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E. L. 26/89

90-3141

WELDBOROUGH, TASMANIA

MINES	
File Ref.	<u>E.L. 26/89</u>
15 JUN 1990	
Doc. Ref.	
Action Officer	Initials
<u>Refer to</u>	
F0410	41
Resubmit to	Date

OPEN FILE

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16 FEBRUARY, 1990

MICROFILMED

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GEOGRAPHY:

E.L. 26/89 is located in N.E. Tasmania to the immediate N.E. of the small settlement of Weldborough.

The Tasman Highway from Launceston to St. Helens passes adjacent to the property and four-wheel drive roads access the area from this highway. Driving times from St. Helens and Launceston are approximately 1 and 1.5 hours respectively.

The Licence area covers a series of heavily timbered hills, generally 1000m. A.S.L., classified as State Forest. Rainfall is approximately 2000mm. p.a., and snow and blizzards are common in winter. Several major rivers drain the area.

A major regional electricity feeder parallels the Tasman Highway, and depending on the route chosen, would be anything from 3-6 kms. from the main prospective areas.

The nearest major population centres are St. Helens (40 Kms.) and Scottsdale (50 Kms.), although there are several closer smaller settlements and farming districts.

If a mining operation were to eventuate on the Licence area, infrastructure costs viz. the supply of access roads, power, phone and water would be about double those at Anchor, which still represents a relatively reasonable cost.

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GEOLOGY:

Geologically the area is very similar to the Anchor. It is underlain by two granitic rock types, viz. an older coarse grained tin barren granite and a younger finer grained tin bearing granite. Tin mineralisation tends to accumulate either along major steep dipping structural zones, or in the fine grained granite close to its contact with the overlying coarse grained granite.

Two areas of former mine workings are considered to have the highest tin deposit prospectivity viz. Cream Creek and the F-B Lode.

At Cream Creek, previous mining exposed low grade disseminated cassiterite mineralisation within an altered fine grained granite immediately beneath a gently West dipping coarse grained granite. Geologically therefore, it is very similar to Anchor. Abundant greisen veining on the surface within coarse granite indicates the presence of concealed stanniferous greisen to the East of the existing workings.

The F-B Lode is a long (300-400m.), narrow (2-4m.), steeply dipping greisenised structural zone containing cassiterite and chalcopyrite. It either lies within or adjacent to the regional Crystal Creek Lineament which passes to the immediate S.W. of the Anchor deposit. The F-B lode occurs entirely within granite and shows no preferential development within either coarse or fine grained varieties.

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PREVIOUS WORK:

Tin mining probably commenced in the Licence area in the 1880's and by the early 1900's, mines were well established at both Cream Creek and the F-B, and two small mills had been constructed. Cream Creek was worked as a series of small opencuts and in 1905 these were extensively sampled by the Mt. Lyell Mining and Railway Co. Ltd., who also drilled several core holes searching for extensions of the known lodes. The results of their work indicated the presence of only low grade material.

Geophoto and Aberfoyle completed minor exploration programs in the 1970's and 1980's and in 1985, RGC reviewed all previous data in detail. They concluded that an untested area S.E. of the Cream Creek workings had high potential for the development of shallowly concealed tin bearing greisen bodies. This potential was recommended for drill testing.

The F-B Lode was worked by a long narrow open-cut and minor adits. Unlike most other lodes on the Blue Tier, it contained both tin and copper in approximately equal proportions with grades generally in the 0.3-0.4% range. In 1905, the Mt. Lyell company completed two cored drill holes into the lode and intersected a zone 3.5m. wide averaging approximately 0.3% tin. In 1942-43, the Mine's Department completed 9 cored holes to a maximum vertical depth of 60m., with mixed results.

In 1982, RGC thoroughly reviewed the data and concluded that the F-B Lode indicated a mineralised zone averaging 2.5m. wide and up to 600m. long, with an ore potential of 3600 tonnes per vertical metre at grades of about 0.3 tin and 0.3 copper.

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COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL:

Existing data suggest that Cream Creek has potential for the discovery of tin bearing greisen zones of a similar nature to those of Anchor. This potential is untested and would require significant core drilling programs to test. Any mineralisation so found would be of a similar treatment type to that of Anchor.

Existing drilling at *F-Block* indicates a long narrow mineralised zone which would have to be worked from underground. With a potential of 3600 tonnes per vertical metre and an in-situ ore value of approximately \$85 per tonne, this deposit would have an in-situ production capacity of \$100,000 per vertical metre, which is quite low. The ore is sulfidic and would require either a mill of its own or a modification to the Anchor Mill.

The Licence area is reasonably well located and infrastructure costs would be relatively low. If ore was to be hauled to Anchor, it could be taken the long way via the Highway or the short way via a 12 Km. route which would require a significant amount of road building. Either transport route would be expensive.

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