Unpublished Report 1972/63

Proposed investigation of the Inglis River sand and gravel deposits

by V. M. Threader

The Inglis River area, near Wynyard, constitutes the largest known gravel and sand deposit in Tasmania. It is now necessary to carry out the recommendations listed by Galbraith (1972) so that reserves can be determined and a plan of management formulated to ensure maximum utilisation of the remaining material.

Recommendations 1 and 2

All operations should be inspected and charted and the holding of current mining leases enforced. With regard to control there appears to be a good case for some form of joint management by the Lands and Surveys, Public Works and Mines departments as has been achieved elsewhere in the State. Unified control is essential to avoid the inefficiency characteristic of past production in the area, which could lead to the premature closing of the area in the future.

Recommendation 3

Ensuring adequate reserves for public works will be one of the functions of the recommended planning committee.

Recommendation 4

The geological investigations will aim to assess the reserves of gravel and sand in the deposit and the various qualities of the materials that exist. It will also aim to determine the origins, geological history and extent of the deposit. It is anticipated that geophysical and hydrology personnel will also contribute to this work.

The program will consist of:

(a) Mapping of all significant data from the workings, including stratification, cross bedding, imbrications and lithological changes.

(b) Channel sampling of all workings.

(c) A geological map and at least twenty profiles to be made. The 1 inch = 20 chain contoured sheets should be suitable.

(d) Geophysical means should be employed to supply details for the base of the deposit on the profiles.

(e) Drilling on the section lines to confirm geophysics and for sampling purposes. It is noted that Department of Mines equipment cannot lift particles larger than one inch (25 mm) which places a severe limitations on the usefulness of the samples.

(f) Laboratory studies, including grain size analysis and studies of the sized fractions for provenance and maturity index.

(g) Calculation of reserves.

(h) Drilling, in conjunction with geophysics, to determine the thickness of basalt and the presence of sub-basalt gravel in surrounding areas. In conjunction with this study of the surroundings, it would be pertinent to sample similar gravel deposits on the Flowerdale and Cam rivers and Somerset Creek.

The detailed geological investigation would need to be complete before a planning committee was formed and will, therefore, be carried out this summer.

Reference

GALBRAITH, A. 1972. Inglis River valley sand and gravel deposits — a preliminary report. *Unpubl. Rep. Dep. Mines Tasm.* 1972/62.

[24 January 1973]