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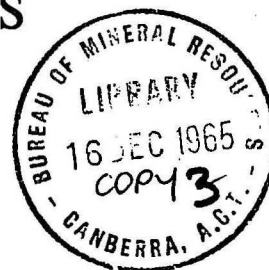
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES  
GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

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1956/94



STRATIGRAPHIC DRILLING IN THE WEST KIMBERLEY DIVISION,  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

by

S.D.HENDERSON.

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STRATIGRAPHIC DRILLING IN THE WEST KIMBERLEY DIVISION,  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BOREHOLE BMR. 1, JURGURRA CREEK

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## SUMMARY

The boring established that the Jurassic formations mapped in the Edgar Ranges do not extend as far north as the boresite, which was in the Permian beds right from the surface.

The Noonkanbah Formation and Poole Sandstone were identified and the borehole possibly bottomed in the Grant Formation.

## INTRODUCTION

The borehole is situated on the west bank of Wilson's Creek, a tributary of Jurgurra Creek, and two miles south-west of Wilson Yard, at Latitude  $18^{\circ}21'$  South, Longitude  $123^{\circ}42'$  East. Access is by the Freney track from Langey Crossing of the Fitzroy River. The drilling was done by the West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd. as contractor to the Bureau of Mineral Resources, in October and November, 1955. The drilling programme called for a borehole of  $5\frac{1}{8}$  inch diameter to be drilled to a minimum depth of 3,000 feet, with 20 feet of coring in each 100 feet. The object was to determine what lay under the Mesozoic sediments southwest of the "Fenton Fault" where West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd. seismic information indicated a low angle unconformity at about 4,000 feet. The borehole was sited at a point where the reflecting horizon was estimated to be 3,500 feet deep, 500 feet less than the rated capacity of the Bureau's Failing 2,500 rig.

When the location was selected it was thought that a small amount of Alexander Formation would be encountered before the friable Jurgurra Sandstone was penetrated. It was expected that the latter formation would be of considerable thickness, and possibly underlain by other Mesozoic formations.

## PREVIOUS WORK

The Permian strata northeast of the "Fenton Fault" were examined in detail by A. Wade (1924, 1926, 1938) and further surveys were made by Findlay (1942) and Kraus (1942) and Reeves (1949, 1952).

As part of a programme to assess the oil possibilities in the Fitzroy Basin, geologists of the Bureau of Mineral Resources made a detailed survey of the Nerrima Structure (Guppy et al., 1950), and from 1949 to 1952 made a regional survey of the Fitzroy Basin and that part of the Canning Basin northeast of the Edgar Ranges (Guppy et al., 1957).

Reeves also made a traverse along Jurgurra Creek to the Edgar Ranges and described the "Buchia Beds" of the Upper Jurassic.

The Geophysical Section of the Bureau of Mineral Resources conducted a Gravity Survey which extended from Nerrima to south of the borehole (Wiebenga and van der Linden, 1953).

## WATER SUPPLY

The nearest water was at Clanmeyer Pool, eight miles north of the site. Consequently it was decided to drill for water on the location, where water was expected at less than 100 feet in Jurassic sandstone.

However, Permian siltstone was encountered and only a very poor supply of salt water was obtained although drilling was continued to 230 feet. Analysis of the water gave 28,000 P.P.M. salts. (Appendix 1). It thus became necessary to transport water by tanker from Clanmeyer Pool until this was polluted when Jurgurra and Wilson's Creeks flowed following November rain. Water was then obtained from Lulugui homestead, 24 miles to the north-east.

