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TUGGERANONG SEWERAGE TUNNEL CONNECTION:
GEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION, 1975

by

R.C.M. Goldsmith

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SUMMARY

The site of the proposed Tuggeranong sewerage tunnel connection at Tuggeranong Creek, A.C.T., has been investigated by geological mapping, seismic refraction surveying, and diamond drilling.

Abundant outcrop of moderately weathered to fresh dacite occurs on the steeper slopes north of the creek and along the creek bed. Jointing is moderately spaced and fits into a regional stress pattern, with maximum stress orientation of 066°.

The sewer connection includes two drop structures of 15 m and 18 m depth respectively and 1955 m of buried pipeline. Trenches will be excavated through the extremely weathered rock and soil, which are up to 10 m deep, but the moderately weathered to fresh rock below will have to be blasted.

Two joint sets and seven joint intersections are considered unstable in the proposed excavations, and support will be necessary in the drop structures and the deeper sections of the benches, particularly where joints are undercut by the rock slope. The unstable joint orientations may occur singly or in groups.

FIGURE 1 TUGGERANONG SEWERAGE TUNNEL CONNECTION LOCATION MAP 149°10' 148° 50' Investigated **Built up Area** Railway Highway - 35°20' Principal Road Secondary Road Vehicle Track RANGE Territorial Boundary 35°40' m N,T, QLD W.A. S.A. N.5.W. 20 Kilometres

Record 1976/19

155/A16/1527 from 155/A16/954

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Housing and Construction (DHC) requested the Bureau of Mineral Resources (BMR) to carry out a geological investigation of the site of the proposed Tuggeranong sewerage tunnel connection. For location see Figure 1.

A 1350-mm diameter buried pipeline along Tuggeranong Creek will connect a 900-mm sewer from the east and a 1200-mm sewer from the southeast to Tuggeranong tunnel (see Plate 2); the incoming sewer lines will be reduced to the level of the 1350-mm diameter pipeline through 15 m and 18 m drop structures respectively. The Lanyon trunk sewer, 1350 mm diameter, will join the system near the tunnel portal.

A diamond-drill hole was drilled by DHC at each of the two drop structure sites. A seismic survey was carried out by the Commonwealth Testing and Research Laboratory (CTRL) along sections of the pipeline (Makarucha, 1975), and the depths below which blasting will be required were estimated by BMR.

Previous geological investigations of the Tuggeranong water feature (Purcell & Goldsmith, 1975; Michail, 1975), the Village Creek and Tuggeranong sewers (Michail, 1974), and the Tuggeranong sewer tunnel (Purcell, 1974) provided additional subsurface information.

GENERAL GEOLOGY

The area between Tuggeranong tunnel inlet portal and the proposed dam across Tuggeranong Creek has been geologically mapped at a scale of 1:2500 (Plate 1). The rock is a grey dacite with phenocrysts of quartz and plagioclase 2-8 mm in diameter. Rhyodacite is present in small localized zones, with orthoclase phenocrysts 1-3 mm in diameter.

Abundant outcrop of moderately weathered to fresh rock (Appendix 1) occurs on the steeper slopes north of the creek, and along the creek bed where much of the more highly weathered rock has been eroded from the gullies, but on some banks of the creek large areas of highly weathered rock are exposed.

Jointing is generally moderately spaced (See Appendix 1) and tight, and open-fractured zones and closely spaced joints are localized; there are marked changes in joint patterns over 20 m in some outcrops. A joint stereogram of the general area (Fig. 2) shows four steeply dipping joint sets that indicate a stress pattern with the maximum principal stress parallel to 066°; joint set 4 is tensional, set 2 compressional, and sets 1 and 3 are conjugate 'shear' joints (Price, 1966). Also present are three shallow-dipping sets which are probably the result of

unloading subparallel to the surface owing to the downcutting of the Murrumbidgee River. Epidote and calcite veins are parallel to the closely spaced joints and are probably related to localized shear zones.

No major faults are known to intersect the project area, but airphoto-lineaments along Tuggeranong tunnel were found to represent either a joint pattern, sheared zones, or concealed faults. Airphoto-lineaments are shown in Plate 1.

