

Boolaroo Reservoir Menaced By Creep; New Site Is Sought

The Hunter District Water Board has instructed its technical staff to select an alternative site for a reservoir at Boolaroo, in case the present 1,000,000-gallon tank is involved in a landslide.

The reservoir, built on a steep hillside overlooking the township of Boolaroo, is within 20 yards of an area where a "creep" is opening up the earth, causing craters up to seven feet deep.

Already two house properties near the moving area have been damaged by slides of earth and residents fear that a large portion of the town's residential area may be endangered.

People living nearby say the creep, which began during torrential rain in June, has recurred with recent rain.

One woman who lives only 120 yards from the moving area said the hill rumbled like thunder when the earth was moving and a "frightful smell" came from the big earth cracks for weeks after they opened up.

Expert Sought

The Chief Engineer of the Hunter District Water Board (Mr. J. W Attwood) went to Sydney today to engage an expert engineer or geologist to investigate the earth movements.

The Lake Macquarie Shire Council has agreed to cooperate in any remedial measures this expert might recommend.

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The Lake Macquarie Shire Clerk (Mr. Halton) said today that his council realised that there might be some danger to the township and is gravely concerned.

The council was awaiting advice from the Water Board's expert, he said.

Meanwhile the Water Board has instructed its officers to half-fill the reservoir and keep it under close observation.

The president of the Water Board (Mr C G Schroeder)

said today that consideration may have to be given to the banning of the use of hoses in the Boolaroo area to ensure adequate supplies of water for other purposes
