

**THE OFFICE OF SENATOR JACQUI LAMBIE
SENATOR FOR TASMANIA**

23 July 2020

Hon Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of Tasmania
Treasurer
Minister for Climate Change
Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Tourism

Email: premier@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Peter

I write regarding the proposed 'Project Renewable Future', which includes the Whaleback Ridge wind farm on the West Coast.

I am alarmed to hear from project proponent Westcoast Renewable Energy (WRE) that it has been advised by Minister Roger Jaensch its application is subject to 'an investigation'. WRE have been provided no information regarding who is undertaking the investigation, what they are investigating, or when any outcomes will be advised.

It is my understanding that this is an unusual step in the project application process. WRE has been left without any understanding of what it is that is being investigated, which, if nothing else, limits its ability to advance the investigation's speedy resolution by offering any and all information required. Without being advised of what is necessary to investigate further, the project proponent must simply absorb the financial cost of delay without any appreciable benefit to the project, the community or the state economy.

By all accounts, the project represents a substantial economic opportunity with little environmental impact. It is located well away from any towns, communities or farms, and does not need a new transmission line to be cut through forest to enable connection to the grid. It could offer spill over benefits to advanced manufacturing, logistics, port expansion, quarrying and cement production in the North and North West and is of sufficient scale to provide a new green hydrogen export commodity for Tasmania.

Importantly, it also provides a guaranteed supply of green hydrogen for Tasmania to roll out the hydrogen economy in line with your Government's priorities. It is also a project that aligns with your Government's policy of reaching the target of 200% renewable energy by 2040.

It is worth noting that the proponents have an established record of successful project delivery and have not been subjected to this vague and arbitrary application of the bureaucracy's investigatory imperative to date.

I can only assume this 'investigation' pertains to the question of the leasing of Crown Land, which the project boundaries incorporate.

AUSTRALIAN SENATE

MAIL: PO BOX 256 BURNIE TASMANIA 7320 • Telephone: +61 3 6491 3112 • Email: Senator.Lambie@aph.gov.au
ELECTORATE OFFICE: 4/22 MOUNT ST BURNIE TASMANIA 7320

I understand the Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council (TMEC) has raised objections to use of this land for a wind farm on the grounds such construction would 'sterilise' the land and prevent any future mineral exploration.

This argument is specious. There is no permanent impact on the viability of future mineral exploration and extraction from the project. TMEC's use of the word 'sterilise' in this context only means 'render unable to be used for the purposes another party would rather use it, for so long as it's being used another way'. To the same extent, building a home on a block of land 'sterilises' that land for anybody seeking to build a block of flats.

The argument that proceeding with the WRE project might prevent future mineral exploration has been proven to be inaccurate. I am advised that Minister Jaensch has been provided with a geoscientist's report, demonstrating that mining and renewable energy industries can co-exist with — and indeed leverage off — each other.

The report also highlights that much of the area proposed for the wind farm is on land that is of low prospect value. This may explain why the land in question has seen no exploration activity for over 15 years.

WRE has followed all relevant application procedures for permission to install meteorological masts and arrange leases for the wind farm — a process that has taken 15 months until now. Further delay cannot be justified if it jeopardises the success of a project with the potential to create thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic opportunity.

It is a project that could create an entirely new industry for Tasmania, but it is being threatened by a vague 'investigation' and a claim that amounts to little more than 'squatter's rights' by mining interests who have known about mineral deposits in the land in question for more than a century but have decided, well before this project came along, that it was not worth cultivating.

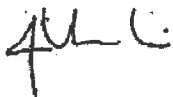
It defies reason that a project representing a real, tangible, immediate and ongoing opportunity to all of Tasmania could be turned away at the door in favour of the speculative potential opportunity for a future project to perhaps become cost-effective for the first time in a century.

WRE is not asking for your approval of the project or any financial support. WRE is not wanting to circumvent any planning approvals, environmental or otherwise.

The applicants simply ask that normal approval processes be followed, to allow the project to advance beyond this initial stage. This includes starting the environmental approvals process and bringing on board the multiple investors who have shown keen interest. This also means significant jobs on the ground in the northwest and west coast.

I would welcome an opportunity to discuss this matter further with you and look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours Sincerely



Senator Jacqui Lambie

Independent Senator for Tasmania

Cc: Senator Mathias Cormann Senator.Cormann@aph.gov.au
Hon Angus Taylor Angus.Taylor.MP@aph.gov.au
Hon David O'Byrne David.Obyrne@parliament.tas.gov.au

AUSTRALIAN SENATE

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ELECTORATE OFFICE: 4/22 MOUNT ST BURNIE TASMANIA 7320

Retallick, Amanda

From: The Premier
Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 2:31 PM
To: 'Senator.Lambie@aph.gov.au'
Subject: Letter from the Premier, Hon Peter Gutwein MP
Attachments: PREMIER - Letter to Sen Jacqu-back Ridge Wind Farm (M684757).pdf

Please find attached a letter from the Premier, the Hon Peter Gutwein MP.

Kind regards

Eva Hangan

Departmental Liaison Officer
Office of the Premier, the Hon Peter Gutwein MP

Premier of Tasmania
Treasurer
Minister for Climate Change
Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence
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2



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

22 SEP 2020

Senator Jacqui Lambie
Independent Senator for Tasmania
Senator.Lambie@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator

Jacqui

Thank you for your letter dated 23 July 2020 regarding a proposal by West Coast Renewable Energy (WCRE) to install meteorological masts (met masts) in the vicinity of Whaleback Ridge on Tasmania's West Coast.

I note the concerns raised with you by the proponent in respect of the pathway for that proposal. The Tasmanian Government is committed to becoming the renewable energy battery of the nation, and developing wind generation capacity is a key step to making this a reality. Additionally, it is key to Tasmania achieving its Renewable Energy Target – to double the state's generation capacity to 200 percent of current needs by 2040.

I am pleased to advise the Tasmanian Government has recently issued a licence to WCRE allowing the erection of four met masts on parcels of reserved land, Future Potential Production Forest land and Crown land. The met masts will, over the course of 12 months, test the speed, direction, shear and turbulence, and air density of the wind at those locations.

The process of assessment for the proposal to date has been routine, but nonetheless thorough to ensure that the proposed activity is appropriate for the sites.

The Government has determined it is appropriate to issue the licence with the caveat that it does in no way provide any further approval, implied or otherwise, or any expectation of further development without additional approvals being granted.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely



Peter Gutwein MP
Premier

Retallick, Amanda

From: The Premier
Sent: Friday, 30 October 2020 8:25 AM
To: 'alan.morrell@westcoastrenew.com.au'
Subject: FW: Summary update on Project Renewable Future

Dear Alan

On behalf of the Premier, the Hon Peter Gutwein MP, thank you for your email dated

Your correspondence is currently being considered.

Kind regards

Office of the Premier
The Hon Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of Tasmania
Treasurer
Minister for Climate Change
Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Tourism
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From: Alan Morrell <alan.morrell@westcoastrenew.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 23 October 2020 12:24 PM
To: Gutwein, Peter <Peter.Gutwein@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Craig Brakey <craig.brakey@westcoastrenew.com.au>; Alex Simpson <alex.simpson@westcoastrenew.com.au>
Subject: Summary update on Project Renewable Future

Dear Premier

Craig Brakey advised me of his discussion with you last night. I understand he also provided you with copies of recent correspondence we have sent to Minister Jaensch and to the Crown Solicitor.

For ease of reference I draw out the salient points of those letters below.

