010 km² at Wertaloona. Since the catchment upstream from Nepabunna is a better runoff generator than the catchment as a whole the estimate of creek flow as 1/40 of flow at Wertaloona should be conservative.

The streamflow record begins in September 1973. 1974 was a very wet year, and the recorder was out of action from May 1974 to November 1975. In the four months of 1974 for which records are available about 60 ML could have been recharged.

1974 was ignored and the period from February 1976 to December 1987 has been considered. Results indicate that an average of 7 ML/year could have been injected. This is considered a minimum estimate. Minor flows originating from thunderstorms in small catchments could provide sufficient flow to fill a 10 ML dam, but not reach the gauging station.

STREAMFLOW SALINITY

Information from Mr Steer of ETSA is that the salinity of water intake to Aroona Dam is under 200 mg/L.

The Aroona catchment includes some areas of shallow saline groundwater (e.g. Salt Creek) which could be expected to contribute more salt than the overall catchment. No such areas exist in the Nepabunna catchment.

200 mg/L is a reasonable estimate for the salinity of the water likely to be caught in the proposed dam.

QUALITY OF WATER WITHDRAWN

The average salinity of water pumped will be approximated by the following equation:

$$C = \frac{IC_1 + (E-I)C_2}{E}$$

where

C	is average salinity of water pumped
C ₁	is salinity of injected water
C ₂	is salinity of native groundwater
E	is annual volume pumped
I	is average annual volume injected for values of E greater than I.

C₁ and C₂ are assumed to be 200 mg/L and 1300 mg/L respectively. Neither the rate of pumping nor the rate of injection are known accurately.

Estimated salinities of extracted water for various ratios of injection to extraction are tabulated below.

$I > E,$	Salinity tends to	200 mg/L
$I = 0.5E,$	"	750 mg/L
$I = 0.25E,$	"	1000 mg/L

APPENDIX C
BACKHOE PITTING

Eight backhoe pits were dug in the bed of Mount McKinlay Creek and on the adjacent bank. Locations are shown in Figure 5 and the logs below.

The pits showed that in general 1 to 1.5m of loose relatively permeable gravels overlies about 1m of tight clayey gravels, which overlies clay derived from weathering the limestone.

The gravels appear to have a permeability of 1 to 2m/day. The permeability of the clayey gravels has not been estimated but would be low.

Infiltration rates in the weathered limestone were measured at about 0.5m/day, but this could decrease with time.

Infiltration rates in the weathered limestone were estimated by excavating small basins (~ 200 to 300 mm diameter) on the floor of backhoe pits, filling them with water and measuring the rate of decline of water level. Results are shown in Figures 6 to 8.

Average infiltration rates are about 0.5m/day, but could decrease with time. To be effective a direct infiltration system would need to be able to infiltrate 1000 m³/day, that is an area of at least 2000 m². It would be necessary to move about 6000 m³ of gravels out of the streambed. About 2000 to 3000 m³ of the more permeable upper gravels would then have to be replaced giving a total of over 8000 m³ to be moved.

Similarly construction of infiltration drains would be impractical using the low permeability river gravels. Permeable trenches backfilled with filter sand would be liable to scouring by floods.

APPENDIX D
WATER CONSUMPTION AT NEPABUNNA

The estimate is based on readings of the hour meters on the pumps at Nepabunna and the assumption that the pumps are running at the design rate of 1.2 L/s.

<u>Date</u>	<u>New-Bore</u> <u>'No 2'</u>	<u>Bore</u> <u>No 1</u>
Sept 88	Pumps electrified	- meters at '0'
11/5/89	2439 hrs	- (Read by R. Read)
22/9/89	3646 hrs	1175 hrs (Read by J. Coulthard)

From the above it appears that 20 800 kl have been pumped in 12 months, an average of 57 kL/day.

This is an average daily consumption of about 570 L per person, which is reasonable compared with 780 L per person at Leigh Creek.

The peak weekly demand is not known. Using the ratio between average and peak use at Leigh Creek gives about 90 kL/day.

A reasonable guess is that a system should be designed for a peak demand of about 75 kL/day, and an annual consumption of 21 ML.

