

A Survey for Aboriginal Heritage

in the

Gladstone area

for

**McPherson Duncan & Associates &
Van Dieman Mines Pty Ltd (VDM)**



by

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Section 1 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a Survey for Aboriginal Heritage with regard to two mining lease applications – **Endurance Area** and **Scotia Area** (see attached map). These locations are near Gladstone and South Mt Cameron in north eastern Tasmania. The purpose of the survey was to identify and note any previously recorded Aboriginal sites within the lease.

The survey was carried out at the request of McPherson Duncan & Associates Mineral Exploration Consultants for Van Dieman Mines Pty Ltd by The writer, Rocky Sainty between 2nd – 5th June, 2005.

Consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and the Aboriginal Heritage Office of the Department of Parks, Tourism, Heritage and the Arts was undertaken. 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 agencies 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.

Section 2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Endurance Area

This section of Crown Land is 8km south of Gladstone near South Mt Cameron. The area is just under 400ha in an old alluvial tin mine now composed of lakes and tailings and former treatment areas. There has been rehabilitation works carried out within the past few years. The focus of this survey is on the area of the proposed open cut across the grassy plain near the western end of Blue Lake and on the treatment plant site (as marked on the chart). The local community use the lake and tailings area for recreational purposes.

Scotia Area

This section of Crown Land is approximately 3km north of Gladstone and is accessed from the Cape Portland Road. It has an area of over 600ha. This area has previously been disturbed by open cut alluvial tin mining practices from the early 1900s and more recent prospecting activities. The old Mt Cameron water race runs EW across this area. At present the land is subject to leasing and grazing by Rushy Lagoon Station.

Prior to European occupation this area and its surrounds was used regularly by Aborigines. A number of Aboriginal placenames have been recorded for country around this area, and some language names have been revived in recent years by the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

The people of this area consisted of small clans or family groups, who frequented specific sites within the surrounding country and nearby islands for food harvesting, camping, trade and ceremonial purposes. The Tasmanian Aboriginal community have a continued physical and spiritual connection with this area. Numerous Aboriginal sites have been recorded throughout the area, and unfortunately as many have been destroyed by European farming and other land use practices.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Site Index at the Aboriginal Heritage Office of the Department of Parks, Tourism, Heritage and the Arts was inspected in order to

determine if any Aboriginal sites had previously been recorded within the survey areas or surrounding areas. 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 previously recorded within either of the survey areas. However there are many sites recorded throughout the north east.

Section 3 FIELD METHODS

The writer walked sections of both survey areas in transects approximately 1-3 metres apart where possible.

Ground visibility within the Endurance area was fair with a section of thick button grass. Sections of the Scotia area contained thick Melaleuca scrub and were almost impenetrable. As a result of previous open cut mining practices sink holes were also another obstacle to overcome and avoid. The writer 'skirted' around these areas.

Section 5 DISCUSSION

Given the Aboriginal occupation of this area prior to European invasion there is always the possibility of Aboriginal sites being found. The Aboriginal community will always have concerns when works of any kind are to be undertaken within close proximity to waterways and cultural resources, particularly given the historical significance of these places to our community, both past and present, and the continued connection the Aboriginal community still has with these areas. All Aboriginal sites are significant to the Aboriginal community, and the whole of the north east of Tasmania is highly significant as it is our homeland. Any kind of development, whether it be mining activity or agricultural practices are a threat to the Aboriginal landscape of our country and the integrity of cultural resources and heritage.

Section 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The writer notes that this survey should not be considered as consultation with the Aboriginal community. Because this area is rich in Aboriginal history and the number of previously recorded sites throughout the surrounding areas of the mining leases it is recommended that -

- An Aboriginal Heritage Consultant is employed to monitor the construction of roads buildings and the proposed Newhaven Creek Dam in the Scotia area.

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.”