- We received approval to install Met Masts on 28 August. This is welcome news, however there are limitations on the approval that we are endeavouring to clarify:
 - The two year time limit on the license approval - license should be ongoing with annual or bi-annual renewals as the masts remain in situ for many years.
 - Series of limitations on the license relating to what we can access on the ground to enable the various enviro studies, etc as part of the larger approvals process for a wind farm – this should be addressed as part of our lease – detailed below.

- o It is worth noting that the proposed area for lease is approximately 200 ha. There is a much larger 'study area' used for initial survey studies but this has been refined considerably over the past 12 months:
 - We wrote to Min Jaensch on this subject 17 Sept 2020
 - Our lawyers wrote to the Crown solicitor seeking clarification 16 Sept 2020
 - We are awaiting their response
- Discussions with potential investors are stalled because of the lack of a clear pathway to securing the land.
 - o Investors and commercial partners well understand our situation, but we need to demonstrate to them we will be able to secure a lease over the area once we have successfully completed the approval process.
- We have identified the Waratah Reservoir as an ideal and sustainable source of water supply for the project. As you would know, the dam is surplus to requirements of TasWater and we believe there is potential for an outcome that suits TasWater, the Waratah community, and Westcoast Renewable Energy (WRE):
 - o Discussions with both TasWater and the Waratah Community (Incl. Mayor) are progressing rapidly.
 - o We need to clarify the land issue referred to above, before we can give any undertakings.

Our request of the State Government is simply to allow normal due process to continue. We have effectively been taken out of normal process for extended periods. This means :

- a timely discussion with the Crown Solicitor to finalise conditions on the Licence to Install Met Masts
- To re-engage with Parks and Wildlife Services on the draft Leases we submitted in June 2019. We have proposed a staged lease arrangement (at Parks request) which recognises the 3 year environmental and other required approvals and also does not bind the Crown beyond allowing us to access land in order to complete the approvals processes.

I also attach a copy of a report we commissioned to address a concern raised by the Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing & Energy Council earlier this year regarding multi-use of land by the mining and renewable energy industries. This report confirms a range of technologies exist that allows the industries to co-exist, which has always been our intent. This report has been submitted to the offices of Minister Jaensch and Minister Barnett (prior to receiving approval for the Met Masts).

We have also applied for funding under the Tasmanian Government's 'Hydrogen Industry Development Fund'. A central component of this funding would be to undertake a feasibility study to assess the upgrades required at the Port of Burnie to handle bulk hydrogen (in its various forms). We would also examine the advanced manufacturing capabilities in the Burnie region and identify any associated gaps in capability so they can be rectified prior to construction. The funding will allow us to move rapidly on a number of fronts if successful.

We would value a brief meeting with you to clarify any of the issues around the project. We would also like to raise our current thinking regarding the guaranteed supply of renewable hydrogen in Tasmania. This will involve a number of stakeholders and we would value your feedback on how this can be achieved in line with the Government's strategy. We would be happy to liaise with your office to find a time in your calendar that might suit.

Lastly, we believe we can make a solid contribution to the Covid-19 recovery process in the State, and remain keen to work with your Government to progress.

Regards



Alan Morrell
Chief Executive

Westcoast Renewable Energy Pty Ltd
ACN: 633 216 163 Proponents of 'Project Renewable Future'
e: alan.morrell@westcoastrenew.com.au m: [REDACTED]

***Independent Analysis of Exploration Activities and Methods around the Proposed
Whaleback Ridge Wind Farm, northwestern Tasmania, Australia***

For:

Westcoast Renewable Energy Pty Ltd

ACN: 639 216 163

Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

By:

David Turner, PhD, P.Geo.

Turner Geoscience Consulting Ltd.

Courtenay, British Columbia, Canada

Dated:

July 6th, 2020

Executive Summary

Westcoast Renewable Energy (WRE) requested an independent technical review of readily available geological information in the context of mineral potential and exploration activity in the area of interest. The area of interest is focused on the proposed Whaleback Ridge Wind Farm, which currently comprises 429 proposed turbine locations. The author carried out a desktop review of publicly available literature (references are provided) and has provided an opinion based on this information. It is the author's opinion that the turbines are generally placed in areas of lower mineral potential, and that the presence of wind turbines does not preclude the ability to continue exploration with the majority of traditional methodologies. Some early stage geophysical survey methods may be impacted by the presence of turbines, however, there remain many tools at the disposal of modern exploration companies to continue their work. Exploration technologies will continue to evolve and improve, likely further minimizing such issues in the future. Furthermore, it is the author's understanding that WRE is not opposed to mineral exploration and mine development.

One solution to address concern around installation of turbines is to emphasize earliest turbine installations at regions where no exploration licences or leases are present (e.g., Central Block). Concurrently, collaboration and consultation with mineral exploration stakeholders could be carried out, such as with Stellar Resources and others who are developing Sn projects, as this will ensure open communication regarding construction activities that may impact exploration. Roadbuilding and other activities may also provide a benefit for exploration access and sampling.

Additionally, specific proposed turbine locations are not currently fixed in place, and therefore opportunity exists to expand certain clusters of turbines, such as for the Central and North Blocks, adjust the location of some turbines, such as near Renison Bell mine lease, and/or relocate certain turbine locations, such as for licences and leases near Zeehan.

It is the author's opinion that mineral exploration and the proposed wind farm turbines can coexist, and a phased approach to construction and consultation would allow the mineral exploration industry ample time to assess areas of potential challenges. The author did not investigate other types of tenure and land use in the area, and focused solely on the mineral potential and geological setting. In the context of a "social licence" for the wind farm project, no attempts were made to address presence or absence of community support. No field work was conducted.

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Executive Summary..... | 2 |
| 1. Introduction and Terms of Reference..... | 4 |
| 2. Areas of Interest..... | 4 |
| 3. Regional Geology, Mineral Deposits, Leases and Exploration Licences of the Areas of Interest | 7 |
| 3.1 Regional Geology and Geophysics | 8 |
| 3.2 Mineral Exploration Licences and Leases of the Areas of Interest..... | 14 |
| 3.3 Magmatic Hydrothermal Sn-W Mineralization - Renison Bell and Queen Hill | 20 |
| 3.4 Hydrothermal Polymetallic Veins – Zeehan..... | 28 |
| 3.5 Polymetallic VMS Deposits – Rosebery..... | 31 |
| 3.6 Other Mineralization Styles | 32 |
| 3.7 Summary of Mineral Exploration and Mining in the Context of Turbine Sites | 33 |
| 4. Exploration Methods Applicable Near to Wind Turbines | 36 |
| 4.1 Traditional Exploration Methods | 36 |
| 4.2 Geophysics and Remote Sensing for Mineral Exploration | 36 |
| 5. Conclusions and Recommendations | 39 |
| 6. References | 41 |

1. Introduction and Terms of Reference

Westcoast Renewable Energy (WRE) has requested an independent technical review of readily available geological information in the context of mineral potential and exploration activity in the area of interest. The area of interest is focused on the proposed Whaleback Ridge Wind Farm, which currently comprises 429 proposed turbine locations.

It is understood by the author that:

- Westcoast Renewable Energy will be using this document in its efforts to further the objectives of the windfarm,
- support for the wind farm project has been expressed by the local community and multiple levels of government,
- there is some concern regarding the possible sterilization of potential mineralization, and therefore the prevention of possible mine development,
- Westcoast Renewable Energy is not opposed to mineral exploration and development of resources, if present, and
- the specific locations of turbine sites have been proposed, but are not necessarily fixed at present.

The author carried out a desktop review of publicly available literature and has provided an opinion based on this information and his professional experience. Comments were provided on whether the presence of wind turbines would affect the ability to conduct mineral exploration in the future. Specific references are given at the end of this document. No field work was conducted.

