

passes north of the area, connecting Melba Flats, Renison and Rosebery with Burnie. Cheap hydro-electric power will become available from 1981 when the first of the new power stations (MacKintosh) starts up. A large dam with power station will be constructed on the Pieman River by 1985 (Lower Pieman) only 10 km west of the area.

If an economically viable prospect is discovered, a new township with the necessary facilities would probably be required. A major problem encountered by all West Coast mining companies is the high labour turnover brought about by the cold wet climate and inadequate facilities. The average annual rainfall in the area (as measured at Rosebery) is 2000mm. It is probable however, that the existing township at Zeehan could be used since the Tasmanian Government is opposed to mining companies setting up new townships.

2.4. Objectives

The main objectives of the prospecting programme at GAP were:

- a) To establish if a Renison type of orebody (tin in massive sulphides) exists in the prospect.
- b) To establish if any other type of orebody exists in the area.
- c) To define prospective areas and potential targets where detailed follow up work, including drilling, might be carried out.

3. PREVIOUS WORK

3.1. History of Exploration in the Region

1890 (May): Gossans on Renison Bell Hill and across the Argent River were pegged by George Renison Bell who believed them to reflect silver-lead mineralisation. The Renison Bell Prospecting and Mining Company (N.L.) was registered.

1890 (June): Alluvial cassiterite was discovered in the Ring River by Ringrose Nicholson, who pegged a lease which straddled the Ring River, adjacent to the junction with Dalcoath Creek.