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## **EL21/99 – Wanderer**

# **Annual Report to December 26th 2005.**

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21 December , 2005**

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## Summary

The Annual Report for EL21/1999 provides details TasGold's exploration progress for the end of 2004/2005 field season and the beginning of the 2005/2006 program. No on ground work was completed in the 2004/2005 field season because of priority drilling in the adjacent tenement EL20/1996. Results from exploration on EL21/1999 were reported in the previous years combined annual report for EL20/1996 and EL21/1999 (Callaghan, 2004). Although field work was not conducted on EL21/1999, preliminary work programs have been planned for follow up at the two anomalies known as V34 (Aldebaran) and the Hudson River Gold zone. These anomalies were identified by previous soil sampling (Macmin NL) and stream sediment surveys (Geopeko).

The 2005/2006 field season began with a 3D induced polarisation survey covering the V34 prospect (and V19 on the adjacent EL20/1996). This survey targets anomalous base metals in soils that are coincident with stratigraphic correlates of the V19 base metal bearing host horizon. Drilling here defined a significant zone of base metal anomalism (DDH V34/1; 27m @ 0.1%Pb & 0.3%Zn). It was suspected and has now been confirmed that drill hole V34/1 collared in 2004 was mis-targeted due to an error converting historic Geopeko local grid coordinates to AMG coordinates.

The correlation is thus far confirmed by cursory mapping, identifying polymict units adjacent to lavas, with a fine 'epiclastic' sequence believed to be the equivalent of the host horizon at V19. The stratigraphic correlation with these units is highlighted in radiometric data with the 'noisy' moderately high potassium signature at V34 being similar to the V19 signature. Another piece of evidence is the probable folding of stratigraphy under the Osmund Syncline, providing a stratigraphic repeat. Thus correlation with the V19 base metal bearing stratigraphy is plausible on structural and stratigraphic grounds.

Orange Bellied Parrott and eagle surveys were undertaken by two independent consultants and one consultant from Birds Australia. The surveys were conducted in accordance with the requirements set out by the MEWG (Mineral Exploration Working Group) to satisfy environmental concerns relating to exploration work within the EL.

## Introduction

The following report details the work undertaken during the current and previous exploration field seasons to locate gold and base metal anomalies. This work is preliminary to planned drill testing during the current field season. Only limited interpretation of the currently available datasets is undertaken because the original soil grids had not previously been adequately georeferenced. In the previous season TasGold's efforts were firmly focused upon resource definition at V19 in EL20/1996. Exploration in the Wanderer EL21/1999 is ongoing at the time of writing.

## ***Location/Access/Weather***

EL 21/99 is located in the remote southwest of Tasmania (see Figure 1) around 40 kilometres west of Strathgordon and 70 kilometres south of Strahan. Access to the area is difficult as infrastructure is minimal to non-existent. The southwest of Tasmania is exposed to the roaring forties and is often windy and wet even in mid-summer.

A rough 4WD track (Low Rocky Pt Track) runs from the southern end of Birches Inlet (south-eastern corner of Macquarie Harbour) to the unmanned lighthouse at Low Rocky Point. The track was initially constructed by Exploration companies in the 1950's and 1960's but has been rarely used since. The need to barge heavy equipment across Macquarie Harbour to access the track has occurred successfully in the past. Previous exploration has seen bombardiers, excavators and drilling rigs (L38's) unloaded and driven down to the Elliott Bay area. 4WD bike and motorbike enthusiasts occasionally use the track.

The alternative access is by air. Moore's Valley airstrip (10 kilometres north of Mt Osmund) was constructed in the 1950's and is serviceable by light aircraft.

Previous exploration campaigns have accessed the area by helicopter and light plane either from Strathgordon or Strahan. Large equipment has been transported down the coast by boat or barge and airlifted from the deck whilst the boat/barge is sheltered in the mouth of the Mainwaring River or Cowrie Beach. TasGold's 2004/2005 exploration campaign was mobilised in this manner utilising a landing at the Lewis River mouth.

A semi-permanent camp is located just south of Wart Hill. The Camp was first constructed by Geopeko Ltd. and is currently managed by Mineral Resources Tasmania. This facility was re-established by TasGold Ltd after it was vandalised and burned in 2003.

TasGold mobilisation for the 2005 summer drilling campaign commenced on 20/11/2005. Camp and geophysical equipment and supplies were loaded in Strahan and mobilised to the 'Wart Hill Camp'. From the camp the geophysical survey equipment was mobilised up the V19 access track by crawler; Consumables and personnel were mobilised using quad bikes and trailers. Gear was relocated to the start of the V34 access track or "Low Rocky Point Track" and all mobilisation of wires and IP transmitters etc was done by quad bike and trailer.

