



**PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
OF VOLUME 1 OF
“GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF AREAS
NOT NEEDED BY THE MINING INDUSTRY”**

TASMANIA DEPARTMENT OF MINES

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
OF
VOLUME 1 OF
"GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF AREAS
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INTRODUCTION

The basic tenet, which is central to the approach adopted by the CEG, appears to be that:

- . the currently existing data on the various areas, is at a sufficiently high enough level to allow responsible assessments of prospectivity, with acceptable levels of associated risk.
- . the data sets used to make the assessments are representative of current knowledge and complete enough to make these assessments.

As stated in the introduction to their report:-

"Clause 1 of the Draft Forest Industry Strategy requires the identification of 'areas not required by the mining industry'. To fulfil the clause requires a determination on the basis of currently available information and subjective assessment of the likelihood of an economic mine being developed."

The Division of Mines and Mineral Resources has grave reservations on the completeness of the currently available data and believes that any final assessment based on it is fraught with danger.

Furthermore, the Division also suspects that the CEG has not used the best possible available data to make their assessments and so the associated risk is increased.

QUALITY OF AVAILABLE DATA

The general area under review is probably one of the geoscientifically least well known in the State.

- . The geological mapping completed over it would, because of its age, scale and method of acquisition (largely photo-interpreted), be at the lowest level of certainty defined within the State (Figure 1).
- . The geophysical data base comprises regional aeromagnetics at 1500 metre line spacing and widely spaced gravity data (Figure 2).
- . There have been no regional geochemical surveys completed over the area.



Department of Resources and Energy - Division of Mines and Mineral Resources
TASMANIA - LEVEL OF CERTAINTY OF GEOLOGICAL MAPPING



5 cm

GRAVITY STATION COVERAGE (EXISTING AND REQUIRED). AREAS OF MINERAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT CENTRAL - SOUTHERN TASMANIA