ENGINEERING GEOLOGY

Method of investigation

The diamond-drill holes at the sites of the two drop structures were completed by DHC in September 1975. The geological logs of the two holes form Appendix 2 of this report.

A seismic refraction survey was carried out by CTRL along 1100 m of the proposed sewer routes. Spreads of 30 m were surveyed using hammer impact and a Bison receiver. The seismic profiles are shown in Plates 2-4.

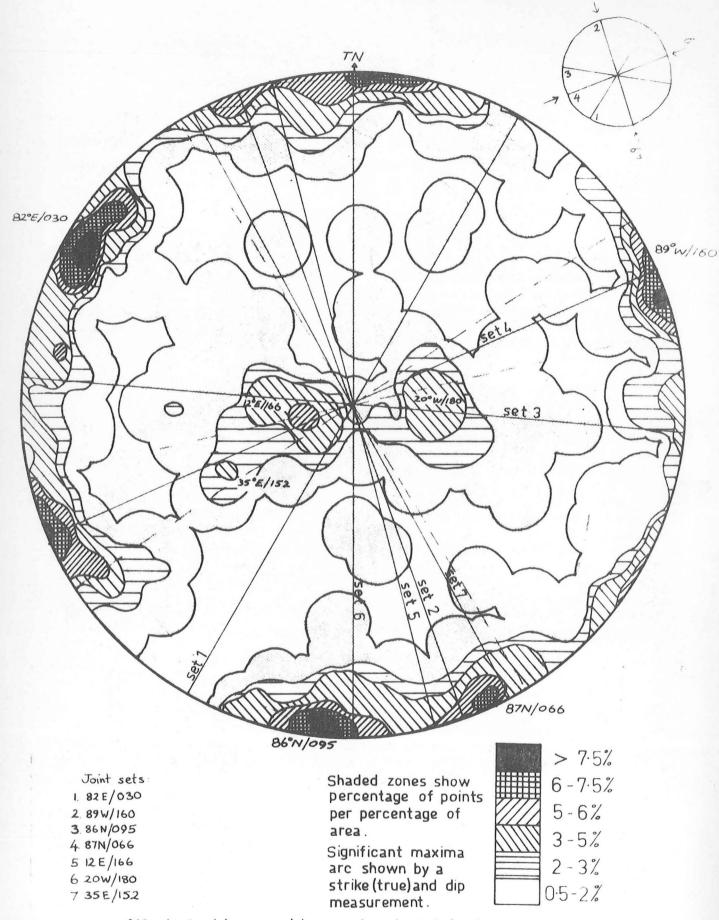
Reinterpretations of the seismic results for traverses E and I show a closer correlation with the drilling results (see Plates 3 & 4). The seismic results of the other traverses were not reinterpreted because there are no drilling results with which to correlate them.

The bedrock refractor at the western end of traverse L (2700 m/s) is at 10 m, but the same location intersected by a traverse shot for the Tuggeranong water feature (Michail, 1975) shows bedrock (4500 m/s) at 17.5 m. The discrepancy may be due to different refractors having been observed, and to the possibly misleading nature of average velocities. The 1150 m/s refractor (Michail, 1975) may represent an average of the 700, 1000, and 2700 m/s refractors of traverse L, and the 4500 m/s refractor too deep to be picked up by the CTRL survey.

For excavations down to about 10 m the seismic survey should be reasonably accurate.

The following table shows the correlation between seismic velocity and weathering condition based on previous experience in the same rock type in the A.C.T.

TUGGERANONG CREEK-JOINT STEREOGRAM



243 poles to joints measured in area shown by Plate 1, including -

a) 100 readings from Tuggeranong tunnel south heading (Purcell in prep)
b) 90 readings from Tuggeranong water feature embankment area
(Purcell & Goldsmith, 1975)
c) 53 readings from present investigation

Seismic vel	ocity m/s	Description			
300-1000		Soil and slopewash, dry			
1500	e de la	Soil and slopewash, saturated			
1000-1500		Extremely weathered rock			
1000-2000		Highly weathered rock			
1200-3500		Moderately weathered rock			
3000-4500		Slightly weathered rock			
≥ 4100		Fresh rock			
D:1:					

Pipelines

Excavation conditions. Excavation by a mechanical shovel (e.g., a large Kato) should be possible in material with a seismic velocity of up to 1200 m/s. Higher-velocity material will generally require blasting. Excavation conditions at invert are summarized in the following table.

