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MERCURY 1970 -

MORANBAH—OUR LATEST PLANNED COAL TOWN

PARLIAMENT yesterday was told of an 1100-acre Central Queensland virgin scrub site that will become the State's latest town-planned area.

It is Moranbah, to house initially 1500 people based on the Goonyella coal project.

Moranbah takes its name from the surrounding pastoral property Morambah, but no one is reported to know why the change in spelling has occurred. The name of the station means "little black boy."

Mr. Newbery (C.P., Mirani), in whose electorate

the project area lies, referred to the proposed township during the Transport Department estimates debate.

He had been urging more favourable rail freights in country areas to help end the drift to the city by encouraging secondary industries.

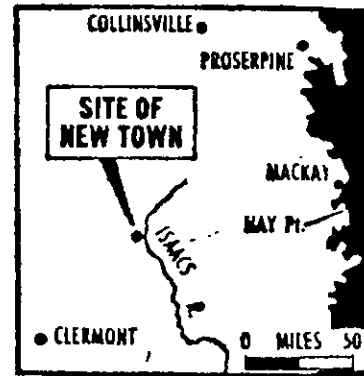
Power line

Mr. Newbery later elaborated outside Parliament on his remarks in Parliament.

He said Moranbah—to be established eight miles west of the Isaacs River, 10 miles from the field and five miles from Peak Downs Highway—was planned to have water, electricity, sewerage, shopping centre, parking facilities, and playing fields.

A 130-mile transmission line from Collinsville to Moranbah would supply 28 megawatts at the township, the coal project, and Hay Point, from where the coal was to be exported to Japan.

This was more than the amount of power (25



MAP shows site of proposed town.

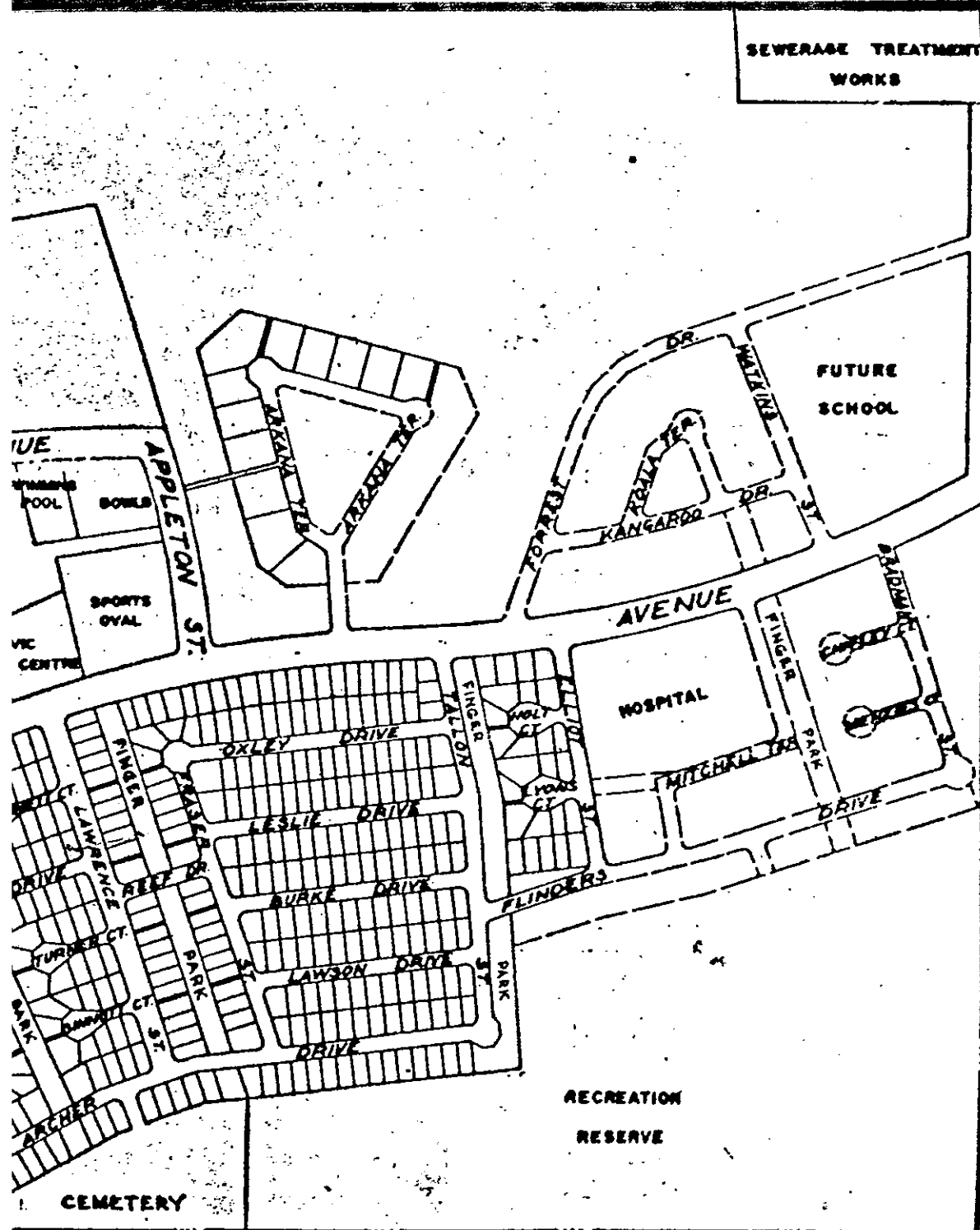
megawatts) now supplied to the whole of the Mackay region.

It was planned to bring water from Eungelia Dam, 54 miles away, and the Snowy Mountains Authority also was investigating downstream storage on the Isaacs River between the highway and the Mackenzie River junction.

Big benefits

Mr. Newbery said the coal project would result in tremendous benefit to the Mackay district, the State, and Australia as a whole.

Mackay region business houses, particularly those in Sarina and Koumala, were benefiting from big wages to "well in excess of 100" men already engaged on preliminary railway work.



NAME COME FROM?

Trace the origin of name Moranbah. probably takes its name from a settler named Moran. But who he? the land-tenure of the acres excised from

Morambah Holding for the new town was Crown leasehold. Other sites on nearby properties were investigated but it was felt that because the land was free-held, acquisition procedures would

have proven more protracted and probably more costly. One excellent site on a neighbouring property was rejected because of the levels of flooding in the Isaac River.