

though it might be a good area, but I had only looked at it in a broad preliminary way.

Mr Hargreave's first reaction was –

"Thank goodness: Dolerite makes up one quarter of Tasmania and at last someone has thought of something we can do with the stuff".

After further discussions with Departmental officers it was arranged that I should apply for an Exploration License over dolerite areas at Bell Bay chosen from the standard geological map without further inspection.

3. I emphasised that as a retired senior geologist who had been on a salary all his life I had a maximum of \$120,000 to spend on the project, with that amount being a "serious risk", and that situation was fully accepted because I was an experienced senior geologist who had "invented" a project that could be of great value to Tasmania, and I would be doing work in lieu of expenditure. It was recognised and accepted that the work would be quite different from exploration for metallic minerals.

The license was received in October 1990 and work was begun.

4. **The Relinquished Area**

The EL area boundaries had been chosen on a draughting table solely from published geological maps, and neither I nor anyone in the Department at that time had detailed knowledge of the area. To put it briefly, subsequent work showed that half of the area in the lease was useless for a major quarry, and that is the area that is now relinquished.

Some of the area was in reserves, for example the Four Mile Wildlife Reserve and the Mount George and Mount Direction reserves. Much of it subsequently (and I emphasise subsequently) was proposed as a Recommended Area for Protection of forest (a RAP). Large areas were unavailable for use because they carried roads, a railway, a water pipeline, and a high tension power line or because they were used for housing or were close to housing, or were used for wood chip berths or a golf course and so on, or were reserved for industrial developments or for skyline protection, or for the protection of views from the Tamar River.

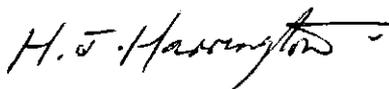
At the end of about a year of work traversing the area, mainly on foot, along the creeks, roads and ridges and getting to know local people and local situations, problems and constraints I had a good and sufficient knowledge to recognise that there were three areas where quarrying would be allowed and which would support a quarry of the required size. I had done what I had undertaken to do, and found areas suitable for major quarries. The areas were shown later on maps in the end pocket of a Business Plan. Those areas have been retained in my new application, with some portions being included merely to obtain continuity of areas and thereby simplify administration. The areas that have been

relinquished do not contain in my opinion a major resource that could be used, except possibly a "lesser" resource, the Tamar Black Granite.

Tamar "Black Granite"

Various people have told me that monumental stone masons had been searching for years for a rock that had been marketed early in this century as "Tamar Black Granite". It had not been found and was wanted again because the Japanese would use it in large quantities. They are not allowed to bury their dead, but put up fields of closely-spaced memorial tombstones.

I found a rock fitting the descriptions on the shore of the Tamar River near to the mouth of Williams Creek and along the strike of the dolerite from there. It was reported in a Quarterly Report although by that time the area, which is part of the Four Mile Wildlife Reserve had been removed from EL 10/90. It could be worked easily but the area is part of an area ear-marked for both industrial sites and for a wildlife reserve, with the Williams Creek Gorge being an area of special botanical interest and reports. The rock is really a gabbro towards the top of the dolerite sill of the Tippogoree Hills. All known occurrences are outside EL 10/90 but some of them could provide sites for a monumental stone quarry (which is not of interest to me, although it would be to others). The original "black granite" site could be on the shore at George Town, and is no longer workable because of adjacent housing.



**H.J. HARRINGTON
MANAGER**