	Section	Seismic (a) 200-1200 m/s	velocity (b) 1200-1900 m/s	(c) 2700-6000 m/s
Eastern pipeline (900 mm)	515 m	45%	40%	15%
Southeast pipeline (1200 mm) and eastern connector to tunnel (1350 mm)	1250 m	40%	50%	10%
Lanyon trunk sewer (1350 mm) (section)	190 m	90%	20%	
Total	1955 m	45%	45%	10%

- (a) should be excavated by mechanical means only
- (b) will generally require blasting
- (c) hard rock, requiring blasting

Much of the lengths requiring blasting near invert are less than 2 m thick (based on DHC seismic results). The thickest section to be blasted will be 8 m near drop structure B (Plate 3).

Stability. A considerable proportion of the pipeline will require excavation down to 8 m or more, especially on the western side of the drop structures. Stability of the open excavations depends on:

- (1) the depth of excavation
- (2) the length of time the excavation is exposed
- (3) the degree of rock weathering
- (4) the orientation of joints and other defects with respect to the direction of the trench walls
- (5) the condition of joint surfaces, e.g., the incidence of clay seams and the degree of water saturation.

Most of the deeper excavations are within material with a seismic velocity of 1100 m/s or less, except adjacent to the drop structures. Any unsafe exposures in the trenches wil therefore fail along weathered open joints in highly to moderately weathered rock overlain by a varying mass of soil, slopewash, and decomposed rock. This condition is particularly applicable along the eastern connector, and sections of the eastern and southeast pipelines that lie at the foot of natural hill slopes. Precautions should be taken to prevent the failure of walls along these sections of the trench, particularly if any of the walls are saturated.

The safe angle of batters for the trench walls is difficult to predict owing to the irregular weathering. However, in highly weathered rock, stability should generally be attained with batter angles of 70-80°, except along the southwest pipeline which is parallel to the strike of joint set 7 (dip 35°, strike 150°). If this joint set is intersected, batters should be safe at about 50°, and only extremely unfavourable conditions would require battering to 35°. The selection of a batter angle to reduce the incidence of failure will be facilitated by geological mapping of the excavations. If the time between excavation and back filling of the trenches is kept to a minimum during construction, the problems of instability in trench walls will be greatly reduced.

Drop structure A

Excavation conditions and stability. Excavation will be nearly 15 m deep, with blasting required below about 10 m. Drill hole A intersected 10.2 m of extremely weathered dacite and soil with residual zones of highly to moderately weathered rock (Plate 4).

From 10-15 m the rock is slightly weathered to freshstained and is generally tight. Joints are either shallowdipping or near-vertical, as indicated by the joint stereogram (Fig. 2). Numerous veins of sericite and epidote parallel the joints.

Figure 3 lists the joint faces and joint intersections likely to fail in a slope at 80° . The angle of friction of the dacite has not been measured, but is likely to be steeper than

20°, so that only set 6 and three joint intersections would be kinematically and kinetically unstable.

Precautions should be taken to prevent failure in the exposed soil and extremely weathered rock. The most likely causes of failure would be narrow clay seams or shears not necessarily along joint trends; for example, 75 m south of drill hole A, narrow clay-coated shear zones at a number of orientations are more likely to fail than closely spaced joints and associated epidote veins dipping 25 west-northwest.

Any stability problems in this excavation will be remedied by correct application of shoring or rock bolts, or both.

Drop structure B

Excavation conditions and stability. Excavation will be about 17 m deep, with blasting required below about 10 m. Drill hole B (Plate 3) intersected 8.5 m (9.2 m below ground) of extremely weathered dacite and soil, even though rubbly outcrop lies at the surface. It is therefore likely that residual boulders of moderately weathered to fresh dacite lie within this weathered mantle.

The stability of the 9.2 m of soil and weathered rock depends on its moisture content, and this section will need to be supported to prevent failure, even if it is dry during excavation.

