

HISTORY OF EXPLORATION

The recently completed program represents the first uranium exploration venture in the exploration licence area.

At the time of the mid-1950's uranium exploration "boom" throughout Australia, associated with the discovery of the Mary Kathleen deposit in N.W. Queensland, prospecting activities resulted in the discovery of several minor uranium occurrences in the Avoca district about 20 miles ENE of Conara Junction. Near Rossarden, 10 miles N of Avoca, two small uraniferous veins in altered granite were discovered. One of these, Chwalczyks Prospect, was tested by means of three diamond drill holes and a short adit which revealed a 9 inch quartz-sericite vein bearing minor pitchblende, iron sulphides and secondary uranium products in sheared altered granite. This and another small occurrence, Hughes Prospect, one mile south of the former, showed no apparent continuity or hope of economic mineralization.

Anomalous radiation was discovered in basal Permian black shales overlying granite in Castle Carey Creek, six miles north of Avoca, this being tested by shallow trenching. The source of the anomaly was ascribed to a thucolitic hydrocarbon (Blisset, 1959).

Torbernite was discovered in a cassiterite bearing greisen at Royal George, 10 miles ESE of Avoca at this period, but considered to be of academic interest only.

Airborne scintillometer surveys were conducted over the Ben Lomond granite in the Avoca district in 1956, by the Bureau of Mineral Resources. This showed the granite to be markedly radioactive, as a whole >3 x background for regional area (B.M.R. 1956).

The Launceston Basin's possible potential as a sedimentary uranium environment was brought to the attention of Getty Oil Development Company Limited by Tenneco Australia, Inc. in 1971, this leading to the recently completed exploration program.