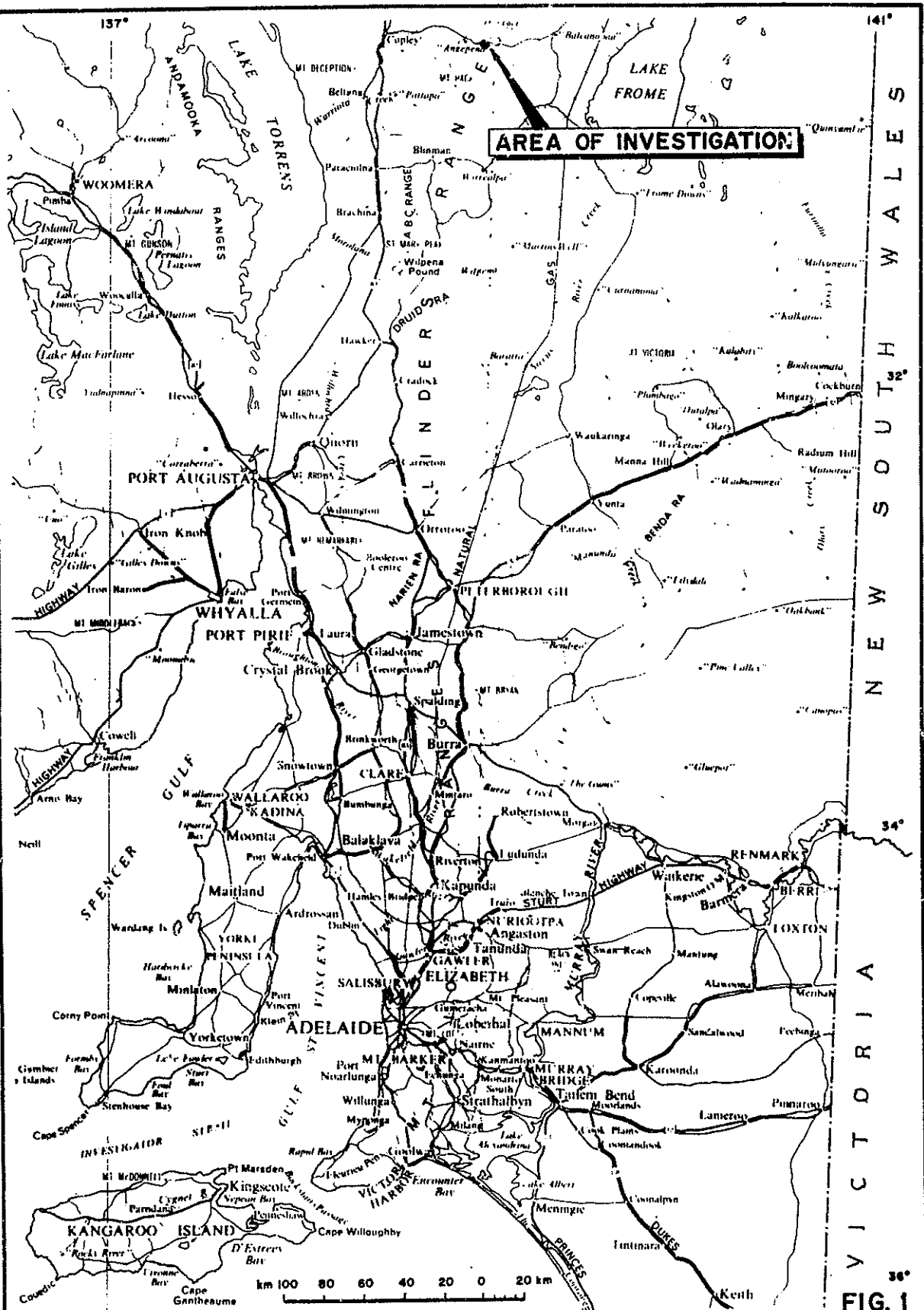


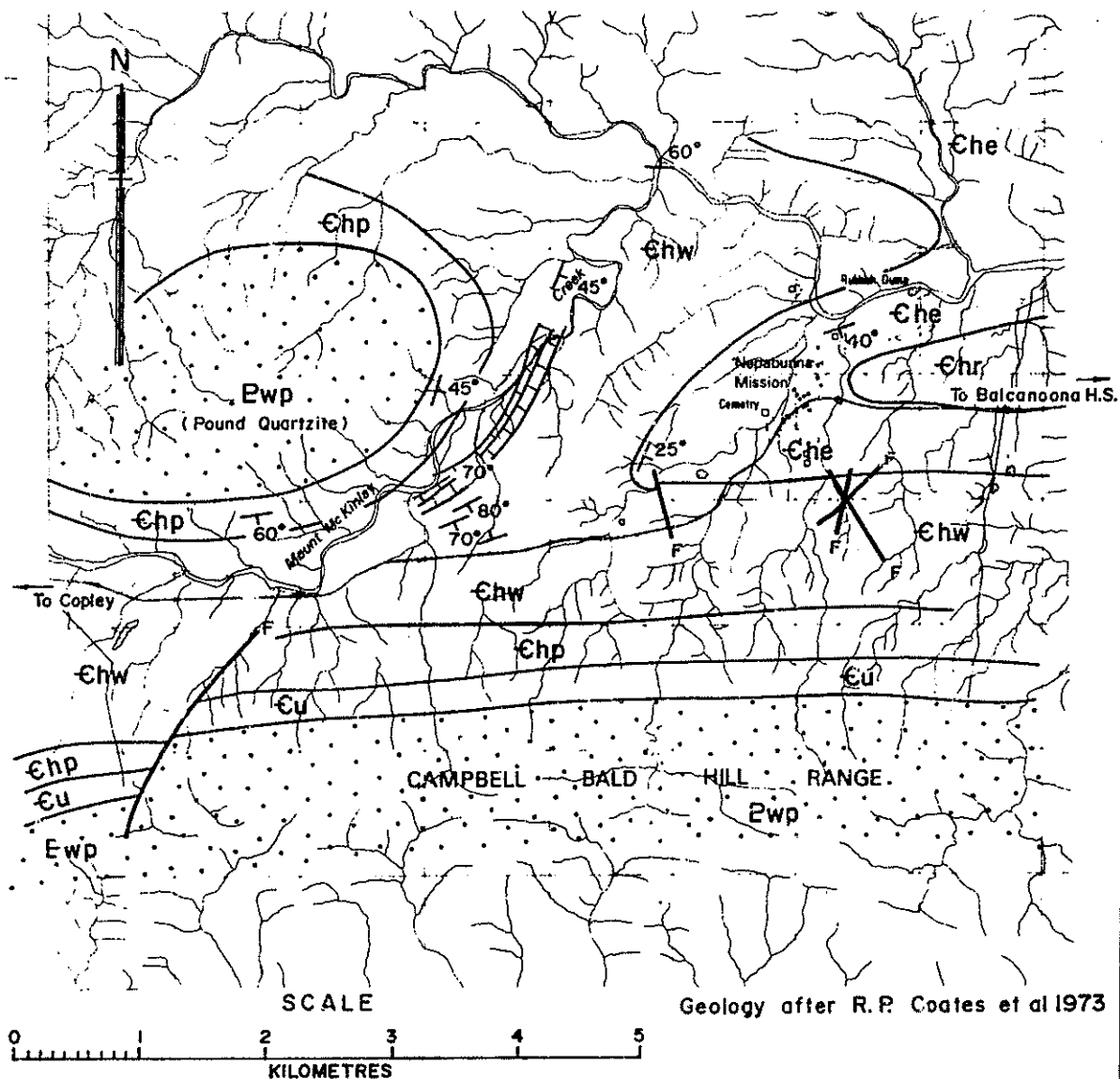


FIG. 1

 <p>DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY SOUTH AUSTRALIA</p> <p>NEPABUNNA</p> <p>PROPOSED ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE SCHEME</p> <p>LOCALITY PLAN</p>	COMPILED R. Read	 1-3-90 DATE
	DRAWN E. Colabio	SCALE 1:2,500,000
	DATE Nov. '89 CHECKED	PLAN NUMBER S 21154



LEGEND

Chr	PARARA LIMESTONE: Dark grey nodular shaly limestone.
Che	NEPABUNNA SILTSTONE: Dark blue-grey calcareous siltstone.
Chw	WILKAWILLINA LIMESTONE: Silty limestone, nodular limestones with interbedded siltstones, flaggy limestone and siltstone, calc-siltstones with interbedded clean massive limestones. Clean massive limestone.
Chp	PARACHILNA FORMATION: Sandstone, partly pyritic.
Cu	URATANNA FORMATION: Chiefly shales.