The author did not investigate other types of tenure and land use in the area, and focused solely on the mineral potential and geological setting. In the context of a "social licence" for the wind farm project, no attempts were made to address presence or absence of community support.

2. Areas of Interest

The defined areas of interest are shown in the maps below. This overall area can be divided into 4 blocks: North, Central, East, and West. The North, East and West Blocks can be further divided into portions with proposed turbine locations that fall within Exploration Licences (EL) and those that do not. No proposed turbine locations fall within leases. Further discussion is given later regarding the various exploration licences and leases in the context of the geological settings. The proposed turbine sites lie to the south of the existing Granville Harbour Wind Farm, which comprises completed and planned 31 turbines.

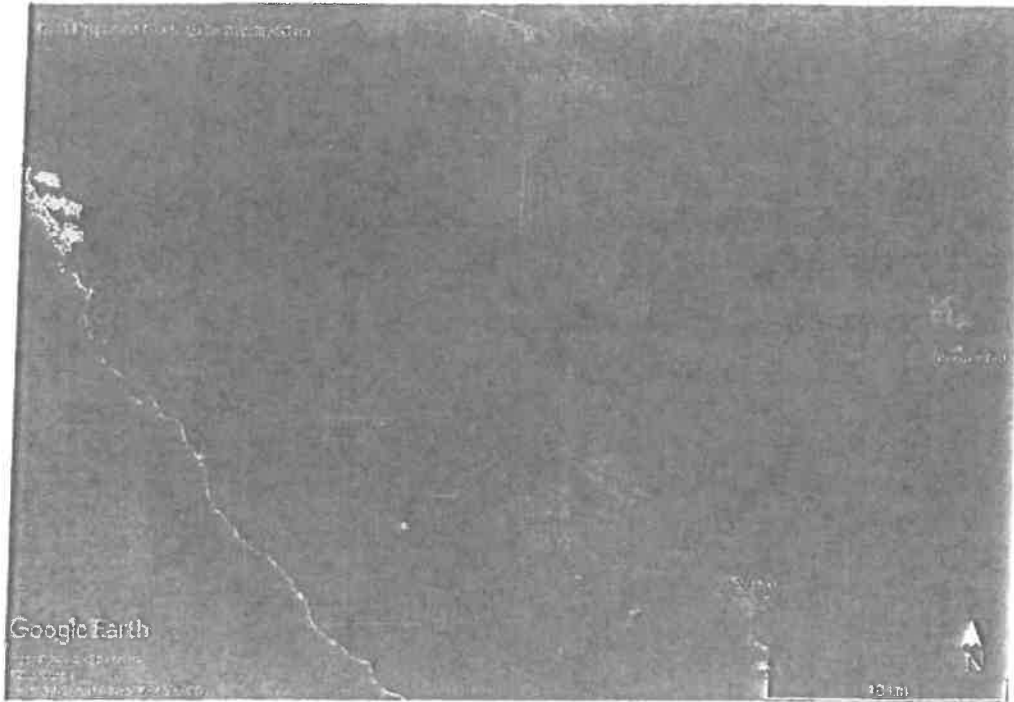


Figure 1. Areas of Interest as given by Westcoast Renewable Energy. Original proposed area outline in red, and revised outline in cyan/blue. These boundaries differ slightly from the blocks drawn by the author.

Proposed Turbine Sites - Western Tasmania

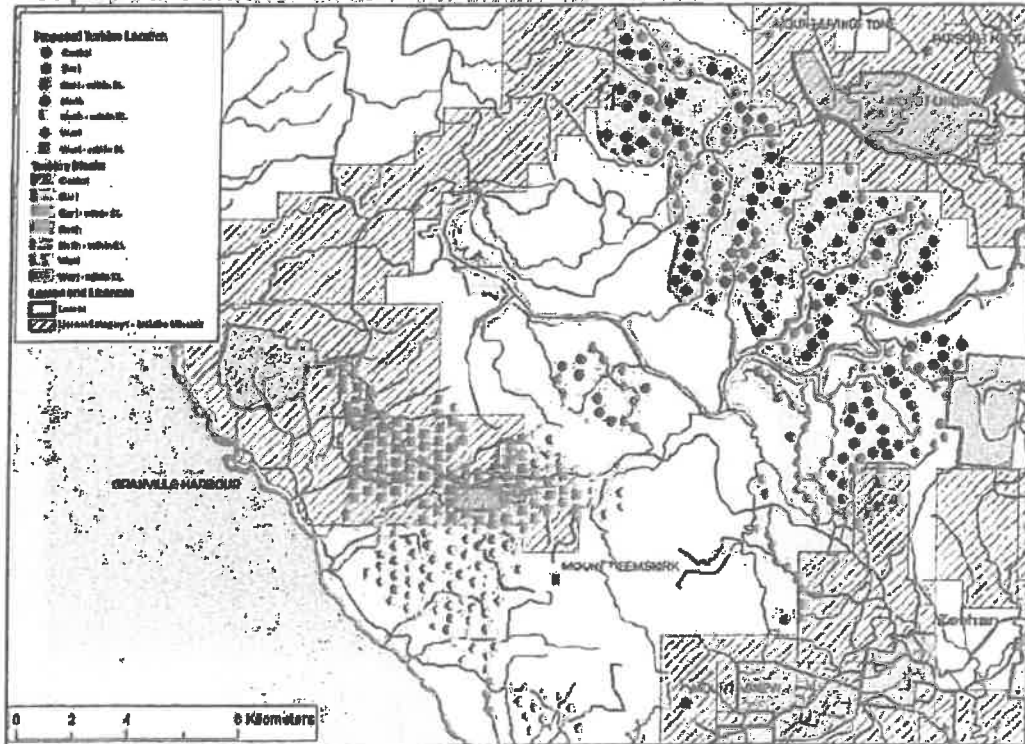


Figure 2. Proposed turbine sites in western Tasmania. Diagonal hatched areas show exploration licences (EL), and coloured polygons with heavy lines indicate leases. Circles denote sites outside of licences, while squares are within the bounds of existing licences. Borderless light coloured polygons show "Turbine Blocks". Locations given by Westcoast Renewable Energy, and "Blocks" defined by author. The datum used in these styled maps is GDA94, and UTM Zone 55S projection.

Table 1. Summary of Turbine Blocks

| Block | Geographic Identifier | Number of Proposed Turbine Sites (sub blocks) | Approximate Area (ha) |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| North | Whaleback / Meredith Range | 124 | 7,489 |
| North - within EL | Whaleback / Meredith Range | 10 (5, 5) | 410 |
| Central | Watsons Creek | 16 | 919 |
| East | Trail Creek | 67 | 3,715 |
| East - within EL | Zeehan | 11 | 822 |
| West | Mount Heemskirk, Trial Harbour | 107 (88, 1, 18) | 3,558 |
| West - within EL | Granville Harbour | 94 | 2,750 |
| Totals | | 429 | 19,663 |