Two crawler dumpers (one with 2.5tonne crane) and trailer were utilised for moving the drill rig between sites. Quad bikes and trailers were used for personnel transport from camp to the drill sites. Vehicle movements were restricted to previously formed bombardier tracks as much as possible, with the rough main base line track from the camp to Wart Hill being improved for safety with the excavator. The excavator was utilised for drill pad and sump construction, drill site rehabilitation and track drainage maintenance. Most rig sites were located within 200m of formed tracks, minimising environmental disturbance.

Mobilisation for the 2005/6 field season entailed helicopter shuttles from Strahan for the initial Bird and 3D IP surveys. Subsequently, drilling equipment was mobilised via helicopter from Strathgordon. This equipment supplemented that left with a second TasGold drill rig left on site.

A continuous presence at the Wart Hill Camp will be maintained during the summer period 2005/06 with weekly crew changes and supply runs via helicopter. The company owned and operated drill rig is normally operated 20 hours a day (2 shifts) with drillers and offsidiers on a 2 week on, 1 week off roster. Geologists and field hands have typically rotated on a 2 in / 2 out roster.

### ***Land Status/Usage***

Much of the southwest of Tasmania is listed as a World Heritage Area and the land tenure is classified as National Park. However the strip of land between Elliott Bay in the south and the southern shore of Macquarie Harbour to the north has been deliberately excluded from the World Heritage Area on the basis of its prospectivity (and lesser wilderness values).

The Elliott Bay area remains classified as Conservation Area and as such is open to mineral exploration. Tasmanian Government proclaimed the prospective rocks south of Macquarie Harbour to be within the Sorell Peninsula Prospectivity Zone, a recognition of the mineral potential of the area. Under this act any change in the status of the land within the zone requires the approval of both houses of the Tasmanian parliament with any affected party entitled to compensation (this does not cover any decisions of the Federal government).

### ***Environmental Concerns***

TasGold was required to undertake several environment surveys to comply with the requirements of the MEWG (Mineral Exploration Working Group). Orange bellied parrot and wedge tailed eagle surveys were conducted by independent consultants from 20/12/2004 to 24/12/2005. Results of these surveys are appended (Appendix 1).

### ***Tenure***

EL21/99 was granted to Exploration & Management Consultants Pty Ltd and McNeil Associates Pty Ltd on 26 January 2001. TasGold acquired a 90% interest in this and the adjoining EL20/96 from Exploration & Management Consultants Pty Ltd and McNeil Associates Pty Ltd. The vendors retain a 10% free carried interest in the tenement to completion of a bankable feasibility study. The location of the licences is shown in Figure 1. Presently, TasGold Ltd. are the sole tenement holders in the Elliott Bay Region. An EL reduction was submitted in September 2005.