0 10 20 30 40 Km

5 cm

1 : 750,000

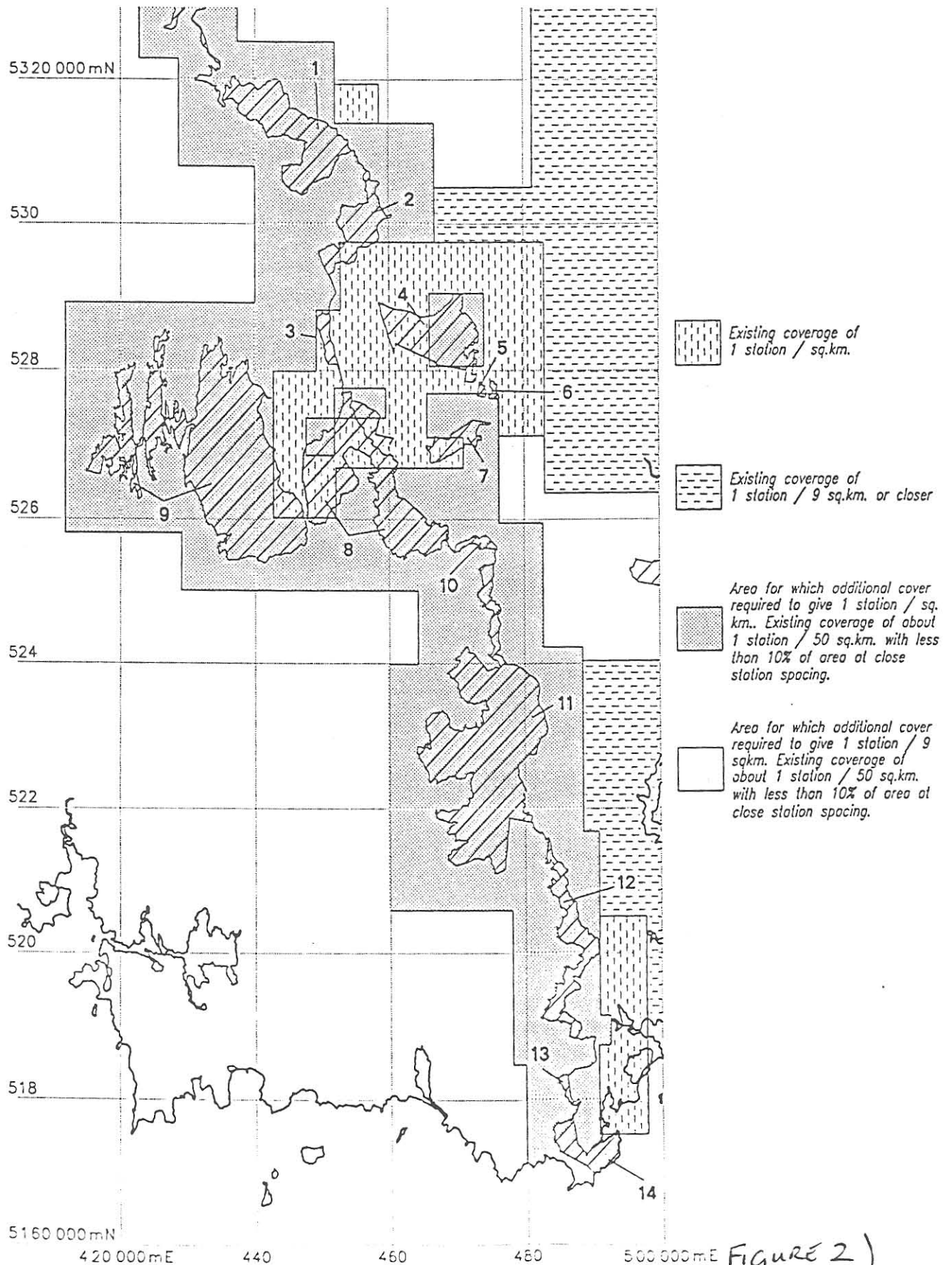


FIGURE 2

~~Figure 2d~~

COMMENTS ON DATA USED

"Department of Mines Metallogenic Map"

This 1:500 000 map was published as an illustration for the Bicentennial volume of the "Geology of Tasmania".

It does not indicate "all known mineral deposits in Tasmania that have been identified or worked in the past and those currently operating".

It actually contains:-

- . Approximately 10% of the metallic mineral deposits currently known.
- . No construction material deposits locations.
- . No non-metallic deposit locations.

The MIRLOCH data base better illustrates the location of mineral deposits within the areas being considered.

Figures 3a and 3b indicate the currently known mineral deposits within the areas under consideration.

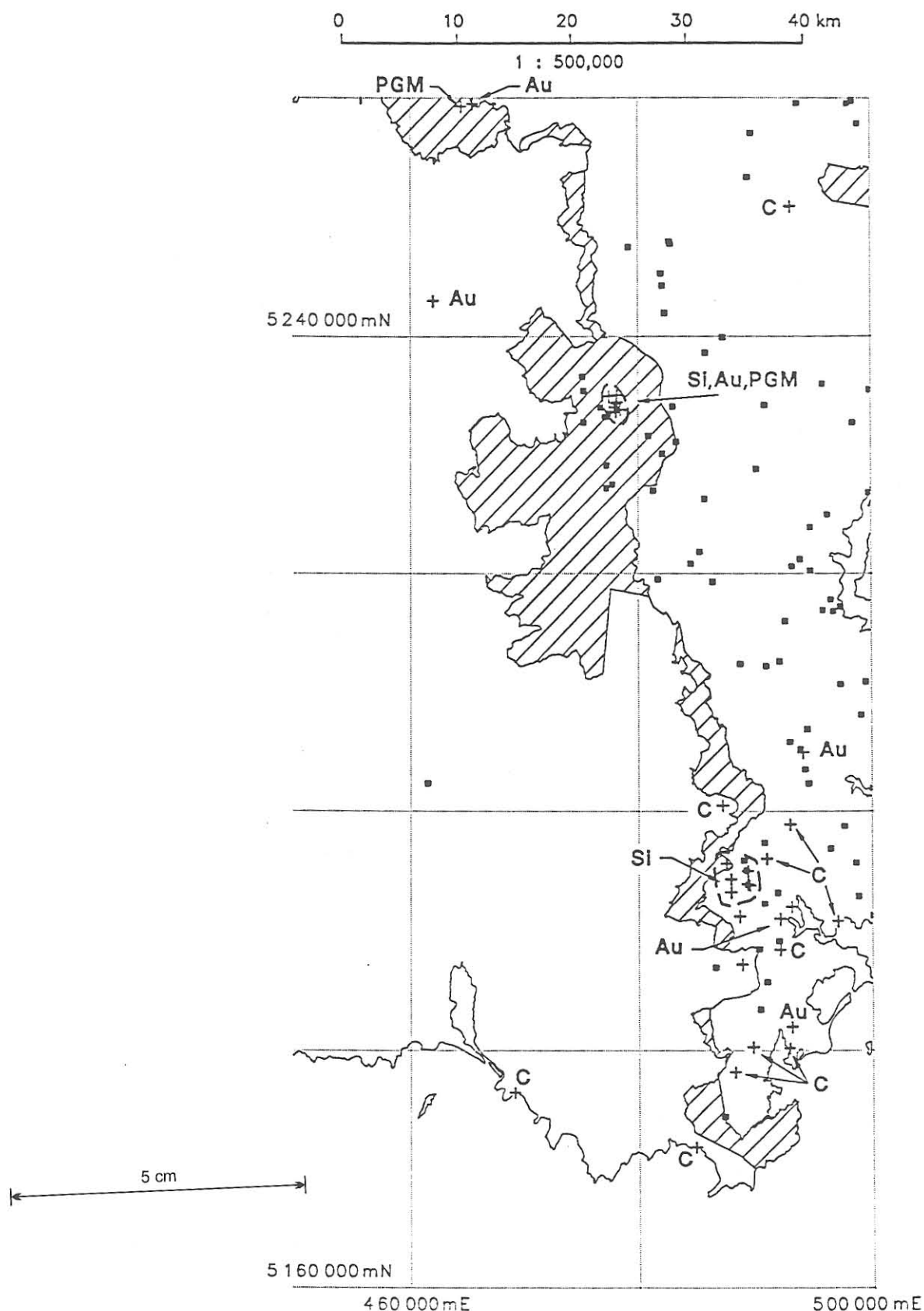
Tasmanian Chamber of Mines Maps 19.4.90 and August 1990

