

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Comalco Limited is investigating a fluorite prospect on their leases at Moina in Northern Tasmania. A preliminary drilling programme has indicated substantial tonnages of low-grade fluorite mineralisation with magnetite, garnet and silica as the major gangue minerals. Minor quantities of scheelite and cassiterite are present.

Preliminary mineralogical examination has shown that grinding to at least 30  $\mu\text{m}$  is required to effect substantial liberation of the fluorite.

Exploratory leaching tests, described in Amdel Report CM2873/76, indicated that chemical extraction of the fluorine was feasible but magnetite would need to be largely eliminated before leaching as this mineral consumed the leaching agent.

A Project Proposal (5/0/2862) was submitted to Comalco Limited for an investigation including physical beneficiation, chemical extraction of fluorine and a brief economic evaluation of the chemical process. The company elected to undertake an initial investigation restricted to physical beneficiation.

On the basis of preliminary beneficiation data, the Client assessed that processing of the Moina ore was not economically feasible and the investigation was terminated before the planned programme had been completed.