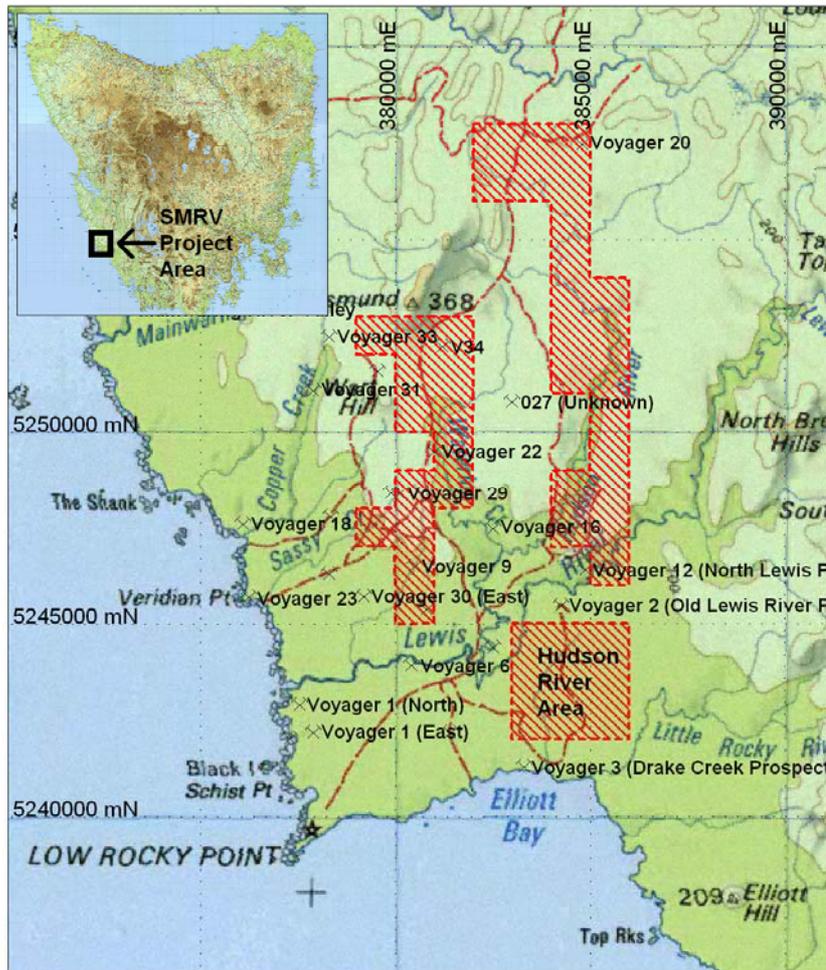


Figure 1: Location of EL21/1999

## Work Completed

### V34

At V34, the local grid created by Geopeko during the 1980's has been partially resurrected, grid lines were cut to facilitate Induced Polarization (IP) survey work and the field work for the IP survey has been completed over a grid comprising 15.5 line kilometres (See Figure 2). Interpretation of the data collected was ongoing at the time of writing and will be detailed in the next annual report.

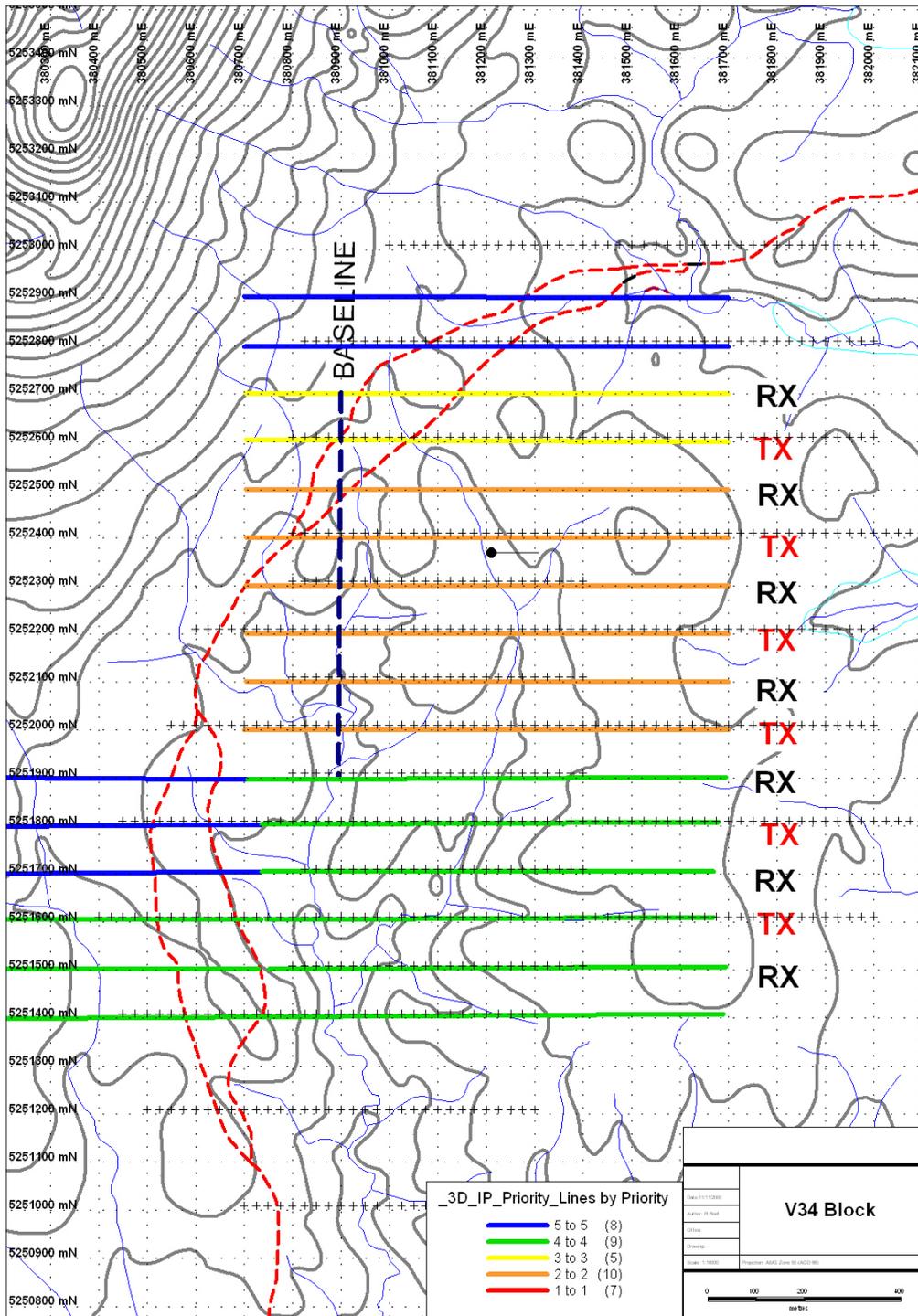


Figure 2: 3D IP Survey Lines At V34

Soil geochemical data has been georeferenced from Geopeko's historic local grid and will prioritize drill targets at V34 to test coincident IP and soil geochemical anomalies. For background on previous geological, geochemical and geophysical work conducted at V34 see Reid (2005).