### DRILLING

The rig used was a Failing Model "2500" Holmaster Drilling Unit manufactured in Enid, Oklahoma, U.S.A. A Failing 10 inch rotary table and drawworks, and a Wheately 5 x 10, 2050 slush pump powered by two Hercules D W X D 6-cylinder diesel engines, are mounted on a Diamond T truck. The 58 feet 2-piece mast is of tubular steel with a platform and pipe rack for 41 feet stands of drill pipe. The rig is rated at 4,000 feet of 5 $\frac{3}{8}$  inch diameter hole, using Failing 2 $\frac{3}{8}$  inch O.D. exploration drillpipe which is manufactured in 20'6" lengths, two being racked as a stand. The drill collars available were 4 $\frac{5}{8}$  inch O.D. by 19 feet for 5 $\frac{3}{8}$  inch hole and 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  inch by 10 feet for 4 $\frac{3}{4}$  inch hole. For coring there were Reed Kor-King double tube core barrels, 5 $\frac{3}{8}$  inch O.D. by 20 feet and 4 $\frac{3}{4}$  inch O.D. by 10 feet. Rock bits used were 5 $\frac{3}{8}$  inch Reed T, Reed 2C, and Hughes OSQ2 while 4 $\frac{3}{4}$  inch Reed T, Hughes OW, Hughes OSC, and Hughes W7R were stocked. Kor-King coreheads for soft and hard formation manufactured by Reed, were used. The core size was 2 $\frac{3}{8}$  inch.

BMR 1 Jurgurra Creek was spudded in on November 1st, 1955 and, despite trouble experienced with Wheately pump failures, was drilled to 1680 feet by the 14th of the month. While pulling out to core at 1680 feet the drill collars became jammed by sand, possibly from caving formation but probably from cuttings not removed from the borehole by poor mud and low pump pressure. Efforts to free the string failed and eventually the pipe was shot off at 991 feet, 580 feet of drill pipe and 80 feet of 4 $\frac{5}{8}$  drill collars being lost.

A core cut from 1580 feet to 1600 feet had recovered only 4 inches of rock but the inner barrel was choked with sand from reaming undersized 5 $\frac{3}{8}$  inch hole with the 5 $\frac{3}{8}$  inch core-barrel. The Petroleum Technology section of the Bureau of Mineral Resources interpreted the poor recovery and struck pipe as being due to soft formation although they had no representative on the site, basing their conclusions on information supplied by the contractor without consulting the wellsite geologist. The borehole was consequently abandoned by the Bureau. The deviation from vertical was measured using a Tro-Pari instrument, at 250 feet, 500 feet, 750 feet and 990 feet. A cement plug was then set inside the casing.

### WELLSITE GEOLOGY

By arrangement with the Director of the Bureau of Mineral Resources, West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd. were given permission to have one of their wellsite geologists at the rig. It was understood he would help the Commonwealth geologist as much as possible, but there was no requirement that he should do so. At Jurgurra Creek, West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd. provided all the geological equipment except sample bags. The contractor's geologist was of great assistance in the early stages of the drilling as the author had been given insufficient time to prepare for the drilling



programme and was not familiar with wellsite procedures for oil drilling. However, following the abandonment of the borehole, the West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd. geologist went on leave and the splitting of samples and crating of cores had to be done by the author. All results are derived from the writer's own work, each geologist having kept his own records.

Sample cuttings at 10 feet intervals were collected by the rig crews throughout the drilling from the shale-shaker supplied by the contractor. After being washed free of drilling fluid, each sample was examined under a low power binocular microscope to estimate the proportion of each rock type present, the result being recorded as the Percentage Log. The footage recorded against each sample was the depth of hole when the sample was collected. Because of the time lag in removing cuttings from the hole, the depth recorded is greater than the actual depth from which the sample came. The true depth can only be estimated from the relationship of the shape and specific gravity of the cutting to the viscosity, weight, and annular velocity of drilling fluid at the appropriate interval.

Each core was examined when removed from the borehole. The inner barrel was tested with a flame to determine if inflammable gas was present and the cores examined with fluorescent light to detect possible oil traces. As drilling could only be resumed after the geologist was satisfied that sufficient core had been obtained and oil traces were absent, this necessitated his being on call continually while drilling was in progress. The specific gravity of each core was determined in the dry state, and the dip of strata corrected for hole deviation was recorded. The percentage of constituents of each core was not normally plotted on the Percentage Log, the cutting being recorded only. The core was compared with equivalent cutting to determine how much contamination was taking place. The Drilling Time Rate for each five feet cut was plotted on the Percentage Log to assist in determining formation changes.

The final evaluation of the borehole follows the comparison of cores, percentage log, and drilling time rate with the Electric Log.

