

1943/50

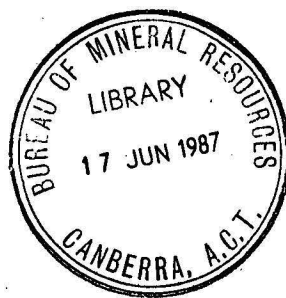
C.B.

BMR PUBLICATIONS COMPACTUS
(LENDING SECTION)

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES
GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

RECORDS:



The information contained in this report has been obtained by the Department of National Development, as part of the policy of the Commonwealth Government, to assist in the exploration and development of mineral resources. It may not be published in any form or used in a company prospectus without the permission in writing of the Director, Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics.

1943/50

C.B.

SITUATION.BMR PUBLICATIONS COMPACTUS
(LENDING SECTION)

The dykes which contain the felspar outcrop on the western slope of a hill two miles east of Wodonga, and south-southeast from Albury. This hill lies between the Wodonga-Banagilla road and the Murray River. It is possible to drive to within about half a mile of the deposits which are situated fairly high up the sides of the hill, one hundred to three hundred feet above the nearest point that is accessible by car.

OCCURRENCE OF THE FELSPAR.

The felspar occurs in pegmatite dykes, which contain also quartz, mica and tourmaline. Most of the dyke material is a coarse graphic intergrowth of quartz and felspar, but the quartz and felspar also occur massive, usually adjacent to each other, the quartz preponderating in volume. Mica is plentiful in books up to two inches across and also disseminated through the dyke in smaller crystals. Large tourmaline crystals up to nearly an inch in diameter and several inches in length, are common and are nearly always contained within the quartz.

The felspar is of the perthite variety, consisting mainly of potash felspar, intergrown with a lesser proportion of albite. The colour of the hand specimen is from cream to pink and that of the ground product varies correspondingly from a fairly good white to a pale pink. It is seldom entirely free from quartz and the proportion of mineable felspar in the dykes is low. The country rock is mainly schist that has been converted into hornfels and quartzite by granitic intrusions which in the area examined seem to be mostly in the form of large dykes. Some of these dykes are strongly layered and the granite grades laterally into pegmatitic material.

INDIVIDUAL DEPOSITS.

A small amount of work has been done on the surface at two localities, one about three quarters of a mile north or northwest of the other. At the more northerly exposure, a cut thirty-three feet long by four feet wide, maximum depth 6 feet, has been put in on a pegmatite dyke which strikes 70 degrees east and dips to the north at 70 to 30 degrees. Most of the dyke material is coarsely intergrown quartz and felspar, but some larger segregations of quartz and felspar up to a foot or more in diameter are present. Large tourmaline crystals are plentiful, particularly at the west end of the cut. From the material exposed, it would not be possible to pick more than ten per cent of clean felspar - probably not even as much as that. At the east end, the dyke seems to lens out, but it can be followed for fifty feet to the west, where it finishes abruptly. It is quite likely that it is cut off here by a cross-fault with left-handed displacement, as a similar dyke can be picked up forty feet to the left. Other dykes and lenses outcrop about the hillside, but the proportion of coarse felspar that they contain is even lower than in the one exposed by the open cut.

The more southerly locality is near the head of a gully which is directly east of Wodonga. A series of large pegmatitic dykes striking 70 degrees west are exposed on the surface and in a few shallow cuts. The dyke material is mainly the usual coarse intergrowth of quartz and felspar. Tourmaline is abundant. One well-defined dyke at the top of the gully is opened

up by a small cut and this contains the best showing of felspar seen in the area. The walls are granite, the width seven feet near ground surface, but pinching rapidly at the bottom of the cut, 6 feet lower down. The face contains about an equal amount of quartz and felspar in fairly large masses, but the felspar all contains some intergrown quartz. Tourmaline and mica are also plentiful.

CONCLUSION.

The proportion of coarse felspar in the dykes near Wedonga is far too low to enable them to be worked profitably. Only the one mentioned last showed any promise at all as a potential producer, and as this still contains a high proportion of quartz and other minerals and as the portion with massive felspar appears to be very limited in extent, it would not justify the expense of putting in a road up the steeply sloping hillside.

CANNARA, A.C.T.
21st September, 1942.

H.H. Fisher
H.H. FISHER,
Chief Geologist.