Below 10 m the rock is slightly weathered to fresh. Joint set 6 is unfavourably oriented in the south and east faces, as is set 7 in the west face. Six unsafe joint intersections could lead to wedge failure (Fig. 3). Narrow clayey seams along joints also contribute to instability, and they may be found on joints that have not been located by this investigation. Drill hole B intersected four narrow shear and crush zones. Defects in the drill core mostly dip 0-30 with some up to 45°; but the stereogram (Fig. 2) shows no major joint sets dipping between 35° and 82°. The discrepancy indicates that irregular localized joints are superimposed on the regional pattern, and that reassessments of stability in excavations should be made from the geological mapping of rock defects during construction.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Excavation of a trench for the sewer pipeline is geologically feasible. Blasting near or within 2 m of invert level will be necessary over 55 percent of the route, based on the seismic survey and drilling. The trench walls will have to be supported in the deeply weathered sections, and along the southeast pipeline where joint set 7 will be undercut in the excavation.

- 2. Depth to fresh dacite, ranging from 3 to 17 m, is based on the results of the seismic survey. The maximum thickness of rock requiring blasting is about 8 m, near drop structure B.
- 3. The drop structures have similar geological features, based on the two drill holes. Extremely weathered rock and soil, 8-10 m thick, will require support. Moderately weathered to fresh rock 4-8 m below this will be stable in slopes up to 80° although some rock bolts may be required.
- 4. The regional joint pattern indicates two joint gaces and six joint intersections are kinematically and kinetically unsafe in the proposed cuts if the angle of joint friction is over 20° (see Fig. 3). The joint orientations may occur singly or in groups on any one face. Clay seams in the exposures will cause the greatest stability problems, but their location cannot be predicted.
- 5. During excavation, joints and shear zones, particularly clay-lined zones, should be mapped to assess slope stability and the support requirements, especially in the deeper sections.

1

6. The time interval between excavation and backfilling of trenches should be kept to a minimum to reduce the incidence of slope failure.

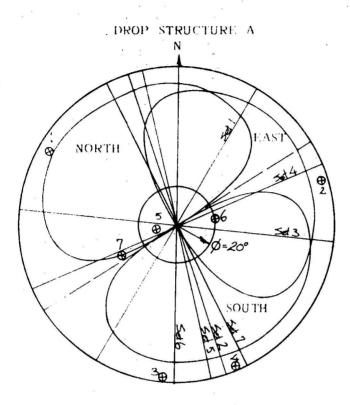
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STEREOGRAMS SHOWING STABILITY

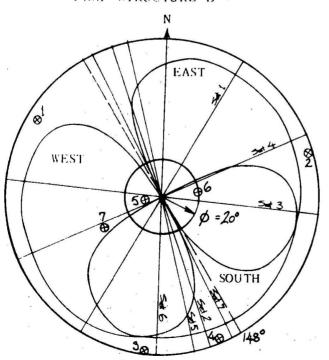
OF JOINTS IN EXCAVATIONS

Joints and joint intersections indicated are both kinematically and kinetically unstable in the indicated face. Joint sets will induce planar failure and joint intersections will induce wedge failure



Unsafe joint sets:
South face Set 6 (20 W/180)
East face Set 6 (20 W/180)
Unsafe joint intersections
South face Set 1/Set 7 (35/036)
North face Set 1/Set 2 (81/160)
Set 3/Set 7 (31/092)

DROP STRUCTURE B



Unsafe joint sets:

South face Set 6 (20W/180)

East face Set 6 (20W/180)

West face Set 7 (35E/180)

Unsafe joint intersections:

South face Set1/Set7(35/036)

West face Set1/Set7(35/036)

Set4/Set7(35/063)

Set3/Set7(31/092)

Set1/Set4(72/052)

Closed curves enclose the loci of the poles of all joint planes kinematically unsafe for a given slope of 80°. The small circle represents the angle of friction ($\phi = 20^{\circ}$).

155/A16/1529

Figure 3

PURCELL, D.C., in prep. - Tuggeranong-Weston Creek sewer tunnel, A.C.T.: completion report. Bur. Miner. Resour. Aust. Rec. (unpubl.).

