

5. EXPLORATION HISTORY

Major mining and exploration companies became interested in the E.L. 15/76 area in 1959 when Rio Tinto obtained a large exploration licence covering most of northwest Tasmania. Between the period of active mining around 1900 and the start of large scale exploration in 1959, small miners and government bodies conducted small localised exploration. Most of this small scale exploration concentrated on increasing the ore reserves at old mines and prospects.

5.1 Government Exploration (incl. small localised company expl.)

5.1.1 Dundas Field.

(a) **Dundas.**

In 1930 the Tasmanian Department of Mines drilled three holes designed to intersect the West Comet lode beneath the main workings (Patterson, 1970). The holes (sited in the western mine flank) were between 100-130 m long. Core recovery was poor but each hole appeared to intersect gossanous horizons. The drill logs (Figure 2) showed lode horizons dipping west at 60-70°. No assays are available.

The Australian Mining and Smelting Company undertook a study of the Comet-Maestri mine in 1949 in order to negotiate an option over M.L. 75M/46. Finucane (1947) suggested five drill holes were required to test ore extensions at depth. However, this study also indicated many possible mining problems with the deposit. The option was not exercised.

North Broken Hill Pty. Ltd. followed Finucane's recommendations and attempted to drill three holes in 1952 (Discala, 1974). Two holes were abandoned after caving-in. The third hole reached 200 m but no results are available.