

Township threatened by "creep" in hillside

Boolaroo township, 14 miles from Newcastle, is threatened by a "creep" in a steep hillside overlooking the residential area.

Boolaroo's population is about 1500.

A million-gallon water tank on the hill is within 20 yards of the "creep," which already has opened up craters seven feet deep.

The Hunter District Water Board has instructed its technical staff to select an alternative site for the reservoir.

Two house properties have been damaged by small landslides.

Residents say the "creep" began during torrential rain in June and recurred after recent rain.

One woman who lives only 120 yards from the danger 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.

An engineer or geologist from Sydney will be asked to investigate the earth move-

investigate the earth movements.

Lake Macquarie Shire Clerk Mr. Halton said his council was gravely concerned by the threat to the town and was awaiting advice from the Water Board.

Meanwhile the Water Board has instructed its officers to keep the reservoir only half-full and to maintain a close watch on it.