PURCELL, D.C., and GOLDSMITH, R.C.M., 1975 - Tuggeranong town centre water feature, A.C.T.: preliminary geological investigations (1973-75). Bur. Miner. Resour. Aust. Rec. 1975/55 (unpubl.).

APPENDIX 1 GLOSSARY OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGY TERMS

GRAINSIZE

Coarse-grained

- 1 mm to 4 mm in diameter

Medium-grained

- 1 mm to 1 mm in diameter

Fine-grained

- less than 1 mm in diameter

BEDDING

Laminated

- less than 10 mm thick

Thinly bedded

- 10 mm to 100 mm thick

Thickly bedded

- greater than 100 mm thick

HARDNESS

Hard to very hard

- impossible to scratch with

knife blade

Moderately hard

- shallow scratches with knife

blade

Soft

- deep scratches with knife blade

PERCUSSIVE STRENGTH

Strong to very strong - cannot be broken by repeated

blows with a hammer

Moderately strong

- rock breaks after 3 or 4 heavy

blows with a hammer

Weak

- rocks break after 1 blow with hammer (includes brittle, fissile, friable, plastic, and

flaky rocks)

JOINT SPACING

Closely spaced

- joints spaced less than 15 cm

apart

Moderately spaced

- joints spaced 15 cm to 91 cm

apart

Broadly spaced

- joints spaced more than 91 cm

apart

JOINT APERTURE

This describes the amount of separation of the joint surfaces. Joints are open or tight. If two joint faces fit perfectly, the joint in the rock mass was probably tight (or closed); however, if they do not fit, the joint was probably open, or possibly filled with clay that has been washed away during drilling.

WEATHERING OF ROCK

Fresh

No discolouration or loss in strength

Fresh stained

- Limonitic staining along fractures, rock otherwise fresh and shows no loss of strength.

Slightly weathered

- Rock is slightly discoloured, but not noticeably lower in strength than the fresh rock.

Moderately weathered

- Rock is discoloured and noticeably weakened; N-size drill core generally cannot be broken by hand across the rock fabric.

Highly weathered

 Rock is discoloured and weakened; N-size drill core can generally be broken by hand across the rock fabric.

Extremely weathered

 Rock is decomposed to a soil, but the original rock fabric is mostly preserved.

APPENDIX 2

GEOLOGICAL LOGS OF DRILL CORES

BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES, GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS GEOLOGICAL LOG OF DRILL HOLE PROJECT TUGGER ANONG SEWER CONNECTION LOCATION North side of Tuggeranong Creek, A.C.T.

ANGLE FROM HORIZONTAL (8) 90 DIRECTION.

CO-ORDINATES 587953 N / 204 587 E R L OF COLLAR 565: 5 M

HOLE NO. A

SHEET OF

Drill	ing in	formation	Γ	Γ.		Rock	Substance		<u> </u>	Rock Mass Defect	is .
Method	Drilling rate	Casing	Pressure test * (lugeons)	Liff 8 % core recover)	Depth (metres	Graphic log & core loss	Substance description rock type grain characteristics . colour, structure, minor components	Weathering	0.3 Point load 1.0 strength 3.0 is (50)(MPa)	spacing (cm)	Defect description : 2 thickness, type, in politics, planarity, roughness, costing, strength Particular Genera
** 2	S. Canon			80 100 45	2 -		Floater Compact EW dacite, clayey, red-orange. Loose and friable, gravelly sand texture, with Fragments of rack.	(Fr	2 - 3 -	-	Defects indicate it is undisturbed weath ored mantle, joint planes visible th sand and gravel.
				100	5	> > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > >	Completely decomposed rock, with many fragments of MW-HW dacite in core lengths up to Gcm.	EW (some HW frags)	5 - 6		HW core pieces show moderately closely spaced joints are claycoated.
NAC		18/9/75	NOT TESTED	50	8-	Crumbly, red-orange, EW dacite, some more resistant HW rock in core lengths up to 25cm, but can be broken by hand. DACITE Moderately hard and strong Tov		Any defects in HW rock are generally clay coated, few crushed zones.			
				100	=			sharp contect Rock mass generally mod. tight, joints lock apart 0-35° dip, some 90° Many close fractures healed with epidote and societie Uttle or no clay on joints Rock mass tight joints 15-20			
				100	13-		V Hard and strong, dark grey and pink, phenocrysts of y quartz and plagioclase 2-5mm minor orthoclase 1-3mm groundmas pink - orange. Network of epidate and calcite vems one vein vertical between 14-15 n (has epidate crystals 1-4mm).		/ 4 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	3 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -	cm apart dip 0-80° iron oxide stains on surface some breakages follow epidote veins. Veins are numerous and drilling water has eroded sections of them away mainly the epidote.
							END OF HOLE 15.0 m.				
Fee Cor	e barr	Rew!	E PIC PRE NML	550 RI	F	SW Slig VIW Mod			Water V	10 Oct. '73 wat Water inflow Partial drilling wa	Core Photograph Negative No Per level date shown Depth (m) Black & White Colour