*green cells indicate within exploration licences - total of 115

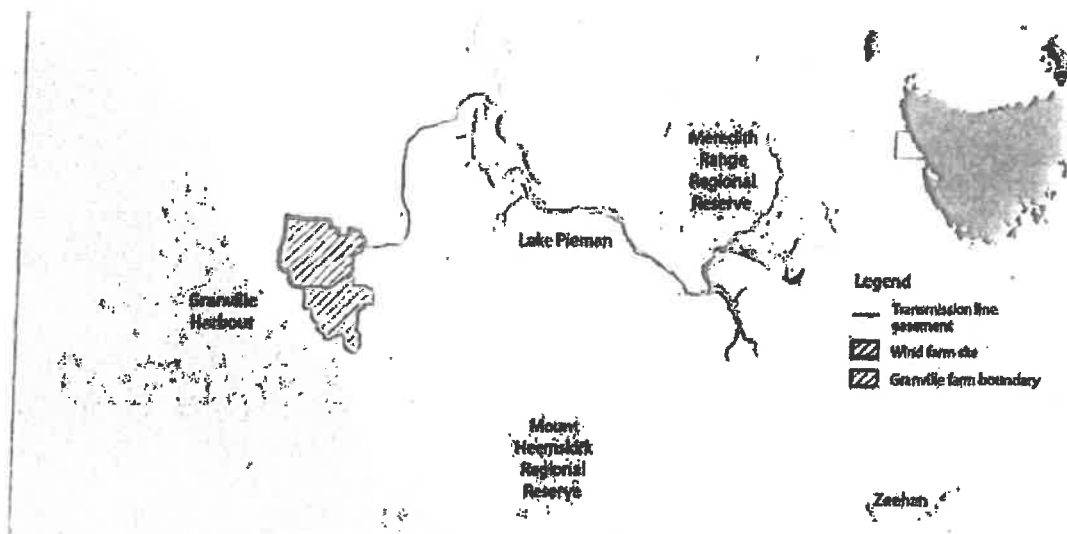


Figure 3: Existing Granville Harbour Wind Farm location and local geographic features.

3. Regional Geology, Mineral Deposits, Leases and Exploration Licences of the Areas of Interest

This section of the report briefly covers the regional geology and geophysical surveys, leases and exploration licences, and summaries of the main mineral deposit styles currently under exploration. The order was chosen to provide some contextual information prior to displaying the licences and leases, and then following with specific but brief descriptions of the mineralization styles. Notably, the majority of the exploration and development work that is relevant to the proposed turbine locations is focused on tin and tungsten. This mineralization is tied to the Devonian-aged granitoids and is often slightly outboard of an intrusion's margin. This concept is repeated several times throughout this report.

Prospectivity studies have been previously carried out in the region on behalf of the Tasmanian Government, (e.g., Turner *et al.* 2003, Large and McNeil 2012) and renewed global interest in critical metals has put a spot light on evolved magmatic-hydrothermal systems, such as those that gave rise to the tin mineralization at Renison Bell (e.g., Cooke *et al.* 2019). Combined with historical mining in the general area of the proposed wind turbines, there is a fair amount of geological literature available.

The most advanced and targeted exploration projects in the area of interest belong to Stellar Resources, who are exploring for tin (Sn) at historical occurrences and new sites. In particular, they are heavily focused near the town of Zeehan, and also have a smaller satellite project at St Dizier closer to Granville Harbour. These claims and leases are held by Stellar's subsidiary company, Columbus Minerals Ltd. Only nine (9) proposed turbine sites lay within exploration Category 1 Licences. These areas also enclose much of the historical Pb-Zn mineralized areas of the Zeehan region.

Ten Star Resources, affiliated with AustInMinerals hold a few leases on tin deposits that have been variably worked, as well as exploration licences that cover a broader area. While some proposed turbine sites lay within the exploration licence area, none of the turbines lie within the leases.

The Avebury Ni project is distinct in its geological origin, and is currently being developed by Dundas Mining (although leases and licences are held by Allegiance Mining). These tenures lay greater than ~3 km to south from the southern-most proposed turbine location, and related prospective rocks also lay south of the proposed turbines.

Cambrian aged polymetallic VMS deposits of the Mount Read Volcanic complex are important ore types in western Tasmania. They have been significant drivers of mineral exploration and mining in this region for decades and active exploration continues, however, this activity is situated well to the east of the proposed turbine sites.

3.1 Regional Geology and Geophysics

The regional geology has been investigated many times through various government, academic and industry efforts (e.g., as compiled in Corbett 2002). In addition to the area being well mapped and the focus of greater than 100 years of mineral exploration and mining, the strong regional metal endowment has also prompted regional airborne geophysical surveys that cover prospective zones at decent spatial resolution (e.g., Godber *et al.* 2003). These regional surveys are supplemented by additional focused airborne surveys that target specific mineralized areas, such as around Zeehan for a range of minerals (e.g., Zn targeting memorandum by Zeehan Zinc, 2007) and near Mount Lindsay for Sn-W (e.g., Venture Resources VTEM surveys). Thus, types of exploration datasets available for explorers already include gravity, EM, magnetics, and radiometrics, and many of these are easily available through the Tasmanian digital geoscience portal. These regional and local surveys provide the foundation for further ground or low altitude (e.g., UAV) geophysical surveys to support continued mineral exploration. The following maps provide a base for the broader geological setting of the region and are supported by a range of government, academic and industry maps that show current and historical exploration work.

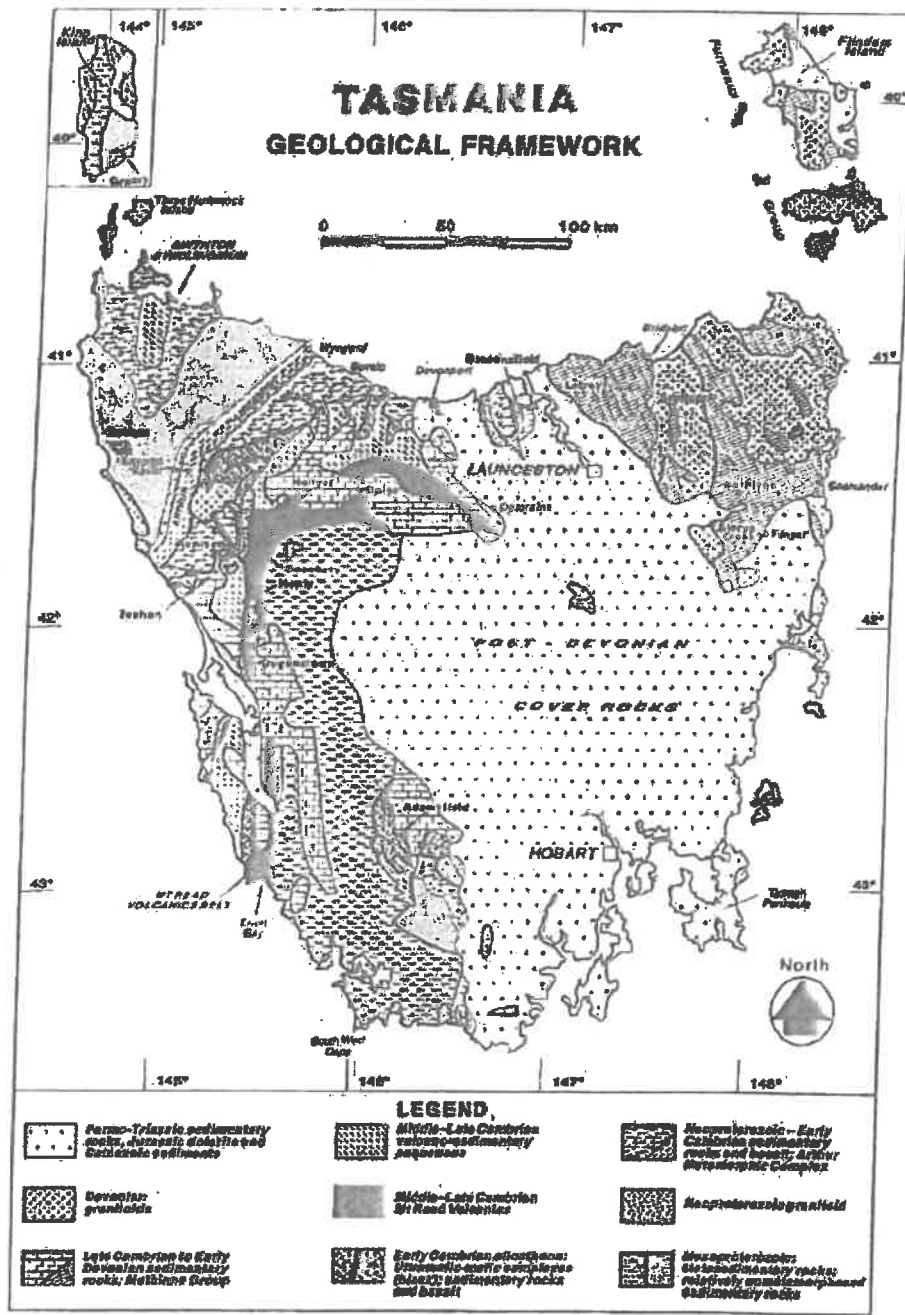


Figure 2. Summary geological map of Tasmania. Locations of major mines and mineral deposits shown by solid dots and bold upright text. (Source: Mineral Resources Tasmania).

