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Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited
ACN 000 057 125

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**Second Annual Report
For The Period Ending 24 January 1997
EL 56/94 Mackintosh River, Tasmania**

OPEN FILE

Author: T. von Strokirch

Date: July 1997

Licence Holder: Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited

Submitted to: Chief Geologist, South East District

Copies to: Mineral Resources Tasmania
Rio Tinto Exploration, Melbourne (2)

Submitted by:

Accepted by:

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97-4033

ANNUAL REPORT - EL 56/94
P/E JAN. - RIO TINTO EXPL.
T VON STROKIRCH

Little work was completed over the EL during the reporting period.

Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited has concluded that the Ordovician carbonates of western Tasmania are not a priority target for zinc.

Hence if no further encouragement is found the tenements should be disposed of by farm out or sale.

There exists some potential for fine gold in the Ordovician sandstones and carbonates and this should be investigated first.

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Abstract

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Plan No.	Title	Scale
Tv 1125	Mackintosh River EL 56/94 Location Plan	1:100,000

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2. **Introduction**

The Mackintosh River EL 56/94 was granted to Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited on 24th February 1995. The licence covers 165 sq km and is located 50km south of Burnie in the Lake Mackintosh/Lake Lea area (Plan Tv 1125).

Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited acquired the Mackintosh River licence to explore for economic, Irish-style zinc mineralisation in the Ordovician Gordon Group carbonates. Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited's preceding exploration of the Gordon Group carbonates in the Zeehan area has resulted in several very encouraging zinc intersections. Hence other areas of poorly explored Gordon Group carbonates with potential to host economic Irish-style zinc mineralisation were acquired. The proximity of the Hellyer VHMS ore-body to the Mackintosh River licence area indicates ore-forming processes have been active in the area, at least during the Middle Cambrian.

Exploration of the Mackintosh River EL 56/94 is currently suspended whilst Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited seeks a joint venture partner to share exploration costs.

This report details all exploration activities conducted within Mackintosh River EL 56/94 by Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited during the first permit year ending 24 January, 1997.

3. Review of Previous Work

Work by previous explorers in the licence area is reviewed in the previous annual report (CRAE Report 22223).

4. Exploration Completed In Reporting Period

Further review of open file literature downgraded the potential for Pb-Zn mineralisation within the licence.

Potential for fine grained gold in the Ordovician sediments is recognised. A review of the licence area indicated that little gold exploration had been undertaken previously, certainly no systematic work.

Regional stream sediment sampling is proposed.

No geochemical samples were assayed by Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited during the reporting period.

5. Rehabilitation

No field exploration programmes were completed during the tenure period and no rehabilitation was required.

6. Expenditure

291007

Total expenditure for the Mackintosh River exploration licence EL 56/94 for the period commencing 24 January 1996 and ending 23 January 1997 is \$34,678. The bulk of this was actually spent on work reported in the previous annual report.

