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Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited
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EL57/94
29 JUL 1997
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**Second Annual Report
For The Period Ending 24 January 1997
EL 57/94 Mole Creek West, Tasmania**

OPEN FILE

Author: T. von Strokirch

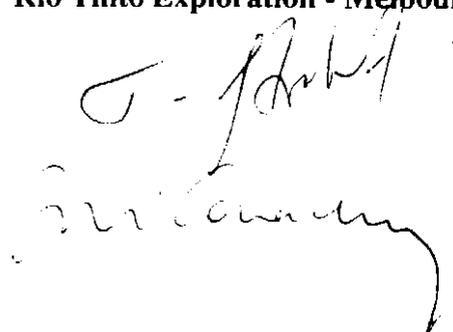
Date: July 1997

Licence Holder: Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited

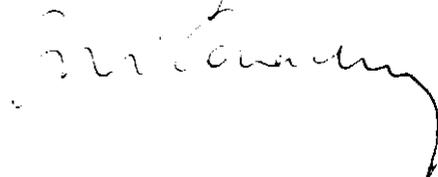
Submitted to: Chief Geologist, South East District

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

Submitted by:



Accepted by:



97-4034

ANNUAL REPORT - EL 57/94
P/E JAN. - RIO TINTO EXPL.
T VON STROKIRCH

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

Two reviews were conducted. The first, a review of zinc potential recommended focusing on the Standard Hill area.

The second review suggested that there might be some potential for fine grained gold in the Moina Sandstone and Gordon Limestone.

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Abstract

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List of Plans

Plan No.	Title	Scale
Tv 1060	EL 57/94 Mole Creek West Location Plan	1:100,000

1. Conclusions and Recommendations

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.

2. Introduction

The Mole Creek West EL 57/94 was granted to Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited on 24 February 1995. The licence covers 216 sq km (Plan Tv 1060) and lies approximately 70 km WSW of Launceston.

Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited acquired the licence area to explore for economic, Irish-style Pb-Zn 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 Pb-Zn intersections. Hence Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited expanded exploration efforts to other areas of poorly explored Gordon Group carbonates with potential to host economic Irish-style Pb-Zn mineralisation. The Mole Creek West licence area satisfies these criteria.

This report details all exploration activities conducted within EL 57/94 Mole Creek West by Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited during the first permit year ending 24 January, 1997.

Work by previous explorers in the licence area is reviewed in the previous annual report (CRAE Report 21982).

4. **Exploration Completed In Reporting Period**

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

Dr. Clive Burrett concluded that the most prospective area was that around Standard Hill. It was recommended that other parts of the licence be relinquished.

No ground was relinquished as potential for fine grained gold in the Ordovician sediments was 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.

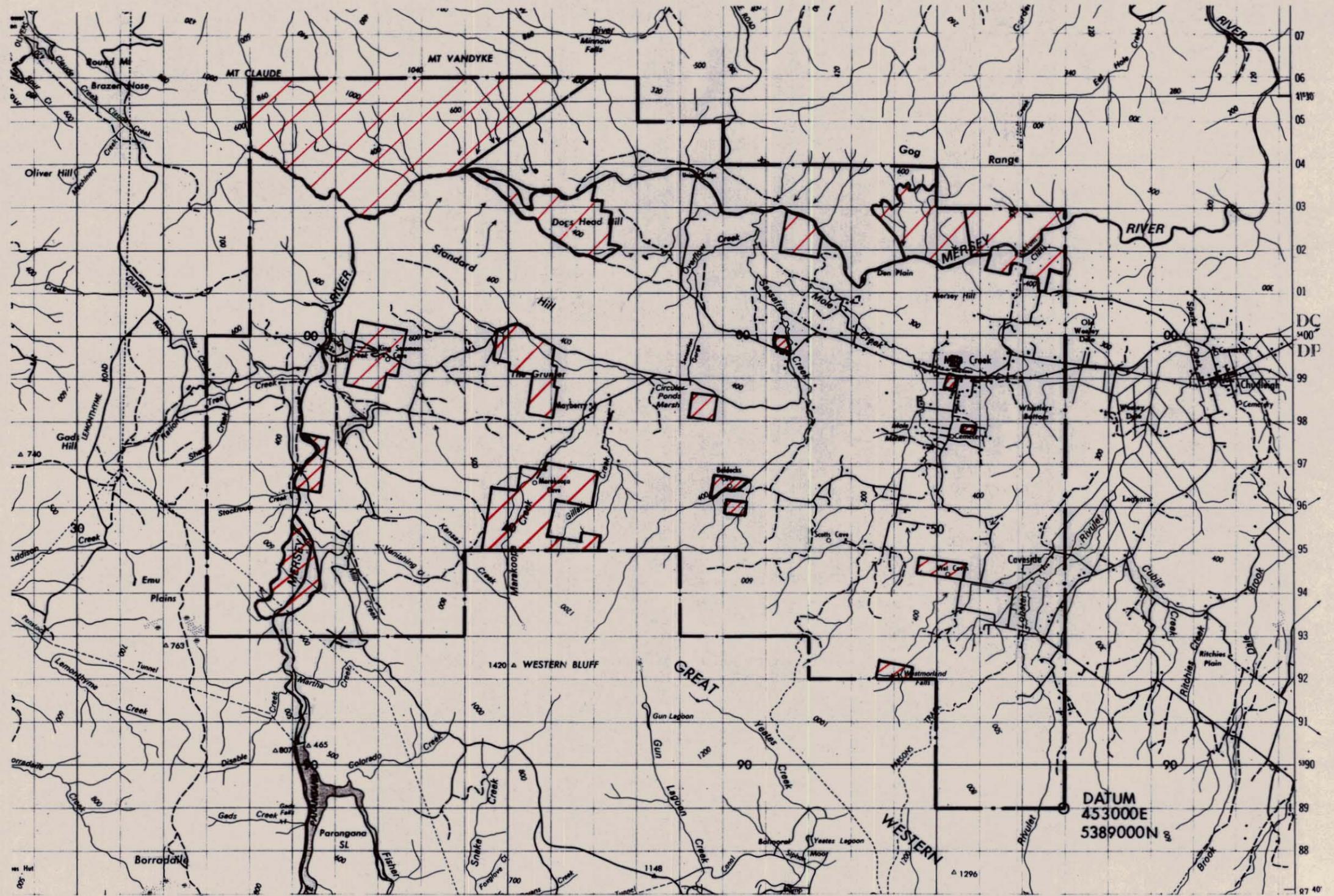
5. **Rehabilitation**

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

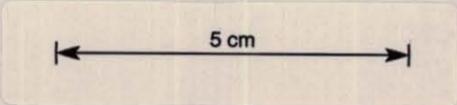
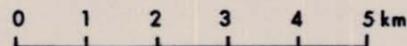
6. Expenditure

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Total expenditure for the Mole Creek West exploration licence EL 57/94 for the period commencing 24 January 1996 and ending 23 January 1997 is \$9,405.



 EXCLUDED AREAS



RIO TINTO EXPLORATION PTY. LIMITED	
MOLE CREEK WEST EL 57/94	
LOCATION PLAN	
Ref.: SK55-3	Scale: 1:100 000
Author: S.A. Menpes	Report No.: 23340
Drawn: A. Jelen	Plan No.: Tv 1060

May 1996