Figure 4. Geological Framework of Tasmania. Map from Bottrill *et al.* (1998). Note the labels of Rosebery, Renison and Zeehan.

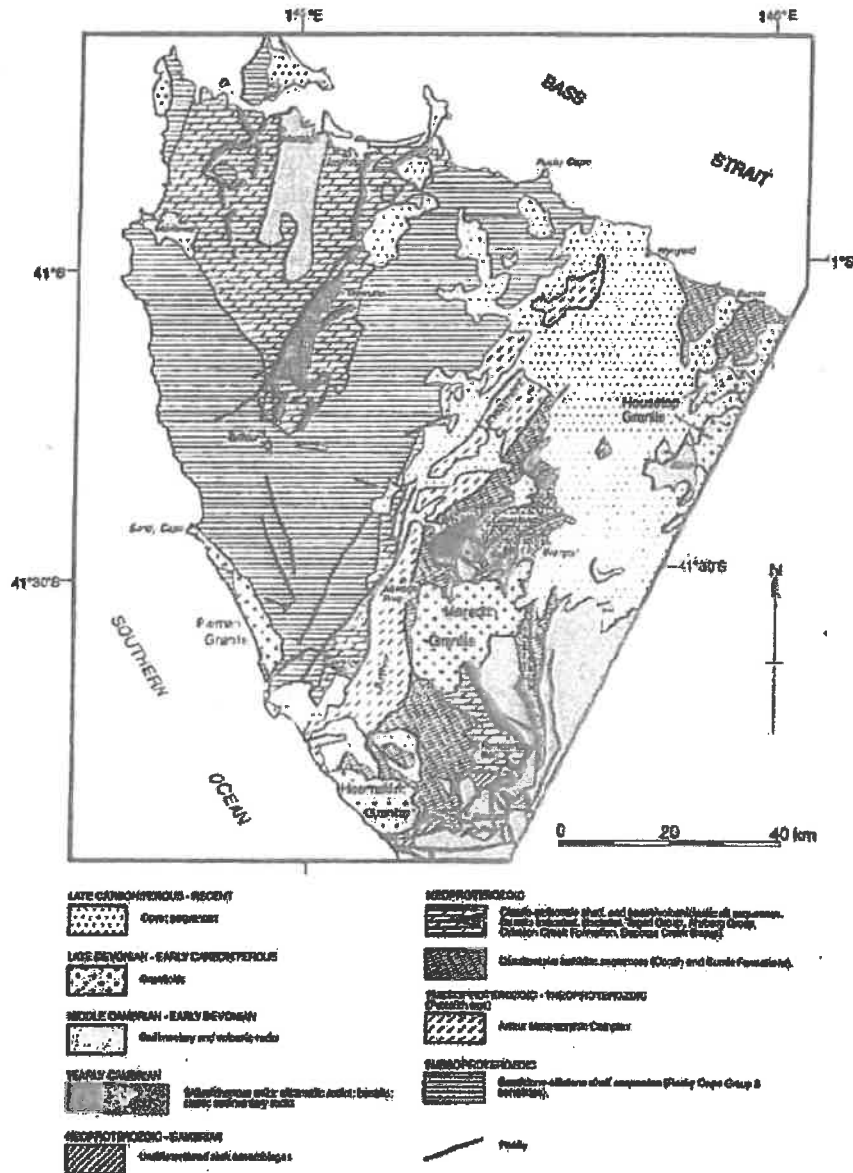


Figure 5. Summary geological map of northwestern Tasmania (after Seymour & Colver 1995), showing major Proterozoic rock units.

Figure 5. Geological Framework of northwestern Tasmania. Map from Bottrill *et al.* (1998). Note the labels of Renison Bell, Zeehan, and Heemskirk Granite.

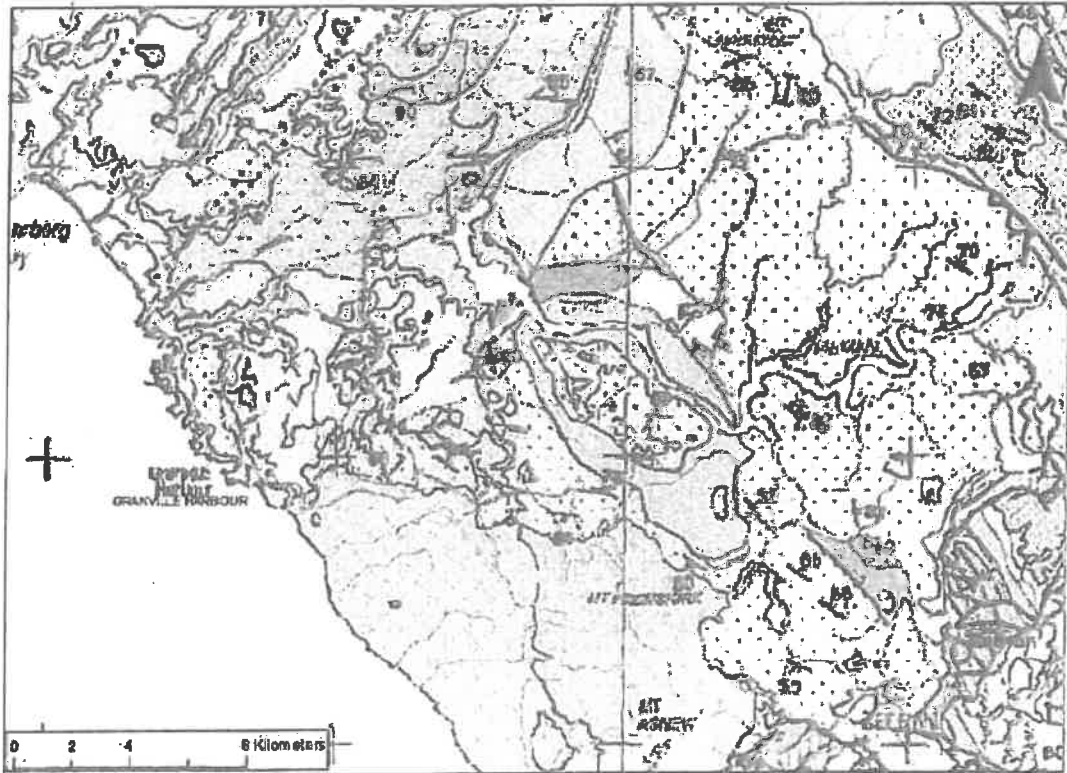


Figure 7. Regional Geology only, as extracted from the Tasmanian Government geoscience portal. Granitoids shown in pink, including the Heemskirk Granite to the SW and the Meredith Granite to the NE. Metasedimentary rocks are shown in greys, blue and tans, and volcanic and ultramafic rocks are in green.

