

UR 1957/251

TDH/3

18th November, 1957

MEMORANDUM

Proposed Water Storage Area
for A.P.P.M, Burnie
(Addendum to 2nd Report)

A brief report on geological conditions affecting the erection and stability of water storage tanks for A.P.P.M. at Burnie was furnished on the 4th instant. Since then a shaft has been sunk for 24 feet.

An examination of this shaft showed eleven feet of basalt soil, followed by 10 feet of weathered basalt and three feet of basaltic soil of a fairly sandy nature. The basalt itself has weathered considerably leaving solid cores of rock up to a few inches in diameter in a matrix of soft weathered basalt. It would appear that this original flow was quite narrow and the basaltic soil beneath suggests that it flowed over country already weathered from a previous flow.

Thus for twenty four feet from the surface, no clay bed on which upper layers could slip, has been encountered. At the same time the basalt is quite permeable and any great leakage of water could cause trouble. It is therefore stressed that any constructional work in this locality should include a very adequate drainage system not only to drain the water which may leak from the tanks but also that from the soak behind the area.

Trevor D. Hughes

(T.D. Hughes)
SENIOR GEOLOGIST

The Director of Mines,
Department of Mines,
HOBART