### RESULTS

Plate 1. shows the location of the borehole on an 8-mile map of the Fitzroy Basin.

Plate 2. sets out the Drilling Time Rate, Self-Potential Curve, Percentage Log, Core Details, Resistivity Curve, and Descriptive Log.

Plate 3. is a list of symbols and abbreviations used in Plate 2.

Figure 1 illustrates the relation of the bore to the Fenton "Fault" and the Fitzroy Valley and also the stratigraphic relationship between Grant Formation and Jurgurra Sandstone. The extensions of the seismic unconformity illustrate the north-west trending ridge south-west of Mount Fenton. (Guppy et. al. 1957).

The E - log was run by West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd. using their Halliburton unit.

### CORRELATION AND CONCLUSIONS

The following correlation is based on microfossil determination by Irene Crespin.

Micropalaeontological examination in the field by the writer revealed the presence of arenaceous foraminifera in the samples between 30 and 50 feet in BMR 1. These proved to be Permian Hyperammonoides and detailed examination by I. Crespin of cuttings from the surface to 60 feet gave the following results.

- 0 - 20 feet: No foraminifera.  
20 - 30 feet: Hyperammonoides acicula Parr  
30 - 40 feet: Indeterminate foraminifera  
40 - 50 feet: Hyperammonoides acicula Parr  
50 - 60 feet: Hyperammonoides acicula Parr  
Thurammina sp. nov.

Samples of whitish silty fine sandstone collected by the writer from an outcrop one mile north of the borehole and previously mapped as Alexander Formation were also examined by Miss Crespin. The following species are present:

- Ammodiscus nitidus Parr (common)  
?Hyperammina rudis Parr  
Hyperammonoides acicula Parr  
Pelosina sp. nov.  
Reophax cf. fittsi (Warthin)  
Thurammina sp. nov.

This assemblage is Permian and is probably equivalent to that of the upper part of the Noonkanbah Formation.

Permian megafossils were also found in the water bore at 160 feet and in BMR 1 at 490 feet. These include bryozoa, corals and brachiopods.

Lithological examination revealed a change from blown sand to calcareous very fine grained sandstone with rounded very coarse quartz grains at 8 feet, and to very fine grained brown sandstone at 15 feet. At 50 feet there is a change from fine sandstone to siltstone, and another change, from siltstone to very fine sandstone seen in the percentage log at 645 feet is confirmed by the E log.

The strata becomes progressively coarser with depth and from 1450 feet the ditch samples are sand ranging from fine to coarse grained, representing a friable medium grained sandstone. These lithological units may be interpreted as follows:-

0 - 8 feet	Sand	Recent
8 - 15 "	Duricrust	? Jurassic
15 - 50 "	Upper Noonkanbah Formation	Permian

50 - 645	Feet	Lower Noonkanbah Formation	Permian
645 - 1450	"	Poole Sandstone	Permian
1450 - 1680	"	? Grant Formation	Permian

The core from 1480 feet to 1500 feet is lithologically similar to Grant Formation sandstones seen further east. It has a relatively large content of weathered white felspar grains which are also common in outcrop. The Poole Sandstone is normally mainly rounded quartz grains, possibly being re-worked Grant Formation. The correlation of the strata between 1450 and 1680 feet with the Grant Formation is only tentative.

The borehole confirmed the lack of major displacement on the "Fenton Fault" northwest of Moulamen Hill. The map and section show the general relation of formation and structures in the area. The stratigraphic relationship of the Noonkanbah Formation at BMR 1 to the Jurgurra Sandstone to the south indicates the possibility that the Jurgurra Sandstone may be equivalent to the Grant Formation. It has been stated that this sandstone is unlike Permian beds (Guppy et alii, 1957) but the Noonkanbah Formation was previously mistaken for Jurassic. Both Grant Formation and Jugurra Sandstone are friable sandstone and the possibility of their correlation must not be overlooked.

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APPENDIX 1.

Water Analysis Water Bore near BMR 1 Jurgurra Creek. (Analysis by L.W. Samuel, Deputy Government Agricultural Chemist, W.A.)