## ***Hudson River***

Work completed at Hudson River has been primarily office based and includes the compilation and interpretation of existing digital data including magnetics, EM and soil geochemistry to assess prospectivity and attempt to define drill targets. For more detailed description of Hudson River the reader is referred to Reid, 2005. A single day of ground truthing reconnaissance was completed in April 2005 to assess project logistics for the 2005/6 field season.

## ***Proposed Exploration***

A detailed outline of exploration activities to be undertaken at the Wanderer Prospect during 2006 has been submitted to Mineral Resources Tasmania and is referenced below as Reid, 2005.

## **References**

- Callaghan, T., 2004. TasGold Annual Report on Exploration EL20/96 – Elliot Bay: Annual Report to March 31 2004.
- Wilson, P A, Moore, D, Sumpton J D H, Pemberton, J, and Perring, R. 1982. Progress Report EL 27/76 Elliott Bay, 1981/82 field season. Geopeko Ltd.
- Reid, R.O., 2005. Proposed Work Program 2005/6 Field Season. EL20/96 - Elliot Bay and EL21/1999 – Wanderer. Tasgold Ltd. Unpub. Report. TCR#?

## Appendices

## ***Appendix 1: Environmental Survey Reports***

**Surveys for the Orange-bellied Parrot, Wedge-tailed Eagle and  
White-bellied Sea Eagle at the TasGold Exploration area, Wart  
Hill, Southwest Tasmania.**



Lewis River Mouth (M. Knight)

**A report of survey findings prepared by Jon Starks, Mark Antos and  
Andrew Silcocks.**

**January 2005**



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This report was prepared by Mark Antos, Jonathon Starks and Andrew Silcocks, January 2005.

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## TasGold Ltd. Bird Surveys, 29 Dec. 2004 to 2 Jan. 2005

### Introduction

Surveys for the Orange-bellied Parrot, Wedge-tailed Eagle and White-bellied Sea Eagle were conducted within the area of TasGold's mining operations in the vicinity of the Lewis River and Wart Hill areas of the Southwest Conservation Area, Tasmania. The surveys were conducted at the direction of the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, to ensure that mining exploration in the area did not pose a threat to these and other species. The surveys were a continuation of previous surveys conducted in late 2003. Once again, no Orange-bellied Parrots or Wedge-tailed Eagles were recorded. White-bellied Sea Eagles were sighted but no evidence of nesting was observed.

### Methods and notes on logistical issues.

#### *Surveys*

Methods used for surveying for Orange-bellied Parrots (OBPs) consisted of two hour watches by observers stationed at the edge of suitable wooded nesting habitat with hollow-bearing trees and open sedgeland foraging habitat. Birds commuting between the two habitats would be detected by their contact calls and visually. Surveys coincided with the breeding period of the parrots. Methods used for surveying for eagles consisted of visual observation at all times. Areas of potential White-bellied Sea Eagle nesting sites were visually scanned from high vantage points for evidence of nesting. All surveys were conducted by Jon Starks (JS), Andrew Silcocks (AS) and Mark Antos (MA). All observers have had experience in identifying *Neophema* parrots, and are expert ornithologists. All used state-of-the-art optical equipment.

#### *Study area*

From the supplied map, TasGold identified five priority zones in the Wart Hill/ Elliott Bay exploration areas and divided them into one high, two medium and two low priority zones. Other individual and clustered drill sites were marked but were not given a priority listing. Due to the limited amount of person hours which could be spent conducting the bird searches, only the areas around the priority zones were searched.

#### Priority Zones:

- High Priority Zone Wart Hill – an area of intense drilling.
- Medium Priority Zone Voyager 19 – contains the high priority zone and drill sites SWDOO1 and SDH2.
- Medium Priority Zone Voyager 30 – contains drill sites SC005, SC007, SC008, and SC006.
- Low Priority Zone Voyager 29 – opposite Wart Hill camp, contains two drill sites – EC1 and EC2A.

- **Low Priority Zone Voyager 3 (Elliott Bay)** – contains the 3 sites covered plus V8/27, V8/28, V8/29, V8/31, V8/32 (not covered).