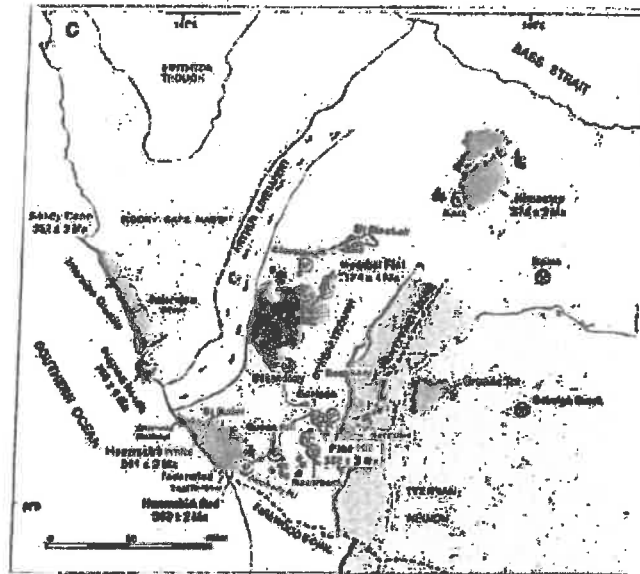


Figure 8. Regional geological setting with an emphasis on Devonian Intrusive rocks and Sn mineralized systems. From Cooke *et al.* 2019. Notable features on this map are the Renison and Queen Hill areas, Avebury Ni, and Ag-Pb-Zn deposits to the SE of Queen Hill. The Cambrian Mount Read Volcanics are shown in blue.



Figure 4. Total dose radiometric data showing strong responses over Devonian granites. The eastern edge of the Meredith Granite had been previously mapped as a different phase, but the boundary was extended well into the body of the granite with this data set.

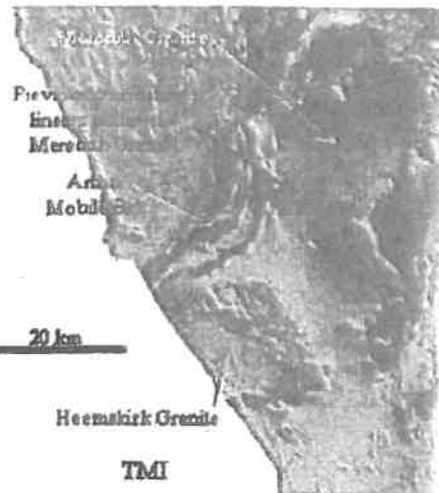


Figure 5. TMI image showing strong responses from the Arthur Mobile Belt and some previously unrecognized north-trending structures within the generally non-magnetic Meredith Granite.

Figure 9. Figures from Godber *et al.* (2003) showing radiometric and TMI response maps and datasets available from the Western Tasmanian Regional Minerals Program, Independent Analysis of Exploration Activities and Methods around the Proposed Whaleback Ridge Wind Farm, northwestern Tasmania, Australia

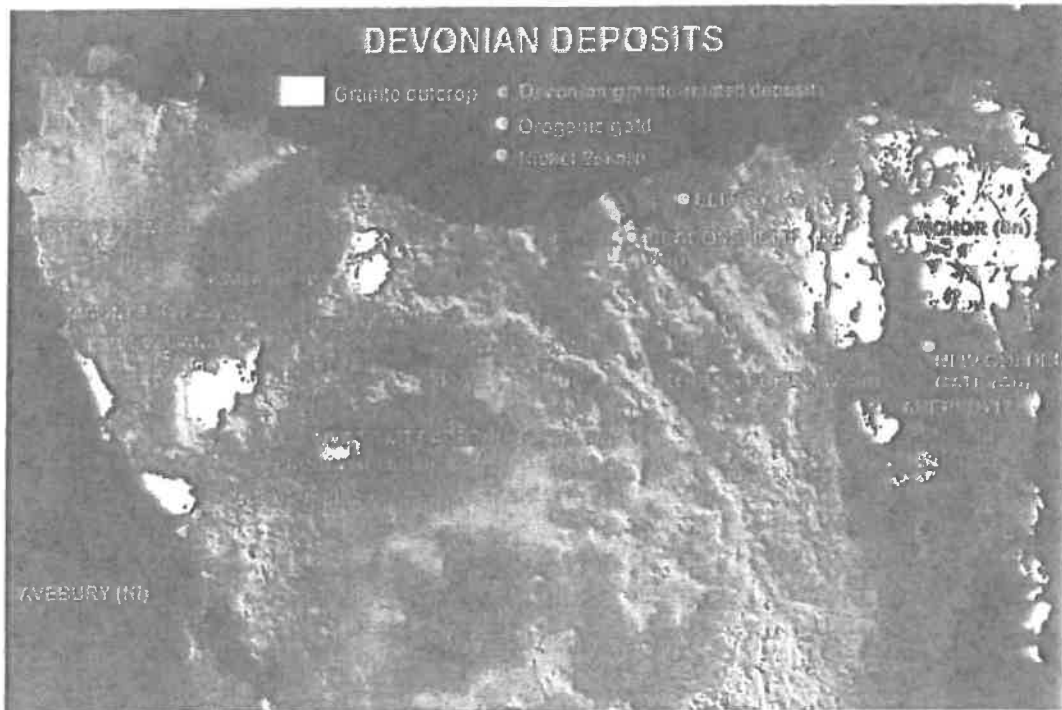


Figure 12

Granitoids and major Devonian mineral deposits of Tasmania shown on an image of terrain-corrected gravity.

Figure 10. Government collected regional gravity survey results for northern Tasmania with emphasis on Devonian related deposits. For spatial reference, note Avebury Ni and Renison Bell Sn occurrences. Map from Seymour *et al.* (2006).

3.2 Mineral Exploration Licences and Leases of the Areas of Interest

The Areas of Interest for turbine placement do overlap with existing exploration licences, however, there are no overlapping Areas of Interest with mineral leases. Of the total 429 proposed turbine sites, 115 are currently sited within 4 discrete exploration licences, and there are 10 turbine sites placed within 100 m of leases.

The majority of the turbine sites within exploration licences fall within EL9/2019, which is a broad area near Granville Harbour (West Block) that appears to be focused on higher grade tin mineralization with relatively small surficial footprints (e.g., St Dizier open pit, ~2.6 hectares, 10M/2017). This exploration licence already overlies existing turbine sites that belong to the Granville Harbour Wind Farm.

Independent Analysis of Exploration Activities and Methods around the Proposed Whaleback Ridge Wind Farm, northwestern Tasmania, Australia

Exploration licence EL13/2018 is in proximity to Zeehan (East Block), and the proposed sites are all along the margins and away from publicly advertised geological exploration targets. EL2/2018 and EL21/2005 are located at the northern extents of the proposed turbine area of interest (North Block) and the turbine sites fall within ~300 m of the larger exploration licence margins.

The turbine sites near to leases are primarily in the Granville Harbour area and are situated adjacent to smaller leases associated with smaller open pits that target tin extraction, processing and waste disposal (10M/2017, 2M/2018, 5M/2019). The other region with a lease (12M/1995) is near to the Renison Bell Mine and only a single turbine is within the 100 m buffer.

