

UNPUBLISHED REPORT 1966/10

Bonanza mine, Beaconsfield

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There is virtually no information on the Bonanza mine in the Department and what little that is available is mostly unconfirmed or hearsay.

With respect to exploration by means of diamond drilling the following factors must be considered.

1. The depth of the workings is unknown. An unidentified notation on an old mine plan states "Bonanza G.M. Co. — a reef cut at 1056 feet 14 dwts stone", but there is no evidence as to whether the intersection was in the shaft proper or in workings from the shaft. There is no information available as to the number or extent of any underground levels.
2. The condition of the Bonanza shaft is unknown but it certainly is not open at the surface, unless boarded over and covered with rubble, or if opened in recent months. The shaft could not be utilised effectively for drilling purposes as the water table in the shaft would be less than 300 feet below the collar and the expense involved in dewatering, cutting drilling chambers etc. would be exorbitant.
3. Any gold-bearing quartz reef intersected in the shaft at any depth less than 1,000 feet would not be the E–W trending 'Tasmania' reef but would belong to the NNW-trending system of reefs worked in other small mines along the Cabbage Tree Hill. These reefs have a mining history of sporadic mineralisation in small, irregular quartz reefs which are extremely variable in size and grade along strike and down dip.
4. There is no information on the length, width, dip, strike or plunge of any reefs in the vicinity of the workings and any diamond drilling exploration carried out on such indecisive information would be virtually 'wild catting' and very costly with little chance of success.
5. Horizontal diamond drilling in this country is to be avoided if at all possible due to drill control difficulties and any inclined hole would of necessity be in excess of 1,000 feet to reach any potential target area.
6. One ore intersection would not necessarily be significant and any initial exploratory drilling programme would involve more than 5,000 feet before a reliable assessment of results could be made. All considered, an estimated cost in excess of \$30,000 would be a conservative minimum for such a programme.

[10 May 1966]