FIG. 2



DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NEPABUNNA

PROPOSED ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE SCHEME REGIONAL GEOLOGY

COMPILED
R. Read

DRAWN
E. Calabro

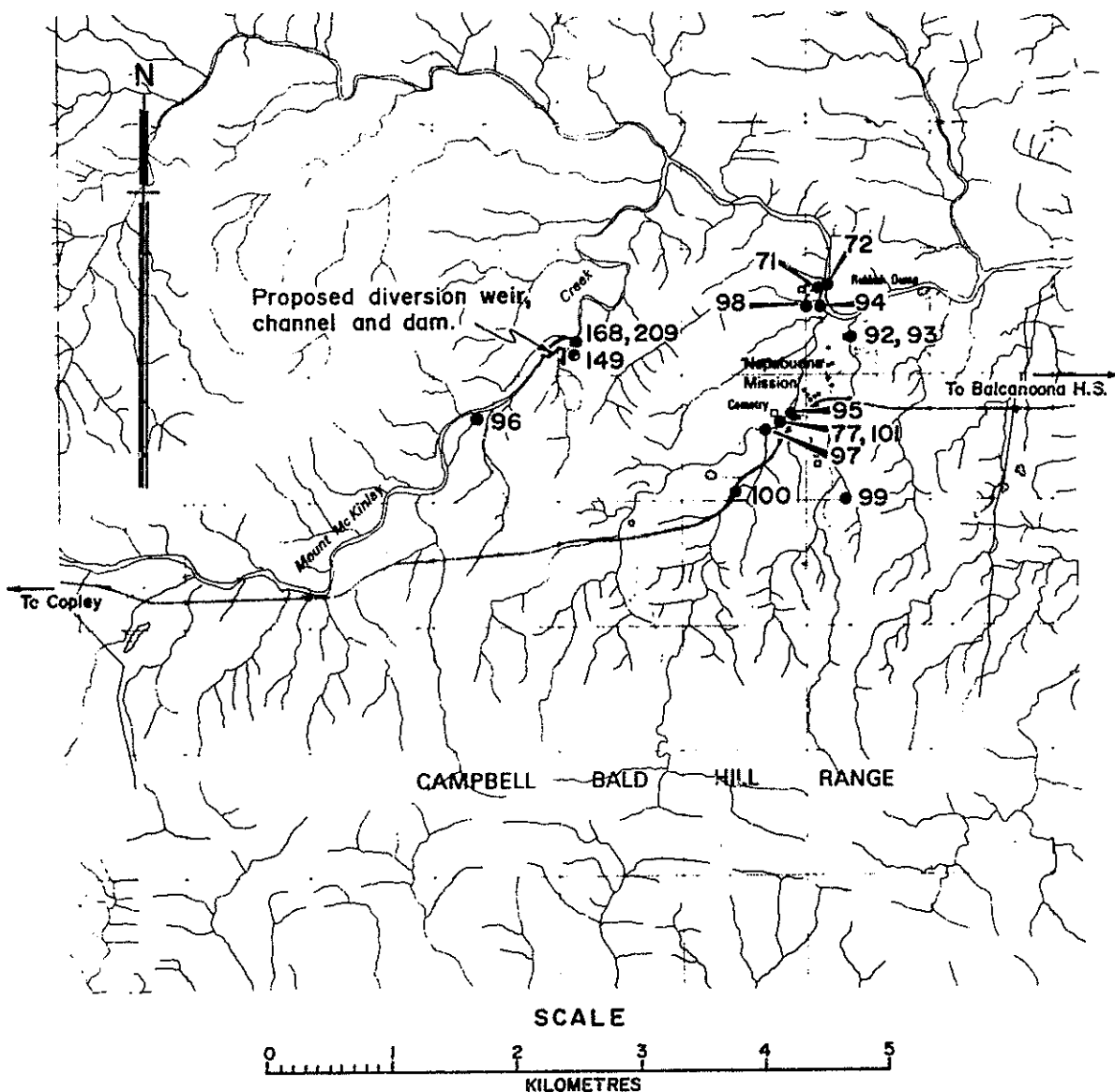
DATE
Nov. '89
CHECKED
X

1-3-90
C.D.G. DATE

SCALE 1:50 000

PLAN NUMBER


S 21155



LEGEND


- Water well location with:
 • 100 — Number (to obtain Unit No. prefix with 6636001WW00-)

FIG. 3

	DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY SOUTH AUSTRALIA		COMPILED R. Read	<i>ur</i> 1.5.90 C D O DATE
	NEPABUNNA		DRAWN E. Calabro	SCALE 1:50 000
	PROPOSED ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE SCHEME WELL LOCATION PLAN		DATE Nov. '89	PLAN NUMBER S 21156
			CHECKED <i>X</i>	