Table 2. Turbine Blocks with Lease and Exploration Licence Information.

| Block | Number of Proposed Turbine Sites | Sites within Leases | Sites within 100 m of Lease Boundaries | Sites within Exploration Licences |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| North | 124 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North – within EL | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Central | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| East | 67 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| East – within EL | 11 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| West | 107 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West – within EL | 94 | 0 | 9 | 94 |
| Totals | 429 | 0 | 10 | 115 |

*green shading indicates overlap with EL

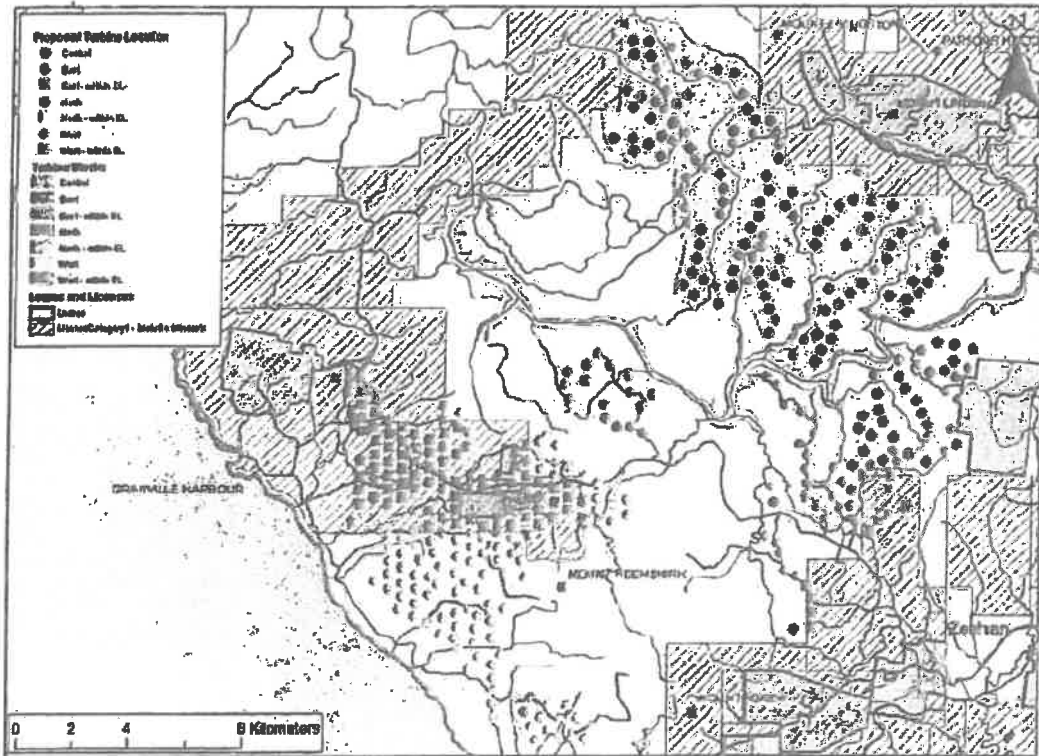


Figure 11. Proposed turbine sites in western Tasmania (same as previous figure, repeated for convenience). Diagonal hatched areas show exploration licences (EL), and coloured polygons with heavy lines indicate leases. Circles denote sites outside of licences, while squares are within the bounds of existing licences. Borderless light coloured polygons show "Turbine Blocks". Locations given by West Coast Renew, and "Blocks" defined by author.

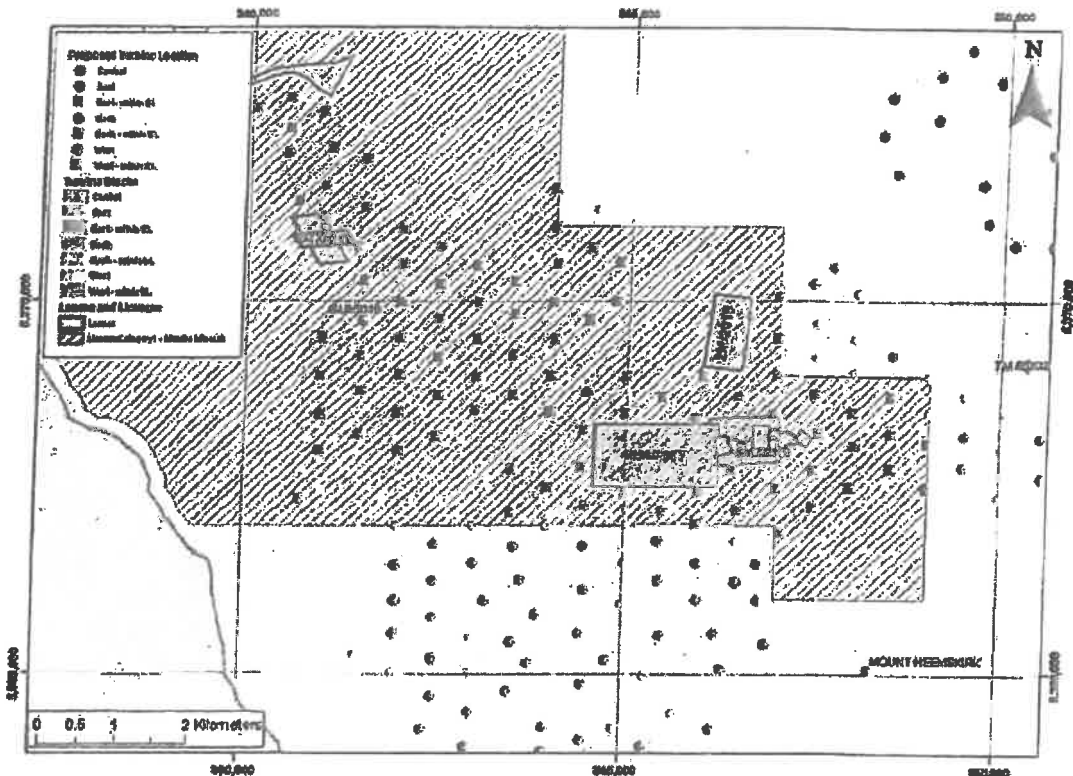


Figure 12. Turbine sites, exploration licences (EL#/YEAR, diagonal hatched) and leases (#M/YEAR, solid colour) with emphasis on the West Block area.

