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SUMMARY

Computer modelling of the Loatta brown coal deposit was finalised during the reporting period, and reserves recalculated. Indicated reserves to 60m depth in the B, D, and F coal intervals have been increased to 72Mt, 90% of which is contained within the persistent D seam group. Total indicated reserves of the Rosevale Coalfield now stand at 134Mt, compared with 118Mt reported previously. However, structural reinterpretation of Loatta confirms the presence of a series of north and north-east trending faults with vertical displacements ranging up to 70m. Consequently, revision of the original mining plan will be required.

A review of prospective Triassic black coal areas within EL 20/80 confirmed that only the Hummocky Hills block, north-west of Conara Junction, had sufficient exploration potential to warrant further investigation. Four percussion holes, to an aggregate depth of 200.1m, were subsequently drilled in an area of outcropping Triassic sediments flanking the Hummocky Hills dolerite sill. No coal was intersected, each drillhole passing through thin contact metamorphosed "coal measures" before intersecting a major dolerite body. No additional work is planned for the area.

Assessment of coal market opportunities in Tasmania over the next 15 years suggests that there is very limited scope for development of the Rosevale Coalfield other than as a supplier to an on-site thermal power station. In view of Rosevale's exclusion from the present HEC coal supply competition, future work on Rosevale will be limited to maintenance of the currency of mining studies and the geological data base pending improved market outlook.