Reaction, pH Faintly Alkaline 7.8

Specific resistance, ohms, at 20°C 34

<u>Mineral Matter</u>	<u>Parts per million.</u>
Calcium, Ca.	875
Magnesium, Mg.	1,247
Sodium, Na.	7,528
Potassium, K.	284
Bicarbonate, HCO <sub>3</sub>	366
Carbonate, CO <sub>3</sub>	Nil
Sulphate, SO <sub>4</sub>	3,435
Chloride, Cl	14,300
Nitrate, NO <sub>3</sub>	Trace
Silica, SiO <sub>2</sub>	8
Iron Oxide, Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> )	9
Aluminium Oxide, Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> )	
<u>Total</u>	<u>28,052</u>

Assumed combination on evaporation at N.T.P.

Calcium sulphate	2,564
Magnesium sulphate	2,037
Magnesium Chloride	3,271
Sodium Chloride	19,140
Others	1,040
<u>Total</u>	<u>28,052</u>



APPENDIX 2.

Resident Geologist: S.D.Henderson, Geological Section, B.M.R.  
West Australian Petroleum  
Pty. Ltd. Geologist: I.Campbell.  
Petroleum Engineer: D.Woodward, West Australian Petroleum  
Pty. Ltd.  
Toolpusher: A.D.Dale, Brown Drilling Co. for W.A.Pet.  
O.Wilkerson, " " "  
H. Works, " " "  
M. Stetson, " " "

APPENDIX 3.

CORES FROM WATER BORE.

Core 1. 30 - 50 feet. Recovery 5'3" (26.3%)

Light grey and brown, violet tinged SILTSTONE  
with SAND grains and CLAY.

Core 2. 155 - 165 feet. Recovery 5'3" (52.5%)

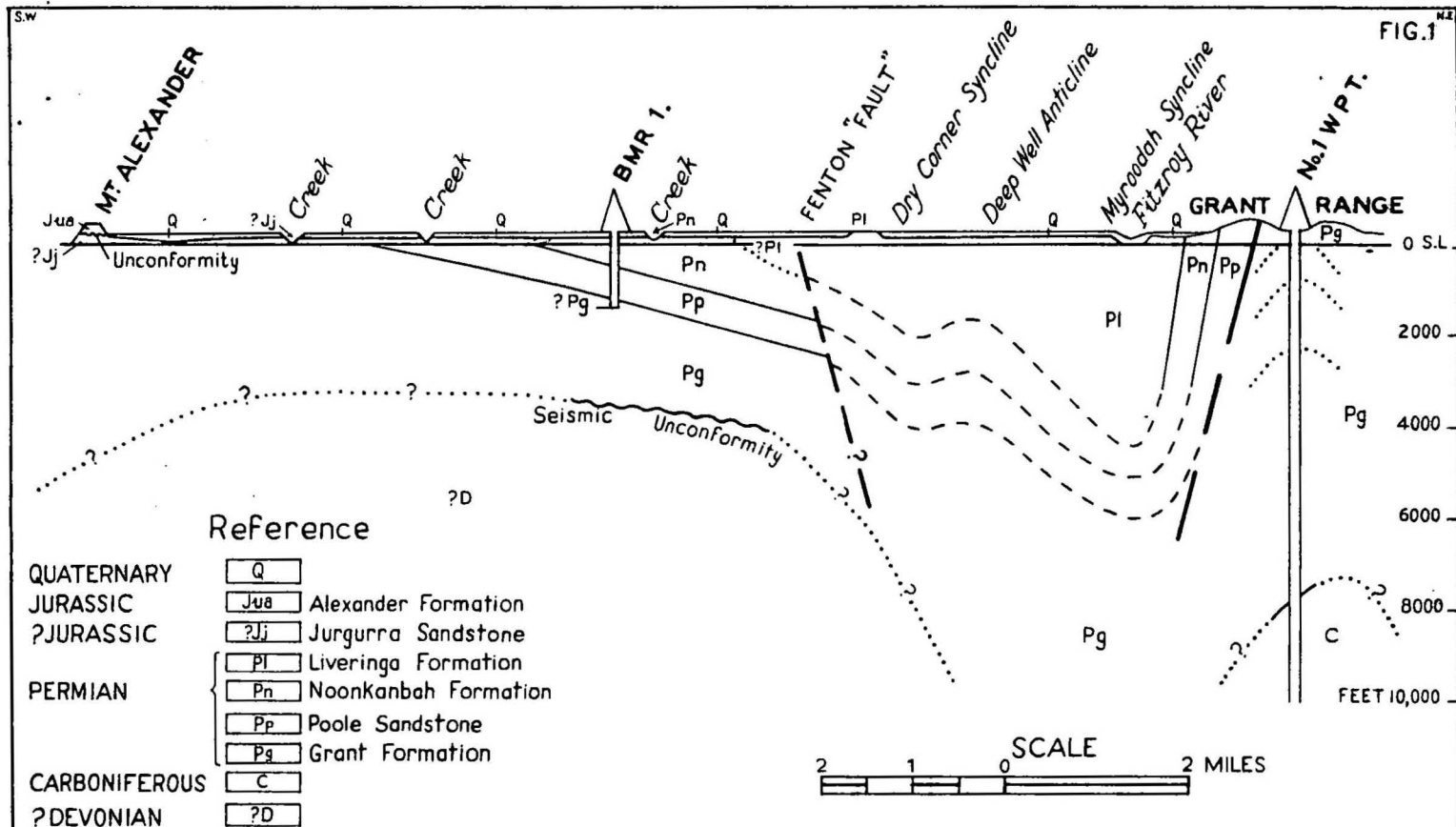
Grey micaceous SILTSTONE with beds of light  
grey very fine grained cross-laminated SANDSTONE.  
Fossiliferous. Dip 10°.