PROPOSED ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE SCHEME

DEPTH YIELD GRAPHS



NEPABUNNA

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

COMPILED
R. Reid

DRAWN
E. Caldwell

DATE
Nov. 89

CHECKED
M

SCALE graph

PLAN NUMBER

S 21157

DATE
1.3.90

CDO
DATE

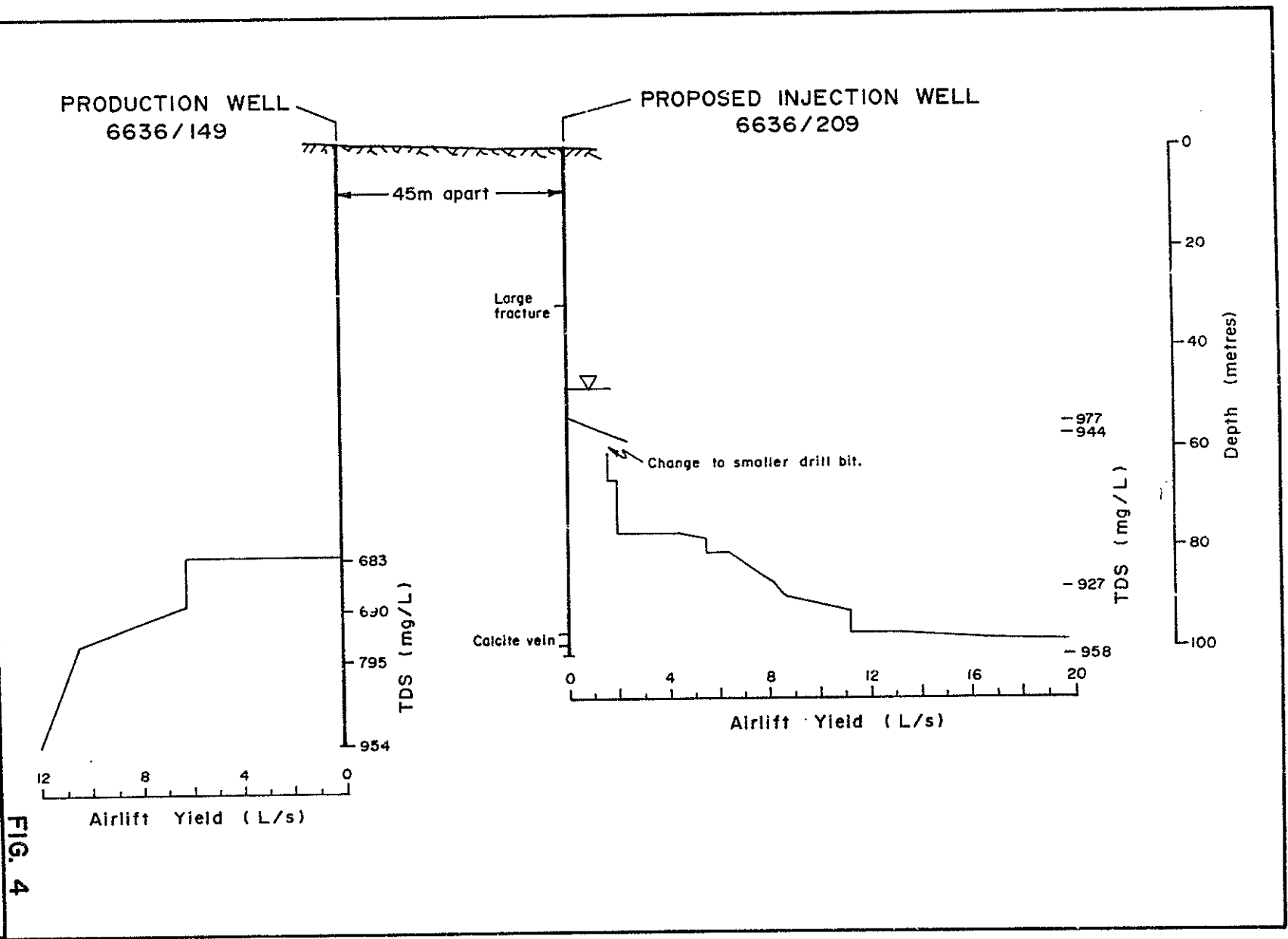
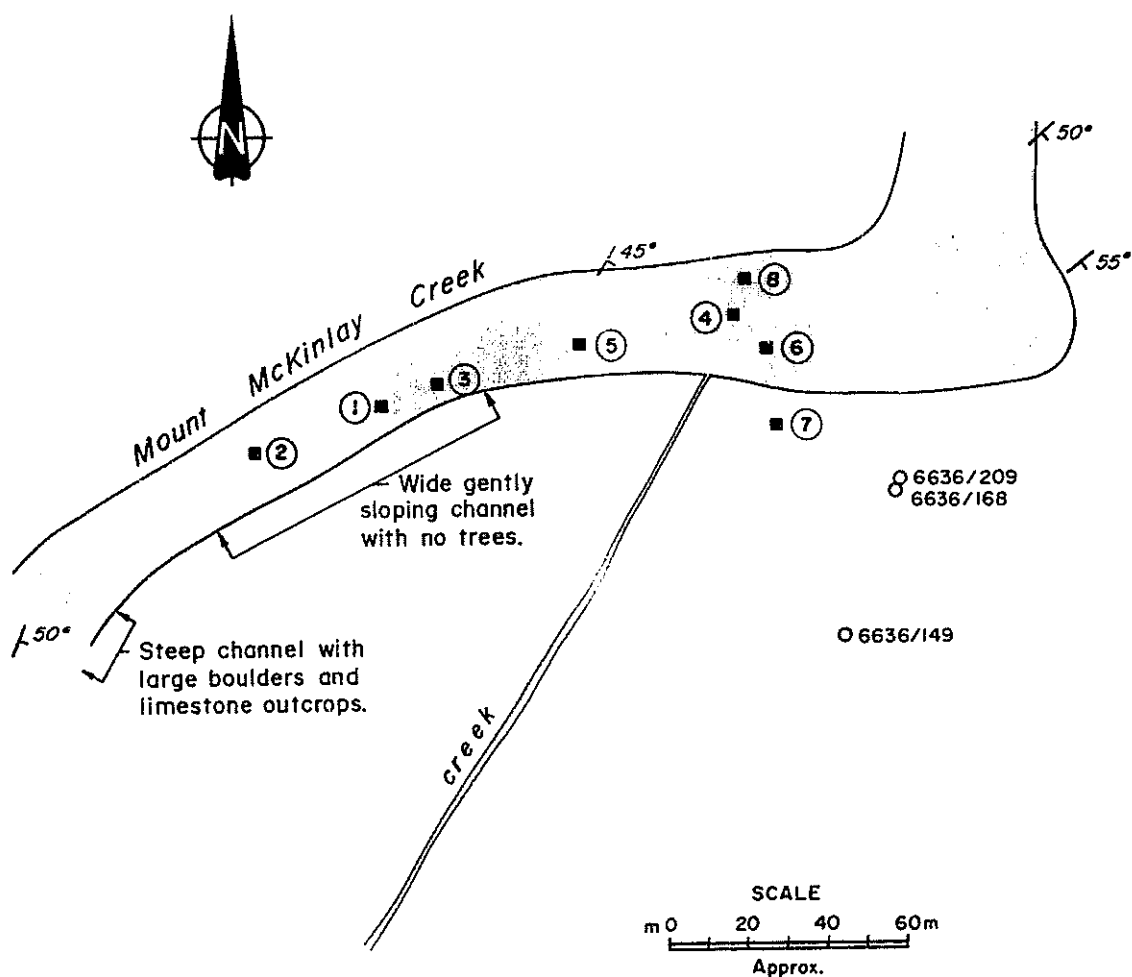


FIG. 4




Backhoe pit with number..... ■ ⑤

Strike and dip of outcrops..... 55°

Water well location and number..... O 6636/209 6636/168

FIG. 5

 DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY SOUTH AUSTRALIA	COMPILED R. Read	1-3-90 C.D.O. DATE
	DRAWN E. Calabio	SCALE As shown
	DATE Nov '89	PLAN NUMBER
	CHECKED X	S 21158

**NEPABUNNA
PROPOSED ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE SCHEME
BACKHOE PIT LOCATIONS**

PROPOSED ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE SCHEME INFILTRATION TESTS

NEPABUNNA

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

COMPILED
R. Read
DRAWN
J. A. G.
DATE
Dec. 1989
CHECKED
X

S 21168

PLAN NUMBER

SCALE

MC 1.3.90
C.D.O. DATE

FIG. 6

