

Tasmania

Inspector of Mines, Magazines, and Explosives Office,  
Public Buildings.

LAUNCESTON, 26th September, 1946.

MEMORANDUM:PIONEER TIN PROJECT.

As requested in your memorandum of the 5th August, I contacted Mr. O.J. Walsh and others regarding his project and herewith furnish information obtained regarding same.

Attached is a sketch map compiled from the 1929 Annual Report of the Pioneer Mine (practically at the cessation of operations), lease plans and information regarding boring done by the Austral Malay Company in 1935 as supplied by J. Matthews who was leading hand on the drilling plant used. The approximate area which Mr. Walsh intends to work is outlined in green.

Attached also is a copy of the Tribute Agreement between O.J. Walsh and party and the Endurance Tin Mining Company in which it will be noted that they agreed to take up further ground if requested to do so by Mr. Walsh. This will be necessary as some of the ground which Mr. Walsh intends to work is not now held.

A copy of Mr. Walsh's Answers to the Department of Supply and Shipping Questionnaire is also attached.

As will be seen from the sketch map very little information is available as to the value and depth of the ground which it is intended to work. Mr. Walsh bases his information on the fact that he has dish sampled the face shown on the map and on the Austral Malay Company's bores at the other end of his area. He has no information as to the values or depth of ground between these points.

Mr. Walsh's intentions are to work the ground entirely by water power, he having arranged with the Endurance Company to be supplied with that water used by the Endurance Company's power house, with the exception of 15 sluice heads. The Manager of the Endurance Mine stated that it is reasonable to assume that the power house will be using not less than 60 sluice heads for ten months of the year - that is Mr. Walsh will have 45 sluice heads of water for ten months in the year. This water will be conveyed around the old Pioneer race, a distance of 4 to 5 miles, and will then be taken across the Ringarooma River by a 3100 ft. siphon on the site of the old Pioneer siphon, then along the Pioneer race to the point of intake, thence by 3200 ft. of piping to the working face and give 280 ft. of head at the face. To bring this system into operation it will be necessary to recondition about 6 to 7 miles of race, re-erect the trestle and siphon across the Ringarooma River, using 26 inch diameter pipes which it is considered necessary to carry 45 sluice heads of water, and instal 3,200 ft. of piping, of 24 inch to 26 inch diameter, to the workings.

Mr. Walsh has asked for a grant of £10,000 to be used as follows:-

6,400 ft. of 26" piping (quarter inch plate)	£6,400
Installation of pipes and cartage of same, cost erection to trestle, repairs to 7 miles of race, timber for sluice boxes, purchase of elevator, nozzles valves etc.	3,600
Total	£10,000

I queried the price of the pipes as too low and Mr. Walsh stated that if he could purchase good second-hand pipes, or by making the pipes on the job by themselves, they could keep the cost down to £1 per foot.

Apart from this water Mr. Walsh would also have available 3 sluice heads from the Endurance Mine, Bradshaws Creek Race, 2831/W which would be relatively low pressure water. Also there are 14 sluice heads of water from the Wyniford River water right 20W/41 recently acquired by Mr. Walsh from Mr. Charles Allen (who apparently acts for the Garibaldi Tin Mining Company N.L. who are owners) but which would require about 15 inch diameter siphon across the Ringarooma River and the necessary pipe scheme etc.

There is a considerable area of dump room available and Mr. Walsh has a scheme whereby with the erection of a drainage tunnel to Bradshaw's Creek he will elevate to his sluice boxes, drain off the excess water, then re-elevate the tailings to the dump, should dump room become restricted. This scheme appears to be feasible at present but may have some difficulties to overcome for its practical application.

As will be seen from these preliminary investigations there appear to be facilities available for the working of the area in question but the first step is to get some more satisfactory information regarding the value and depth of the ground. This was pointed out to Mr. Walsh and he agreed that should the Government require to carry out boring to prove the ground he was in agreement that the cost of boring should be added to the loan, provided he was consulted as to the position and number of bores.

In view of the foregoing it is recommended that consideration be given to the boring of the area outlined in green on the attached map, and if this is agreed to Mr. Walsh's application be seriously considered in conjunction with the information obtained from this work.

INSPECTOR OF MINES.