Core 3. 165 - 175 feet. Recovery 10'-0" (100%)

Interbedded grey and light grey sandy SILTSTONE  
with thin beds very fine grained SANDSTONE.  
Dip subhorizontal to 5°.

No ditch samples. Total depth 230 feet.

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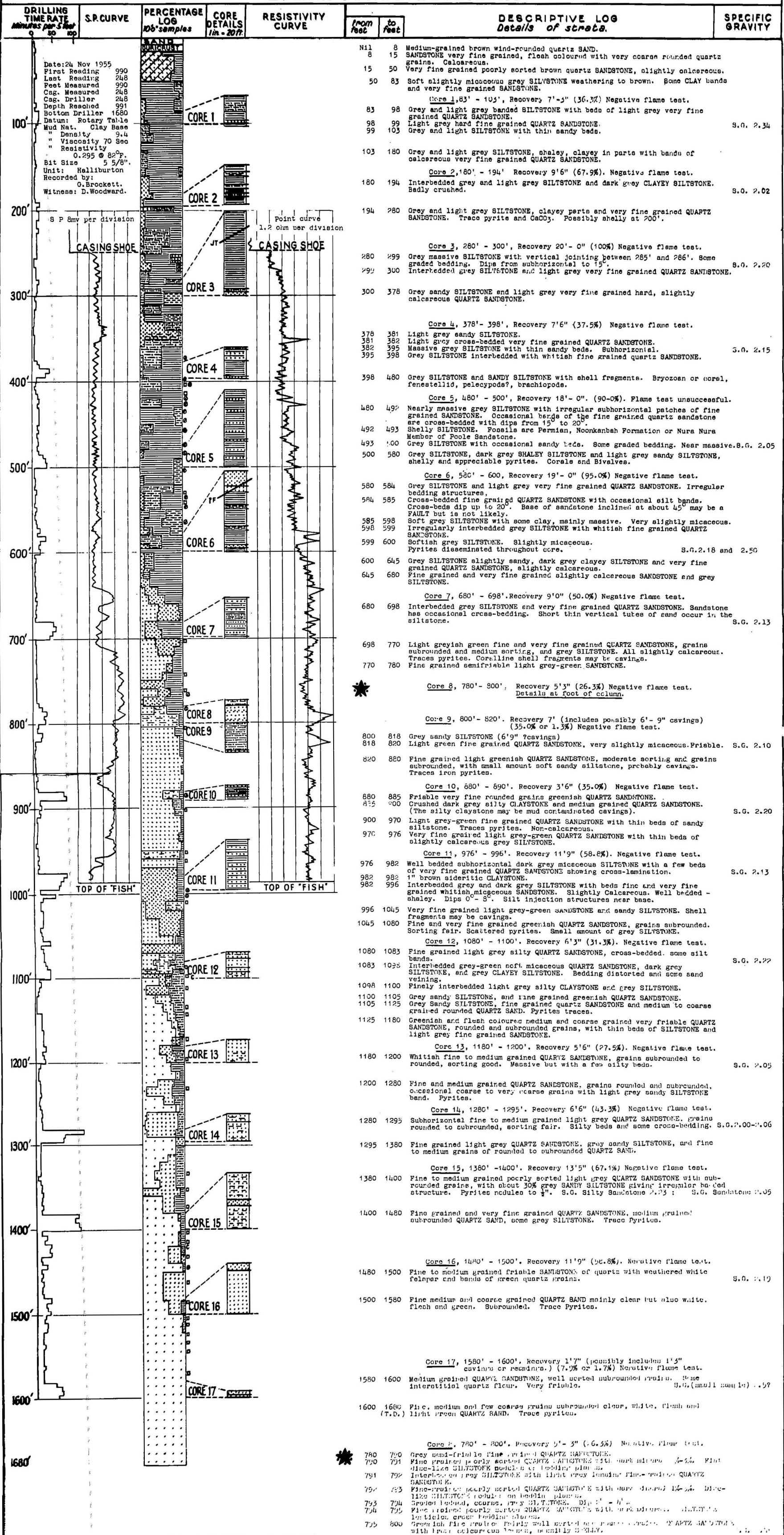


