

MAIN CREEK EL 27/2001

NE TASMANIA

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## **SUMMARY**

Forty seven pan samples of sediments were taken from the alluvial wash within the EL. during 2004-2005.

This work has confirmed that the EL contains areas of medium grade alluvial cassiterite. A bulk sampling plant has recently been purchased. It will be used to ascertain tonnages and grade estimates for some of these sites. This last stage of project assessment will be undertaken during the coming spring/summer of 2005/2006. Its goal will be to determine the economic viability of mining the E.L.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Main Creek EL 27/2001 has a total area of approximately eight square kilometers. It is located approximately five kilometers south-east of Derby, in northeast Tasmania. The region is characterised by hilly, well forested terrain containing a number of coupes that have only recently been logged.

## **TENURE**

The EL is held (100%) by Alistair Roy Nicholas. It is comprised of a mix of Crown Land, State Forest, Informal Reserves, Private Land, MDC and Public 'Crown' Reserve.

## **PREVIOUS MINING AND EXPLORATION**

Main Creek was one of the first tin-producing areas in the Derby region. The full length of Main Creek underwent extensive sluicing operations involving large-scale mining in the Black Boy Mine and Sarah Mine – both downstream towards the Mutual Mine. Cassiterite tended to be very coarse in the region adjoining the areas of interest. There is good reason to believe that the historical tailings may hold high tonnages of cassiterite that could be extracted economically using an appropriately designed modern gravity circuit. The early mining methods occurred on the upper reaches of Main Creek – concentrating the cassiterite using high water flow rates over fairly crude sluices. This would have almost certainly resulted in significant losses of the finer mineral fraction to the tailings.

## **GEOLOGY**

The rocks within the EL are comprised of Mathinna Group sediments of early Ordovician – early Devonian age. They are considered to represent an essentially uninterrupted period of greywacke-shale sedimentation. Main Creek centrally traverses the E.L.

## **DISCUSSION**

During the coming Spring-Summer bulk samples – down to a depth of approximately five metres – will be taken from those areas that pan sampling has indicated may contain the highest grades. This work will now be done using a small excavator and light-medium weight bulk sampling machine. It had originally been planned to transport this material to ML 7M/2001 during summer of 2004/5 using a ten-yard truck. Its heavy mineral component was to have been separated out there using a sixty tonne track-mounted mobile processing plant that was to have been relocated to the M.L. during 2004. Unfortunately, delays in receiving site approvals regarding ML 7M/2001 from the Dorset Shire Council prevented realization of this timetable. The main processing plant has only recently been able to transported to ML 7M/2001.

Whilst awaiting resolution of the above matter, a decision was made to attempt to meet the work schedule commitments that had been planned for 2004/2005 by using a light-weight, trailer-mounted, gravity bulk separation plant to conduct *in-situ* bulk sampling, rather than transporting any material from this E.L. to ML 7M/2001.

A suitable four tonne BSP 10C bulk sampling plant was recently located in Victoria, purchased by the leaseholder and relocated to Tasmania. This machine will now be used on the sites of interest during spring-summer 2005/2006.

## **EXPENDITURE**

The following expenses were incurred in the collection of 47 pan samples of alluvial wash during 14 field trips to the Main Creek exploration area during 2004/2005.

<b>Contract Geology</b>	<b>\$1,400</b>
<b>Fuel - Travel</b>	<b>\$900</b>
<b>Labour</b>	<b>\$800</b>

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