Extremely small scale maps which would not normally be used for serious scientific purposes.

Mineral Deposits Map - S.W. Tasmania Resources Survey

Mineral deposit locations rather more comprehensively indicated than on the 1:500 000 metallogenic map.

MINERAL OCCURRENCES AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL WORKINGS SOUTHERN TASMANIA



CROSSES (+) : METALLIC & INDUSTRIAL MINERALS

| | | | |
|--------------|--|-------------|------------------------|
| Au : | <i>Gold (mostly placer)</i> | Fe : | <i>Iron formations</i> |
| Bm : | <i>Base Metals (Cu,Pb,Zn,Bo)</i> | L : | <i>Limestone</i> |
| Sn : | <i>Tin / Tungsten</i> | Si : | <i>Silica</i> |
| PGM : | <i>Platinum-Group Minerals ± Cr,Au,Ni,Cu, Asbestos</i> | C : | <i>Coal</i> |

SQUARES (■) : CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Bureau of Mineral Resources Survey

Preliminary assessment of part of the area under consideration.

Dr Ross Large, Figures 5 and 8

Two figures from the paper "The Mineral Wealth of Western Tasmania and the Potential of the S.W. Conservation Area", at extremely small scale which would not normally be used for serious scientific purposes.

Dr Geoff Green - Report 1985/47

A Departmental paper "The potential for discovery of economic mineral resources in South Western Tasmania". The paper only deals with the southern areas under consideration.

Green et al. 1982

A submission to the 1982 Senate Select Committee which concentrates on major prospects. Again this paper deals only with the southern areas under consideration.

Inter-Departmental Working Group

Applicable only in two of the areas considered.

COMMENTS ON THE ASSESSMENTS

The CEG report states:-

"The 'proposed conservation reserves' fall into the following two Categories:

(a) Category 1: Indicates that all or part of a 'proposed conservation reserve' not required by the mining industry based on the area's non-prospectivity or non-feasible prospectivity.

(b) Category 2: Indicates that all or part of 'proposed conservation reserve' is feasibly prospective but not required by the mining industry based on the area's overwhelming conservation value."

The CEG findings and inputs from the various documents are tabulated on Table 1.

. With two exceptions, the CEG conclude all the areas are Category 1 - not required by the mining industry.

- The two exceptions are:

* Picton-Huon-Weld 13 which is partly Category 1, partly Category 2 but not required by the mining industry.

* Weld 12 which is not categorised but which stated to be "not required by the mining industry".

. The "Category 1" areas include:

- Areas with mineral deposits on the metallogenic map.
- Areas which are prospective and partly prospective on the Chamber of Mines - April 1990 map.
- Areas which are prospective, partly prospective and unknown on the Chamber of Mines - August 1990 map.

[illegible]

- Areas with major deposits of coal, silica, dolomite, nickel, osmium, iridium and chrome in the 1982 South-West Survey.
- Areas with assessed prospectivity of very low, low, low-moderate, moderate, high and unknown from the B.M.R. report.
- Areas assessed as being prospective, very prospective and very highly prospective by Green 1985.
- Areas containing deposits of coal, oil shale, dolomite, silica and with potential for platinum group metals, nickel and chrome cited by Green et al.
- Only two areas which have been considered by the Inter-Departmental Working Group, i.e. Hartz Hole 16 and Mount Wedge 8.
- Areas with PETWOG ratings of C1, C2, C3 and C4.

Ten of the areas considered, i.e.:-

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Clarence (1) | Mother Lords (25) |
| Mole Creek (21) | Gunns Lake (26) |
| Nells Bluff (22) | Miller Bluff (27) |
| Jackeys Marsh (23) | East Upper Mersey (50) |
| Drys Bluff (24) | West Upper Mersey (51) |

are not included in the assessment by:-

- . The Bureau of Mineral Resources 1989
- . Dr Ross Large 1987
- . Dr Geoff R. Green 1985
- . Green et al 1982

CONCLUSIONS

- The areas reviewed are consistently considered to be "not required by the mining industry".
- The geoscientific data available on the areas considered is of the lowest level available within the State.
- The data used is not the best data available.
- The findings appear to ignore the assessments in the data used.
- The data used appears to contain no relevant information on ten of the areas classified as Category 1.