

3. LOCATION AND ACCESS

E.L. 15/76 is situated 4 km east of Zeehan (Figure 1) in the Land District of Montagu on the west coast of Tasmania. The sealed Murchison Highway diagonally bisects the Licence from the Cuni area (northwest) to the southeast corner. A series of unsealed roads, tracks and old tramways give reasonable access to most areas of the Licence.

All but the northeast of the Licence is drained by tributaries of the westerly flowing Little Henty River system. The northeastern corner is drained by the headwaters of the Ring River which flows into the westerly draining Pieman River system. Most of the streams are small and steep; typically "young" streams. On the flat areas of the easily eroded Gordon Limestone (southeast corner) the streams form swamps.

Apart from the Ordovician Gordon Limestone (10% of the Licence area) the southeast quarter of the Licence is underlain by Siluro-Devonian shales, siltstones, slates and quartzites of the Eldon Group. The remainder of the Licence is underlain by Upper Precambrian to Middle Cambrian mudstones, siltstones, sandstones, mud flow conglomerates, chert conglomerates and basic volcanics of the Success Creek and Dundas Groups and the Crimson Creek and Oonah Formations. In the north are minor occurrences (5%) of gabbros, dolerites, serpentinites and pyroxenites of the of the Serpentine Hill ultramafic complex.

The vegetation cover in areas of the Silurian, Devonian and Ordovician rocks is generally buttongrass with local areas of dense ti-tree/sword grass/Bowrah scrub. The remainder of the licence is covered by cool temperate rainforest with patches of dense "horizontal" scrub. Minor areas of open grasslands occur in the cleared areas at Dundas and Cuni.