

Mines Department,  
Hobart,  
15th October, 1927.

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The Hon. the Minister for Mines,  
HOBART.

Sir,

For your information and also for the information of Mr. Malcolm Kennedy of Hobart, I have the honour to submit the following observations upon the prospects of the tin ore deposits of Mt. Rattler near Welborough. Mr. Kennedy wished to learn whether the prospects warrant the expenditure of further money on exploration.

Two ore-bodies were opened in trenches and shafts many years ago, and one has been explored over 300 feet along the strike. From these workings, it is reported, a bulk sample of 50 tons of ore was treated and yielded tin in the proportion of 0.75 per cent. Two "chip" samples over 45 feet across the body contained tin in the proportion of 0.45 per cent.

One body is a greisenised quartz porphyry, near the walls greisenisation is complete; at the middle incipient greisenisation is noticeable. The tin ore in the middle part is distributed through the body of the stone in particles of equal grainsize to those of the component minerals of the rock before alteration. Pinite is one of the products of greisenisation of the felspar component.

On the other ore-body a shaft has exposed a body of hard quartz greisen containing fair proportion of tin ore. Another shaft exposes a body of black flaky mica and quartz greisen with tin ore easily discernible. Tin ore and malachite occupy joint planes in the quartzitic rock.

These bodies can be traced 1000 feet eastward, but except for a few potholes no exploratory works have been cut.

Although the conditions for tin ore deposition are decidedly favourable, it is impossible on the information at hand to express an opinion as to value. As to the prospects it is thought that further exploration is warranted and it is recommended that exploration should be confined to trenching at first and if the results be satisfactory drilling to a depth of 100 to 200 feet should be undertaken.

The ore-bodies are in the earliest stage of development only.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

A. M. REID  
J. G. Symons  
DIRECTOR OF MINES.