### *Summary of activities*

29 Dec.

Arrived at the site at about 11:30 am. A settling in and familiarization with the camp and terrain in the search area followed. From 14:30, a two hour watch for OBPs was made at the two low priority drill sites (Voyager 29 West). Following this, an assessment was made of the survey requirements needed to cover the priority areas. It was not considered possible with the person-hours available to cover all drill sites in the priority areas. After gaining an appreciation of the task at hand and the terrain it was decided to slightly modify the survey methodology. The spacing between listening points was increased from 200 to 250 metres as it was considered that the terrain and weather conditions made listening detection possible over this slight increase in distance.

After the quad bikes were flown in, a preliminary exploration was made of the tracks to the south and the medium priority drill area Voyager 30.

30 Dec.

All day spent searching around high priority zone (Wart Hill) within Voyager 19 area.

31 Dec.

One of the quad bikes had a start fault, making only one bike available. The group split up for surveying purposes; MA walked to Voyager 30 area to conduct OBP listens there. This area appeared to support sub-optimal OBP habitat. The long unburned sedgeland was dominated by woody plants up to 1.5 metres tall in many places and the adjacent wooded country contained very few hollow-bearing trees.

JS and AS took the other quad bike to the low priority Voyager 3 area at Elliott Bay. A lack of any prior knowledge of track conditions and locations severely delayed travel to the search area. The bike became bogged twice in heavy mud, the first time taking two hours to extricate. The track between Wart Hill and Low Rocky Point Track was multi-branched, not obvious and required back-tracking to find the most suitable way through. A large tree across the track near the Lewis River also hampered progress. In total, it took over 5 h to reach the Voyager 3 site. A functional second bike would have allowed us to winch the bogged bike clear much quicker and allowed a speedier progress.

Because of the limited time thus available, only six OBP listens of 1 hr duration around three drill sites (V8/26, V8/34, V8/7) were possible. However, the only suitable OBP nesting habitat near these sites was along the Barrel Creek, which we covered at 250 m intervals, though of 1 hr duration each.

1 Jan.

The second bike had been repaired. The team headed to the proposed landing site at Lewis River mouth. Few suitable nest trees appeared to occur within a 1 km area of the landing site. High vantage points around the deeply-incised valley of the river provided excellent views of the forest along its banks and opportunities to scan for eagle nests. A two hour listen and search was also conducted for OBPs at this site.

2 Jan.

The morning was spent conducting OBP listens between the Medium Priority Zone Voyager 19 drill sites SWDOO1 and SDH2, and the Low Priority Zone Voyager 29 West drill sites near the Wart Hill camp.

#### *Weather*

Weather conditions on the 29, 30 and 31 of Dec were fine and sunny with light winds. The weather on the 1 Jan consisted of sunny and overcast conditions interspersed with brief light showers. The weather deteriorated on 2 Jan with a few passing showers however sunny periods were present.

#### **Results**

A total of 55.5 person-hours of direct surveying for OBPs along forest edges by drill sites was conducted. No OBPs or Blue-winged Parrots were seen nor heard during surveys. Table 1 provides a summary of the locations and duration of surveys. Other hollow-nesting species recorded during surveys are also listed.

A total of 6 person-hours were spent looking for White-bellied Sea Eagles and OBPs at the mouth of the Lewis River. In addition, more time was spent scanning forest along the river bank for eagle nests. Despite excellent views of the riverside forest, few potential nesting trees were seen and no evidence of nesting was recorded. A single adult White-bellied Sea Eagle was observed flying up from the river to the east of the proposed landing site. This bird continued to gain elevation and flew off eastward. Another adult bird was seen near the mouth of the river apparently flying down to the rocks. Presumably the same bird was later seen heading north along the coast. Table 2 provides a summary of survey results at the Lewis River.

No Wedge-tailed Eagles were sighted during the survey period.

A total of 42 bird species were recorded in the area. Table 3 provides a breakdown of species recorded during the OBP and eagle surveys.

#### **Conclusion**

Despite a survey effort focusing on the priority drilling sites, none of the target species were detected. This suggests that these areas are not utilised on a regular and frequent basis by the target species in late 2004/early 2005.

**Table 1.** Summary of OBP surveys. Other hollow-nesting species detected on surveys are also included. (note that given close proximity of observers to each other, same hollow-nesting birds likely to have been recorded by each observer).

