

17. HENTY-YOLANDE (F.G. FitzGerald)17.1 INTRODUCTION

The Henty-Yolande area is outlined on Fig. 2 . It forms a distinct geological entity lying to the west of the Mt. Read Volcanics, comprising volcanics and synchronous sediments deposited in the Cambrian Dundas Trough, and later Siluro-Devonian sediments (sandstones, siltstones and pyritic black shales) of the Eldon Group.

There are several small old workings for gold and barite in this area, but no records of any production. Previous exploration in this area was carried out by RTAE, Cyprus Mines, and Pickands Mather. Mt. Lyell has held the ground since 1971. Generally, the programmes have been of a reconnaissance nature without significant results.

The Mines Dept. investigated the Madam Howard Plains barite deposit and drilled three holes there in 1963. They concluded that the tonnage potential was too small to warrant further work. In 1971 Cyprus Mines cut a 23 line km grid over Eldon Group sediments around the airport, to follow up weak Cu/Pb anomalies obtained in a stream sediment survey. Mapping, soil sampling and partial coverage by magnetics, EM and IP, lead to the drilling of one hole to check a Cu/Pb soil anomaly. Results were poor- the Cu/Pb was attributed to mine dump material used to build the airstrip.

Mt. Lyell's work has comprised reconnaissance stream sediment sampling, a 344 line km Dighem Survey and mapping. Although the drainage sampling was not completed, the discouraging results confirmed the low economic potential recognized during the mapping in 1971. The Dighem survey recorded one weak genuine response - over the Eldon Group pyritic black shales. Apart from investigations of old workings, Mt. Lyell's only detailed work has been over the 6.5 line km Madam