

4. PREVIOUS EXPLORATION

4.1 Pre CSR Limited

Intense prospecting of the area covered by E.L. 15/76 occurred after the discovery of galena at the Silver Queen Mine in 1887. This led to the discovery of the Dundas field (galena) in 1889, the Mariposa field (silver/lead/zinc) in 1890, the Northeast Dundas/Montezuma field (complex sulphides) in 1891, the Cuni field (copper/nickel and zinc/lead) in 1893 and the Razorback area (tin) in 1909. These fields have been intermittently mined on a small scale (Ellis, 1982).

Since the 1950's a total of 22 exploration licences (including SPL's) have been held over portions of E.L. 15/76 by major exploration companies. Many prospectors and small companies have also held leases within the boundaries of E.L. 15/76. Several government departments (BMR and Tas. Dept. of Mines) have also conducted research projects on areas of known mineralisation within E.L. 15/76 (DRG No. K555-32).

These investigations included regional airborne magnetic and E.M. by Rio Tinto, airborne Af mag. by Comstaff, stream sediment (Cu, Pb, Zn, Sn) by McIntyre, airborne Turam EM by North Broken Hill and airborne Turain EM and magnetics by Geophoto. The remaining investigations were ground studies of anomalies and known mineralisation mainly in the old mining fields. Techniques used included I.P., gravity, magnetics, S.P., E.M., Turam E.M., Gun E.M., VLF-EM, stream and heavy mineral geochemistry, deep and shallow soil geochemistry and diamond drilling. Overall results were disappointing with only minor mineralisation being found. All previous mining and exploration activity within E.L. 15/76 has been summarised by Ellis (1982).

4.2 CSR Limited

Initial work by CSR Limited in 1977-79 was a wide spaced drainage sampling programme for Cu, Pb, Zn, Sn, Bi,