Date	Easting	Northing	Start	End	OBPs	Sea Eagles	Observer	Area	Notes
29/12/04	379374	5248946	14:30	16:30	nil	nil	JS	EC1	
29/12/04	379382	5248783	14:30	16:30	nil	nil	AS	EC1	
29/12/04	379390	5248597	14:30	16:30	nil	nil	MA	EC1	
30/12/04	379261	5250885	0900	1100	nil	nil	JS	Voyager 19	fine, sunny, light wind
30/12/04	379118	5251024	0900	1100	nil	nil	MA	Voyager 19	
30/12/04	379070	5251518	1130	1330	nil	nil	JS	Voyager 19	wind picked up
30/12/04	379590	5251528	1640	1840	nil	nil	JS	Voyager 19	
30/12/04	379927	5250243	1915	2015	nil	nil	JS	Voyager 19	
30/12/04	379135	5250760	0900	1100	nil	nil	AS	Voyager 19	
30/12/04	379143	5251843	1130	1330	nil	nil	AS	Voyager 19	
30/12/04	379324	5252088	1400	1600	nil	nil	AS	Voyager 19	
30/12/04	379809	5250937	1645	1845	nil	1	AS	Voyager 19	Sea-Eagle flew low over Wart Hill from the west and watched for several kms., Green Rosella 5
30/12/04	379937	5250439	1915	2045	nil	nil	AS	Voyager 19	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo 1, Green Rosella 2, Tree Martin 1
30/12/04	379275	5251525	1130	1330	nil	nil	MA	Voyager 19	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
30/12/04	379614	5251812	1400	1600	nil	nil	MA	Voyager 19	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Green Rosella
30/12/04	379694	5251284	1645	1845	nil	nil	MA	Voyager 19	Green Rosella
30/12/04	379865	5250628	1910	2040	nil	nil	MA	Voyager 19	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
31/12/04	384232	5241196	1415	1515	nil	nil	JS	Voyager 8	fine, sunny, light wind
31/12/04	383904	5242393	1553	1653	nil	nil	JS	Voyager 8	Tree Martin
31/12/04	383975	5242265	1700	1800	nil	nil	JS	Voyager 8	Common Starling x 1, Tree Martin x 3, Green Rosella x 1
31/12/04	384011	5241377	1415	1515	nil	nil	AS	Voyager 8	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo 1
31/12/04	383868	5242128	1545	1645	nil	nil	AS	Voyager 8	Common Starling 1, Tree Martin 3
31/12/04	383764	5241960	1650	1750	nil	nil	AS	Voyager 8	
31/12/04	378633	5246990	0815	1015	nil	nil	MA	Voyager 30	
31/12/04	378400	5246715	1030	1230	nil	nil	MA	Voyager 30	
31/12/04	378224	5246543	1240	1440	nil	nil	MA	Voyager 30	Common Starling

31/12/04	377895	5246405	1505	1705	nil	nil	MA	Voyager 30	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
31/12/04	377615	5246489	1730	1930	nil	nil	MA	Voyager 30	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
2/01/05	378720	5250008	0940	1140	nil	nil	MA	Voyager 29	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
2/01/05	378851	5249746	1215	1315	nil	nil	MA	Voyager 29	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
2/01/05	378981	5250545	0945	1145	nil	nil	AS	Voyager 29	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo 1
2/01/05	378903	5249502	1215	1315	nil	nil	AS	Voyager 29	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo 1, Green Rosella 1
2/01/05	378820	5250311	0945	1145	nil	nil	JS	Voyager 29	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo 1, Green Rosella 1
2/01/05	378880	5249250	1220	1320	nil	nil	JS	Voyager 29	

**Table 2.** Summary of White-bellied Sea Eagle surveys and observations at the Lewis River.

Date	Easting	Northing	Start	End	OBPs	Sea Eagles	Observer	Area	Notes
1/01/05	378009	5243668	1300	1500	nil		JS	Lewis R	
1/01/05			1529			1	all	Lewis R	flying up coast from Lewis R mouth. Probably same bird as observed at 1315 (see below)
1/01/05	378088	5243668	1200			1	all	Lewis R	circles up from near river and climbed heading east
1/01/05	378213	5243735	1300	1500	nil	nil	MA	Lewis R	
1/01/05	377527	5243549	1315	1515	nil	1	AS	Lewis R	Adult flew southwards and appeared to go down on the rocks at the mouth of the Lewis R

