

4.4 Future Activity

During 1983 very substantial expenditure was incurred on the Rosevale Coalfield readying the project for consideration as a potential fuel source for an on-site 400MW thermal power

station, planned for commissioning by the HEC in the very early 1990's. Rosevale was subsequently excluded from the competition on non-technical grounds. Consequently CSR then examined the black coal potential of EL 20/80, on the understanding that the HEC was inclining towards a black coal fired station somewhere in the vicinity of Conara Junction. Four exploration holes were drilled in the most prospective area of outcropping Triassic "coal measures", flanking the Hummocky Hills, west of Epping Forest. No coal was intersected.

A review of possible new industrial coal markets in Tasmania to the turn of the century indicates that growth in demand is unlikely to exceed 200,000 tpa local black coal equivalent. Therefore, in the short to medium term opportunities to develop Rosevale at a reasonable threshold production level to serve the non-power markets are likely to be negligible.

Bearing in mind the present state of advancement of Rosevale, and the market difficulties it faces over the next decade, further field activity, other than ongoing tasks such as base level environmental monitoring, is difficult to justify. Thus, future work will be restricted to maintaining the currency of mining studies so that the project remains in a state of readiness pending an improvement in the market situation. For the remaining portion of EL 20/80, options, including relinquishment, will be reviewed over the next reporting period.