

UR 1952/34

POSSIBLE WATER SUPPLIES FOR WOODY  
AND PARTRIDGE ISLANDS.

WOODY ISLAND OR SATELLITE.

This is owned and occupied by Mr. G. Dibbon who carries on farming pursuits there. In order to increase the productivity of the land and ensure adequate domestic needs, Mr. Dibbon is anxious to supplement the meagre water supply, at present supplied by two rather stagnant water holes.

The island, of 76 acres, is situated a mile to the West of Alonnah in Bruny Island. It is a flattish cake of mudstone rising to less than 100 feet above sea-level and surrounded by small cliff faces. The surface is gently undulating. This flat-dipping Permian mudstone is a hard fine grained siliceous rock and is not a recognised aquifer. To the south of the island, major jointing has developed in the rocks, in some cases pronounced enough to form small inlets. In these joints is a small seepage of water.

It is not recommended that boring be attempted as the rock is a non-aquifer and it is not considered that enough water could be obtained from joints to justify the expense.

Thus the only course open to Mr. Dibbon is to try and conserve the surface water. Water holes and trenches should be located as close to the edge of the cliff as possible and in position opposite the more pronounced joints as seen in the cliff faces.

PARTRIDGE ISLAND.

This is also owned by Mr. Dibbon. It is situated nine miles south-west of Woody Island and is rather larger in area being of 248 acres, and of more varied topography. It is separated from Hopwood Point on Bruny Island by a narrow shallow strait. The island is made up essentially of dolerite, in itself a non-aquifer, which outcrops all round the coastline. However, there is a better chance of obtaining water than at Woody Island.

Towards the North of the Island and West from the anchorage is a strip of cleared land extending across the Island. The lowest part of this appears to indicate the position of a fault in the dolerite and if a hole were sunk in this region water may be located.

Another possible area in which underground water may be located is to the South of the Island where sand blows of recent origin cover the dolerite, apparently in places down to sea level. These sands should carry a small amount of water and could be bored by a hand boring plant. The depth to water would depend on the height above sea level as the water table should not vary greatly from this.

To the north of the Island much of the surface water could be collected in dams.

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