**Table 3.** List of all species recorded during surveys and within the Wart Hill area.

Species	Species recorded OBP surveys	Species recorded Eagle surveys	Full list
Great Cormorant		+	+
Short-tailed Shearwater			+
Australasian Gannet			+
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	+	+	+
Swamp Harrier			+
Brown Falcon	+		+
Latham's Snipe	(+) close		+
Pied Oystercatcher			+
Sooty Oystercatcher			+
Kelp Gull			+
Pacific Gull			+
Silver Gull			+
Brush Bronzewing		+	+
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	+	+	+
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	+		+
Green Rosella	+		+
Ground Parrot	(+) close		+
Southern Boobook			+
White-throated Needletail	+		+
Southern Emu-wren	+		+
Tasmanian Scrubwren	+	+	+
Striated Fieldwren	+	+	+
Tasmanian Thornbill	+	+	+
Yellow-throated Honeyeater	+	+	+
Strong-billed Honeyeater	+		+
Crescent Honeyeater	+	+	+
New Holland Honeyeater	+	+	+
Eastern Spinebill	+	+	+
Dusky Robin			+
Golden Whistler	+		+
Olive Whistler	+		+
Grey Shrike-thrush	+	+	+
Grey Fantail	+	+	+
Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike	+		+
Black Currawong	+	+	+
Forest Raven	+	+	+
Richard's Pipit			+
Beautiful Firetail	+		+
Welcome Swallow	+	+	+
Tree Martin	+		+
Silvereye		+	+
Common Starling	+		+

*A Survey for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage*

at

Wart Hill  
South West Conservation Area  
for

**TasGold Ltd**  
2/308 Carella Street  
Tranmere



by

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22 December, 2004

## Section 1 INTRODUCTION

TasGold is about to undertake a new exploration program in the Wart Hill area, and prior to mobilisation are required to arrange a number of surveys, including an Aboriginal Heritage survey. The company intends to walk a drilling machine from the landing site at Lewis River to Wart Hill (as noted below). **This survey, therefore does not allow for any works other than walking the machine from the landing site to Wart Hill.** The purpose of the survey was to record any Aboriginal sites found, conserve such sites and make management recommendations for them.

Wart Hill is located within the Southwest Conservation Area. The Aboriginal Heritage Survey is to include the landing site at the Lewis River, the route of the proposed track to join the Sassy Creek track, the Sassy Creek track from the coast inland and the Copper Creek track from the coast inland to the Wart Hill Camp (see attached map).

The Survey was carried out for TasGold Ltd on the 14-15 December 2004 by the writer, Rocky Sainty, with assistance from Aboriginal Heritage Consultant, Steve Gall. Mr. John McDougall, Geologist with TasGold also assisted with the survey.

Consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council and the Aboriginal Heritage Office of the Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts was undertaken before and after the survey was completed. It is important to inform and consult with the Aboriginal community on all matters concerning Aboriginal cultural heritage. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council has established policies, protocols and procedures with various government and other parties in terms of ensuring that the Aboriginal community's cultural heritage interests are maintained and protected. All Aboriginal sites are significant to the Aboriginal community.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Site Index at the Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts was inspected in order to determine if any Aboriginal sites had previously been recorded in the study area. This research also assists in developing an understanding of the nature of any sites in the general area, and also allows a review of any previous studies in the area of field survey. The inspection of the TASI revealed that there have been no sites recorded within the study areas. There have however been two sites previously recorded, but are well away from the study area.

TASI 0140

TASI 5129

Both are shell middens and are located on the coast between the Lewis River Landing and the Copper Creek Track.

## Section 2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Southwest Conservation Area is a remote area and is not readily accessible to the general public. The area is rich in Aboriginal cultural heritage, European historic heritage, landforms, and has diverse plant and animal life. It adjoins the World Heritage Area, and is a very important area to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

Prior to colonisation, Aborigines occupied this country for thousands of years, and the whole of the area within what is now known as the Southwest Conservation Area is an Aboriginal landscape. The Aborigines of the area travelled regularly to places along the coastline, and inland, hunting and gathering as they needed. Swans, ducks, mutton birds and their eggs and other water birds were much sought after, as well as an abundance of wallabies and native plant species.

The vegetation within the study area consists of button grass plains and sections of coastal scrub. The button grass plains are a direct result of Aborigines' knowledge of land management practices and Aboriginal burning patterns.

### Section 3      FIELD METHODS

The writer and Steve Gall inspected the study area on foot, in transects approximately 2-3 metres apart, in the presence of John McDougall. Ground visibility was very poor due to knee-high coastal scrub, button grass and other native vegetation.

### Section 4      RESULTS

No Aboriginal sites were found within the study area.

### Section 5      DISCUSSION

In an area such as this on the coast, with a constant supply of fresh running water close by, and an abundance of natural resources there is always the possibility of Aboriginal sites being found. The fact that sites have previously been recorded along the southwest coastline is testament to this. A number of Aboriginal placenames have also been recorded for country within this area, and there is also a well documented history of Aboriginal occupation. It is also possible that the native vegetation may be protecting Aboriginal sites.