Graphic Section through BMR1. Jurgurra Creek

# STRATIGRAPHIC DRILLING WEST KIMBERLEY DIVISION · WESTERN AUSTRALIA B.M.R.1 JURGURRA CREEK

PLATE 2

For Reference  
see Plate 5.



EXPLANATION OF LOGS FOR BOREHOLES BMR1, BMR2, BMR3.

WEST KIMBERLEY DIVISION, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**Drilling Time Rate:** This is given as number of minutes required to drill each 5 feet. Note that coring time is much greater than open hole drilling time.

**S.P. Curve:** Details given with log.

**Percentage Log:** This is compiled from the percentage constituents of samples collected at 10 feet intervals at BMR1 or 5 feet intervals at BMR2 and BMR3. E.g.:-

4125'		4125' - 4130': 40% Medium Sandstone, 30% Fine Sandstone, 15% Siltstone.
4130'		4130' - 4135': 30% Medium Sandstone, 45% Fine Sandstone, 15% Siltstone.
4135'		

**Core Details:** The actual core recovered is plotted vertically at 5 times the scale of the Percentage Log.

**Resistivity Curve:** Details given with S.P. curve on Log.

**Descriptive Log:** This summarises results obtained from percentage log and interpreta strata represented by core recovered. Dips are given as plus or minus deviation. Specific gravity was determined for dry specimens.

<b>Grain Sizes:-</b>	4 mm. - 2 mm.	Very Coarse.
	2 mm. - 1 mm.	Coarse.
	1 mm. - 1/4 mm.	Medium
	1/4 mm. - 1/8 mm.	Fine.
	1/8 mm. - 1/16 mm.	Very Fine.

SYMBOLS USED IN PERCENTAGE LOG

	Coarse Sandstone Pebbles		Dolomite
	Medium Sandstone		Dolomitic (overprint)
	Fine Sandstone		Volcanics
	Very Fine Sandstone Coarse Siltstone		Schist
	Silty (overprint)		Schist
	Sandy Siltstone		Granitic Vein
	Siltstone		Hornfels
	Shale		Joint
	Claystone		?Fault
	Silty or Sandy Claystone		Marine Fossils
	Limestone		Plant Remains
	Calcarene		Pyrites
	Calcareous (overprint)		Calcite



# FITZROY BASIN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PLATE I

