

TR16-177

31. Report on a dam site on Curries River near Lefroy.

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Access to the site [DQ 959503] is afforded by a track running north-east from the Bell Bay-Bridport road. Land Rovers can reach the left abutment although two creeks must be forded. Another track leaves the hill-top cutting on the road running west from Lefroy and runs north and west to reach the right abutment which is also accessible to four-wheel drive vehicles.

DAM SITE

The abutments are in weathered Mathinna slate and quartzite. The depth of weathering is not known, but at the abutments small gold prospect costeans have turned up weathered but still cohesive slates. The weathering product is a stiff silty clay which is normally hard when dug.

The river runs in a narrow strip of alluvial clay and gravel between the abutments, but a thick growth of tea-tree prevented any examination of this. There is every reason to suppose that slate underlies this thin cover.

STORAGE AREA

Two low saddles are evident assuming a 25 m water level in the storage area. The eastern saddle, closer to the dam site, appears to be floored with a sandstone phase of the Mathinna beds and almost certainly does not contain non-indurated sediments. Much of the storage area has a thin cover of windblown sand now tied by vegetation. The western saddle has a cover of this material, so that no solid rock can be seen.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Seismic spreads on the abutments and on the saddles are recommended to confirm the degree and depth of weathering. Trenching by Gradall in all three locations might yield more information than conventional diamond drilling, in view of the nature of the geology. Diamond drill holes will only be required for water pressure testing.

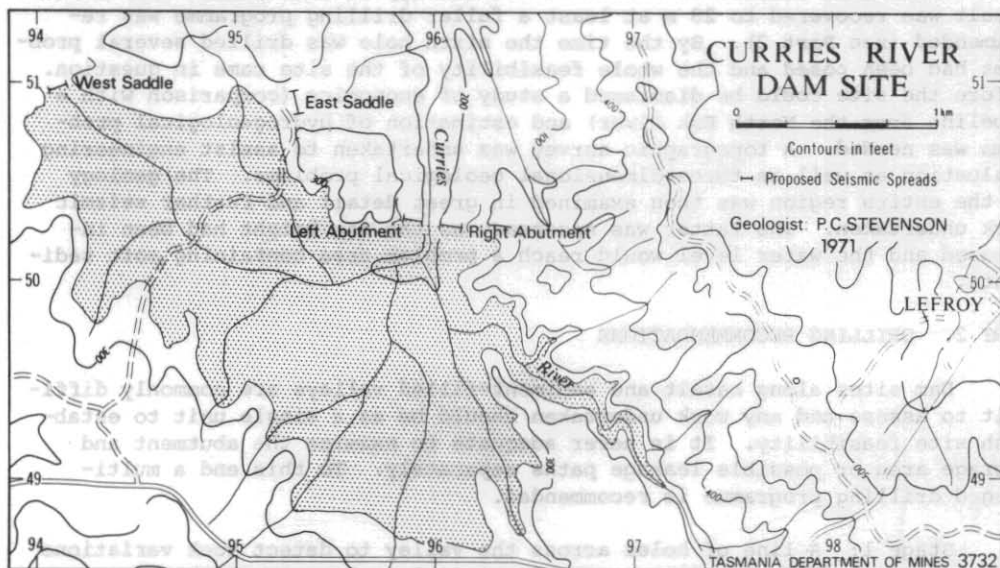


Figure 54.