Section 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Briefing of 6th May 2005 – McPherson Duncan & Associates



Photo showing a section of the Endurance Mining lease site taken by Rocky Sainty in June 2005



Photograph of a section of the Scotia Mining lease with Gladstone in background, taken by Rocky Sainty in June 2005

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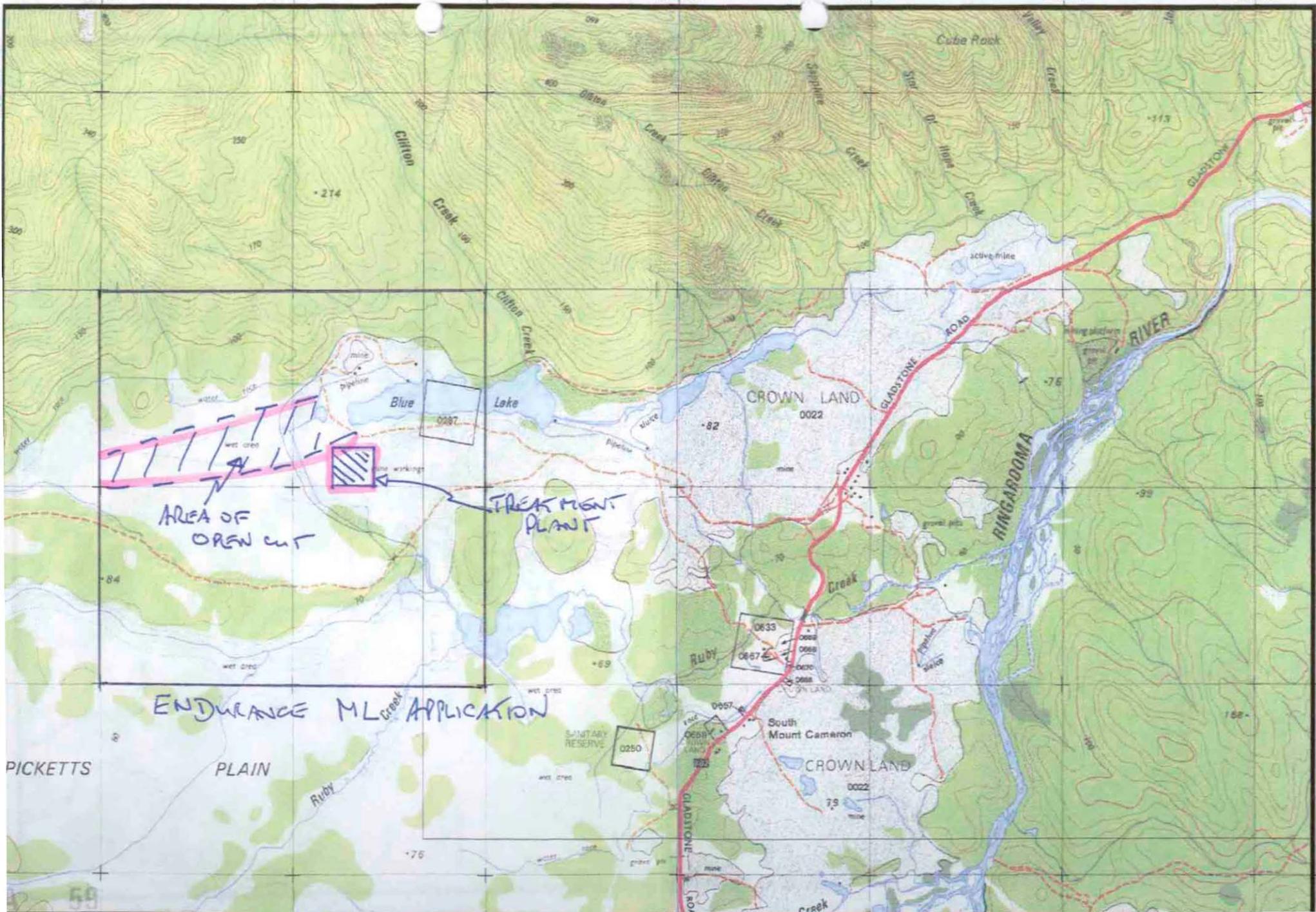
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