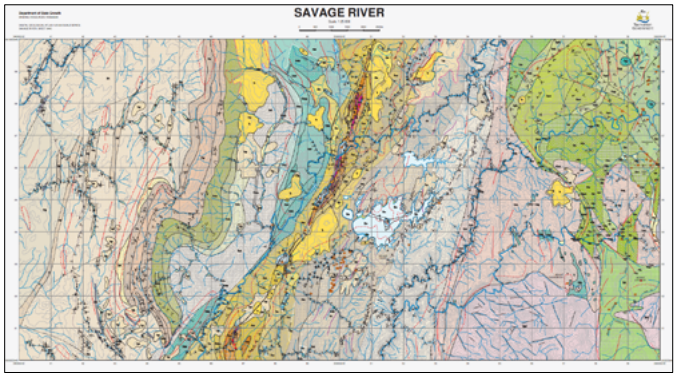
MRT NEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of Mineral Resources Tasmania

Tasmanian Government

Publication of Savage River 1:25,000 Geological Map



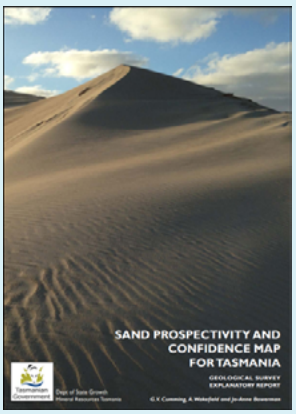
This latest sheet of the Digital Geological Atlas 1:25 000 series, released in November 2019, covers 200 km² of highly prospective ground in northwest Tasmania. The diverse geology (75 geological units, ranging in age from Holocene to Mesoproterozoic) includes parts of the Rocky Cape Group, Ahrberg Group, Arthur Metamorphic Complex, Luina Group, Heazlewood River and Mt Stewart Ultramafic Complexes and Meredith Granite. As well as the world-class Savage River iron ore deposits, the area contains more than 70 historical workings or active prospects for diverse commodities including copper, gold, silver-lead-zinc, nickel, tin, tungsten, osmiridium, nickel, chromite, magnetite, magnesite, talc and ochre.

Field mapping was mainly undertaken between 2016 and 2018 by MRT geologists Grace Cumming, John Everard and Carl Jackman. The map also utilises earlier work by Tony Brown, Nic Turner and industry and university geologists, notably David Peck. Digital cartography was principally by Amanda Mayne. The map can be downloaded from this newsletter.

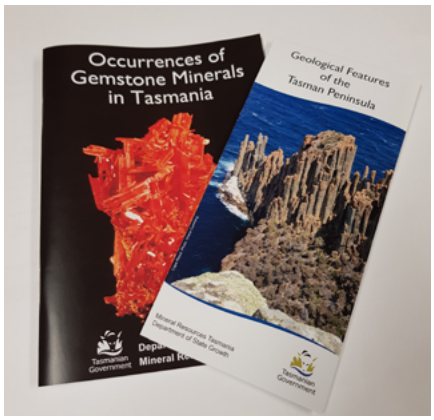
Sand Prospectivity in Tasmania

Mineral Resources Tasmania recently completed a study into Tasmania's sand prospectivity. The resulting report: *Sand Prospectivity and Confidence Map for Tasmaina*, outlines the method used to define and map the distribution of potential sand resources throughout the state.

Mapping was based on a desktop study utilizing Mineral Resources Tasmania's 1:25 000 and 1:250 000 digital geological mapping, Mineral Occurrences database, information about current and past tenements, and background knowledge of sand occurrences in Tasmania. A confidence map was also produced. Sand is an essential component in the manufacture of concrete and other pavement materials used in the building and construction industries, and may also be used in foundries and for glass making. Sand consumption in the construction industry and for glassmaking and production in Tasmania has varied from 675 000 tonnes in 2010/2011, to 454 000 tonnes in 2015/16, to approximately 525 000 tonnes during 2017/18.



Popular Publications Updated



Besides the work MRT undertakes to promote, facilitate and regulate exploration and mining activites in Tasmania, we also work to provide geological information to mineral enthusiasts and the general public. In November, MRT released updated editions of two publications:

- *The Geological Features of the Tasman Peninsula*;
- *Occurrences of Gemstone Minerals in Tasmania*.

The above two publications are so popular at gemstone and mineral shows that stocks became depleated and re-prints (incuding revisions and updated material) were required.

The *Geological Features of the Tasman Peninsula* brochure provides a guide for tourists to explore this fascinating and rugged section of Tasmania's southeast coast. Areas of particular interest canvassed in the brochure include: Pirates Bay Lookout (Cape Hauy), the Tessellated Pavement, Eaglehawk Neck, the Blowhole, Safety Cove and Remarkable Cave. This updated brochure is intended to be the first in a series that will eventually include areas on the west and north coasts, and Mt Wellington.

The *Occurrences of Gemstone Minerals in Tasmania* book has seen only minor revisions in this printing. Eagle-eyed observers and fossicking enthusiasts may notice that Tunnel Marsh makes its long-awaited reappearence on the map of fossicking areas included at the back of the book, after an error saw it ommitted from both the previous printing of this book and the *Fossicking Areas of Tasmania* booklet.

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