7. References

291008

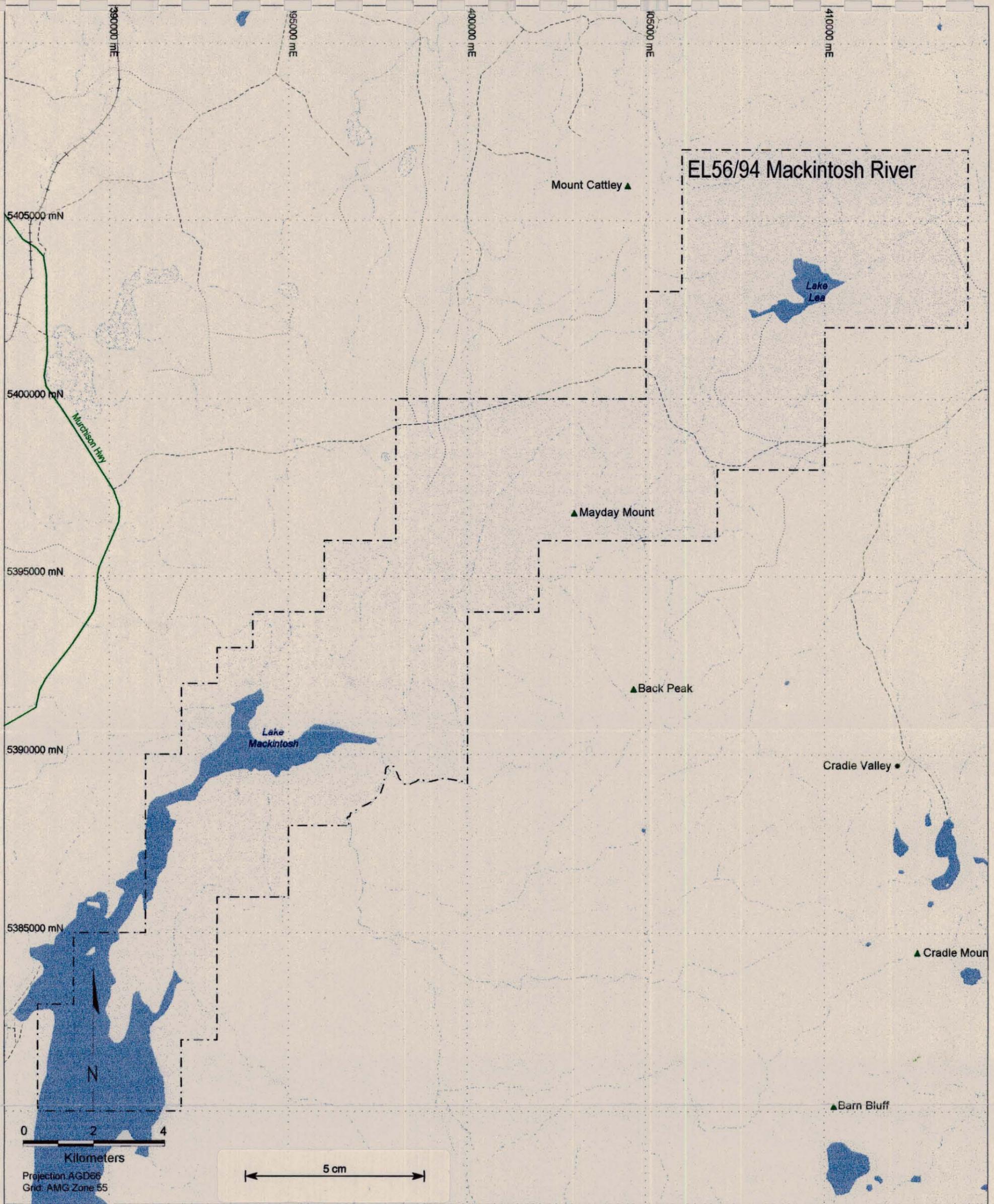
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For The Period Ending 24 January 1996
EL 56/94 Mackintosh River, Tasmania

8. Location

Burnie	SK55-3	1:250,000
Sophia	8014	1:100,000
Inglis	8015	1:100,000
Block	3838	1:25,000
Charter	3839	1:25,000
Lea	4040	1:25,000
Pencil Pine	4039	1:25,000

9. Keywords

Gold * Tasmania * Base Metals * Ordovician * Carbonate Hosted * literature review.



Location Diagram

SK55-20 NW-Tas		
Arthur River 7915	Hellyer 8015	Forth 8115
Pieman 7914	Sophia 8014	Mersey 8114
SK55-22 SW-Tas		

Mapsheet Reference

Legend

- Town
- ▲ Mountain
- - - EL Boundary
- Perennial Drainage
- - - Non-Perennial Drainage
- Highway
- Secondary Road
- Minor Road
- Track
- Railway
- Lake
- Swamp
- Urban

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EL56/94 Mackintosh River

Location Plan

291009

Author: Sandy Menpes	Reference: NW Tasmania SK55-20
Drawn: Tony Sargeant	File Name: Tv1125.wor
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