

5. EXPLORATION

5.1 Previous Exploration

Previous exploration for oil shale by AAR Limited and brown coal by CSR Limited within EL 20/80 Launceston is discussed in Osborne (1981), and Ellis (1982) respectively.

During 1981 AAR Limited conducted an exploration programme to investigate the occurrence of oil shale, primarily in the Carrick-Longford area. Their investigations showed that thin oil shales are present in the Tertiary sequence in the Carrick area and reach a maximum thickness of 10 metres, yielding 49 litres/tonne at zero moisture. AAR Limited intersected ligneous facies including brown coal of significant thicknesses in the Rosevale-Westwood area.

A follow up exploration programme was conducted by CSR Limited, in conjunction with AAR Limited, in late 1981, to delineate the extent of brown coal and oil shale occurrences in the Rosevale-Westwood and Carrick-Longford areas.

5.2 Exploration during the Three Month Period

5.2.1 Summary

Exploration during the three month period included the March-April 1982 drilling programme. The results of this programme are currently being assessed. Twelve piezometers were installed by CSR Limited at seven drill sites. These piezometers will be monitored for a twelve month period by the Tasmanian Department of Mines hydrology staff.

Literature research at the Tasmanian Department of Mines and a follow up regional field mapping programme were undertaken during May, 1982.

The results of the October-December, 1981, exploration programme were assessed. This involved the depth correction of lithological logs using geophysical logs, and placing all drill hole data on the CSR computer based coalbor system. Detailed english and graphic logs of these drill holes have been obtained and are included under a separate cover in Appendices 3 and 4 respectively.

5.2.2 Exploratory Drilling during the Three Month Period

The drilling was undertaken by Deadline Drilling Pty. Ltd., of Brisbane, using a Mayhew 1,000 truck-mounted rig during the period 24th March to 22nd April, 1982. A total of 39 holes were drilled. Rotary chip drilling of 34 holes involved 2,525 metres of drilling with a further five 100mm (KMLC) partially cored holes which involved 115 metres of core and 33 metres of rotary chip drilling.