Commenced 5 - 9-75

Completed_ 11 -9 -75

Logged by R. Goldsmith

Vertical scale | cm = | m,

HW - Highly weathered

Notes

EW - Extremely weathered

Bedding & Joint Planes — Angles are measured relative to a plane normal to the core axis.

* Water Pressure Tests — Values in lugeons should be read in conjunction with computation sheets.

Complete drilling water loss

PROJECT TUGGERANONG TUNNEL SEWER CONNECTION HOLE NO. B BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES, LOCATION LOOM. south of Tuggeranong Greek, A.C.T. GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS 900 GEOLOGICAL LOG OF DRILL HOLE SHEET | OF) Rock Mass Defects Drilling Information Rock Substance Point load strength Is (50)(MPa) 8 % recovery Depth (metres) Defect description Substance description spacing log loss rate Pressure test * (lugeons) ۵ (cm) Graphic 8 core rock type grain characteristics thickness, type, inclination, planarity Cosing Water Lift 0 - 80 0 0 0 0 0 colour, structure, minor components œ roughness, coating, strength ^బరెస్టర్లెస్ట Particular \$20-8-75 defeds 2 EW Dacite Orange-brown softand friable breaks in hands 3-42 55 1 10 cm thick epidote vein. Generally has a growelly sand texture with quarts Rack completely broken down, 3 tragments 1-5mm and clayer feldspar (white-yellow). Some HW-MWepidote Veins within the EW material. 0 A 18-9 85 Some core pieces of clay-bonded gravelly sand 15-20cm long. HW 100 5 T 75 EW 7 80 8 Compact clay Closely fractured Zone clay coated faces. Compact clayey layer 9 Dacite Light tan horizontal foliation plag and quartz 1-4mm. TESTED 100 HW Y Seri. Fractured zone, some \$1-6-1 EW infill in joints Gray dacite- from oxide veins 100 MM JJKZ SW 10 Dacite. 100 Dark grey-blue, tuffaceous texture, hard and strong. LON FS dip 10-30, son Contains phenocrysts Icm crushed zone of quartz 1-5 mm, plagioclase 100 calcite vein, dip 80° e 1-3mm and some biotite 12 -Breakages drill induced and chlorite. Crystal SW due to jumping H grains are sub-hadral and partly rounded. Many very thin epidete and calcite veins. calcite/limonite vein dips 70° xladen 13 100 de stamp and sty in f brackages probable FS v 100 14 Žζ horizontal calcite/ 100 V.V 15 epidate vein, Icm. 16 100 Fr 166 100 100 END OF HOLE 18.0 M. Drill type MOLE PIONEER Wote Weathering Feed CROWD PRESSURE Fr - Fresh stained SW - Slightly weathered 10 Oct '73 water level date shown Depth m. Y Core barrel type __ NMLC Water inflow MW- Moderately weathered Partial drilling water loss Driller_ DHC (W.HART) HW - Highly weathered Complete drilling water loss Commenced 28/9/75 EW Extremely weathered

Bedding & Joint Planes - Angles are measured relative to a plane normal to the core axis

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Completed 3/ 9/75

Logged by R. Goldsmith Vertical scale _ lm = | cm, ___