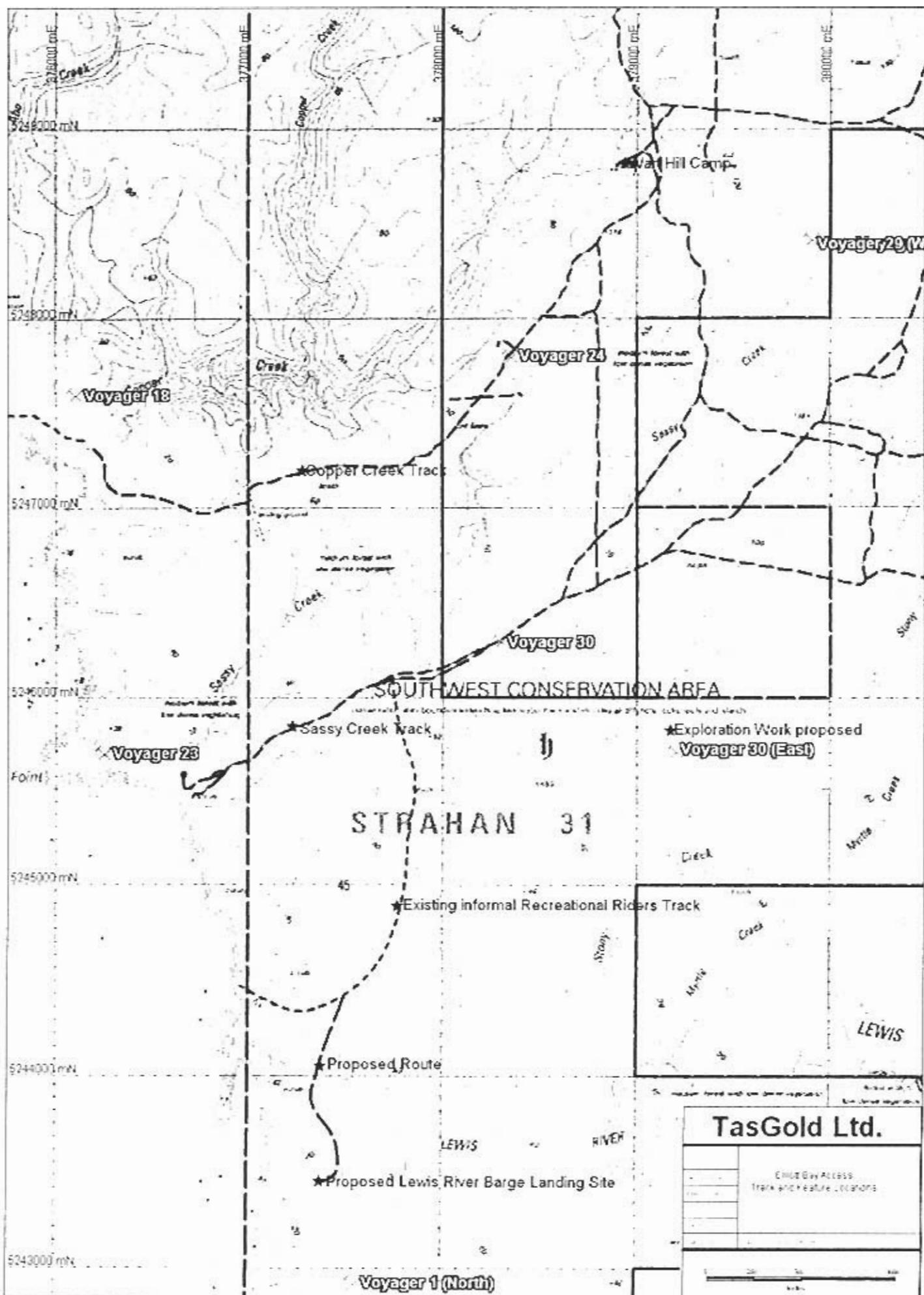
### Section 6      RECOMMENDATIONS

As discussed previously, this area had a large Aboriginal occupation prior to European colonisation. That no Aboriginal sites were found within the study area is not to say they are not present, particularly given the poor ground visibility. However, as no Aboriginal sites were found within the study area there is no objection to the drilling machine being walked along the route specified as the study area. The writer notes again, that the survey does not allow for any works other than walking the machine from the landing site to Wart Hill. If any Aboriginal sites are located once mobilisation begins, then it must cease, and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council and the Aboriginal Heritage Office should be contacted immediately.

As contained under Section 14 (1) of the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975*:

“Except as otherwise provided in this Act, No person shall, otherwise than in accordance with the terms of a permit granted by the Minister on the recommendation of the Director -

(a) destroy, damage, deface, conceal or otherwise interfere with a relic.”



## ***Appendix 2: Digital Data***

List of appended digital data files:-

EL211999\_200501\_01\_Report

EL211999\_200501\_02\_Environmental\_Surveys