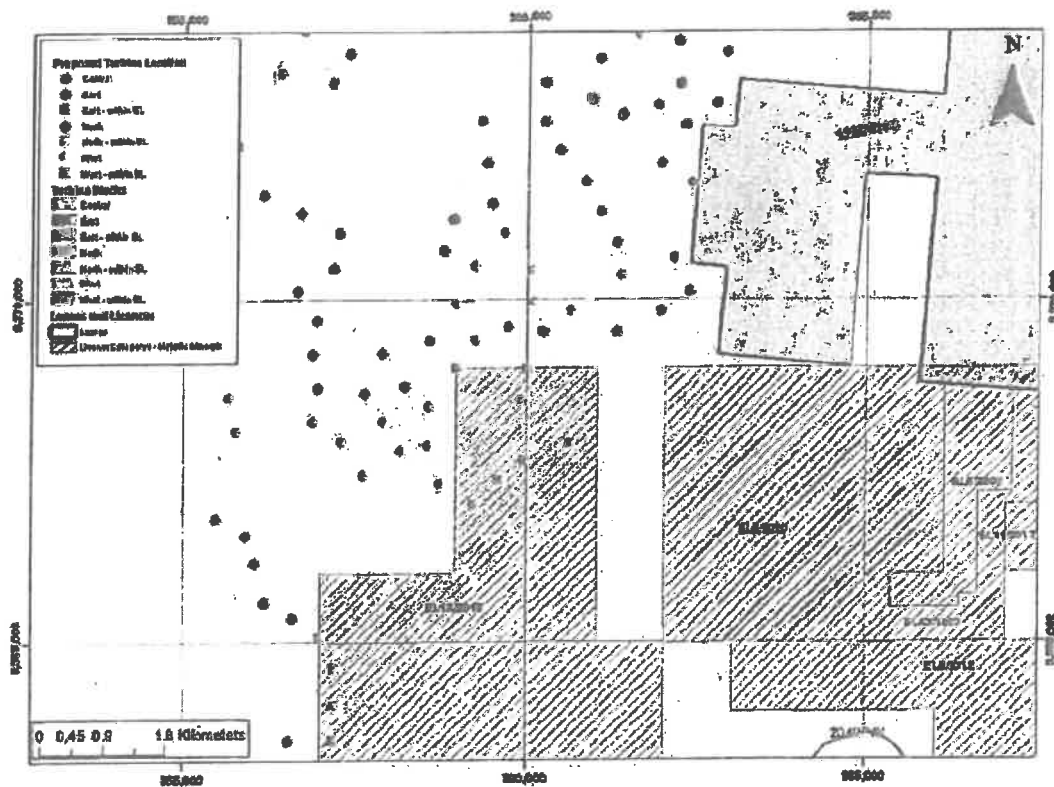


Figure 13. Turbine sites, exploration licences (EL#/YEAR, diagonal hatched) and leases (#M/YEAR, solid colour) with emphasis on the East Block area.

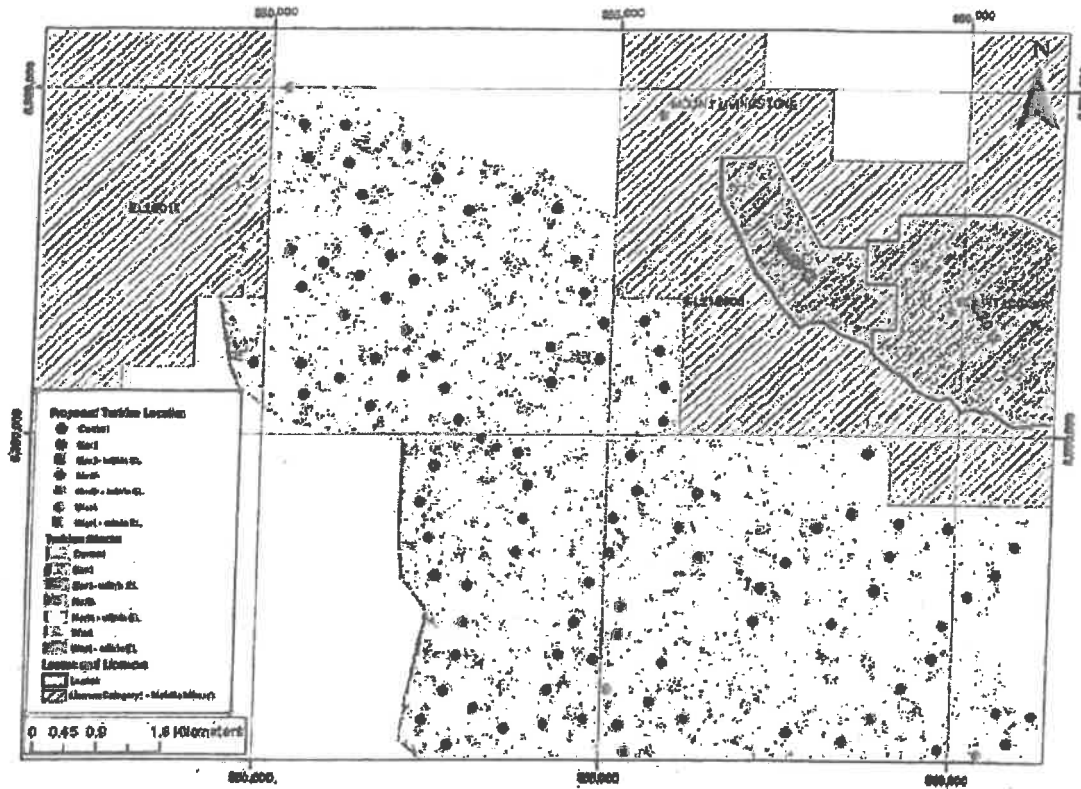


Figure 14. Turbine sites, exploration licences (EL# / YEAR, diagonal hatched) and leases (#M / YEAR, solid colour) with emphasis on the North Block area.

3.3 Magmatic Hydrothermal Sn-W Mineralization - Renison Bell and Queen Hill

The Renison Bell stratabound and vein-hosted Sn ore body is a well known mineralized system related to a highly fractionated I-type granite, the Devonian aged Pine Hill Granite. Tin mineralization is dominantly present as cassiterite with associated massive sulfides (e.g., arsenopyrite, pyrrhotite, pyrite, chalcopyrite). The current mine life for Renison Bell underground mine is ~10 years, though there is upside potential according to Metals X Ltd.. Regional exploration is being conducted by Metals X and their Bluestone Mines Tasmania Joint Venture, and this work appears to be focused to the north and northeast with emphasis on nearest mineralized areas (e.g., North King and South Bassett). An excellent study and review of the geological setting at Renison is given by Kitto (1994, 1998) with descriptions of effective exploration methods, such as mapping structures, studying alteration and using soil and stream geochemistry.

- No proposed turbine sites fall within the lease related to the Renison Bell Mine (12M/1995).

Other similar Sn-W occurrences, such as Queen Hill, are found in rocks related to Devonian-Carboniferous aged highly fractionated granitoids in this general region. Hong *et al.* 2017 and Cook *et al.* 2017 recently documented many of the historical magmatic hydrothermal Sn-W occurrences in the Heemskirk region. Active mineral exploration is being conducted to the SW of the Renison Bell area near Zeehan, and fairly extensive drill programs targeting these tin showings have been carried out in recent years (e.g., Stellar Resources Limited). The focus of that work has been in and around Queen Hill, Montana, Oonah, and Severn targets, which are in close proximity to Zeehan. These Zeehan-proximal targets are being approached with underground development in mind.

- This region of exploration and development shows the most significant overlap with the proposed turbine sites, and 10 locations are within exploration licence EL 13/2018, held by Columbus Metals Ltd. None of these 10 sites, however, are located in areas listed as high priority for exploratory work or leases.

Further to the west and more closely associated with the Heemskirk granite is the St Dizier deposit, which lies closer to Granville Harbour and is a small open pit target. Also close to Granville Harbour, the Granville Tin Mine leases held by Ten Star Mining, a subsidiary of AusTinMining, are currently in the process of being sold or disposed of according to June and July 2020 press releases. This group / company also holds a number of the other leases and exploration licences in the area.

- While a number of proposed turbine sites fall within EL 9/2019 (held by Ten Star Mining), no turbine sites fall within the existing leases (2M/2018, 5M/2019, 32M/1988, 10M/2017).

To the northeast of the proposed turbine sites exploration is being carried out by Venture Metals near Mount Lindsay. In this region, the Devonian Meredith Granite-related mineralization comprises tin and tungsten (W) hosted in magnetite skarns. Grades are generally lower than at Renison Bell, but recent

airborne geophysical surveys have identified some "Renison Style High Grade Targets". Targets are well inboard of the exploration licences and mineralization is apparently focused along fault structures cutting Success Creek Group and Crimson Creek Formation lithologies, as well as the more northern Gordon Limestones.

- Five proposed turbine sites fall within EL 21/2005 at its eastern margins, but sit within Oonah Formation rocks that are not apparently the focus of current exploration.

The region between Trial Harbour and Granville Harbour is occupied largely by the Heemskirk Granite, a polyphase and evolved Devonian granitoid. The eastern lobe is termed the Red Granite while the western lobe, where mineralization is more common and intrusive activity is younger, is termed the White Granite. This region has been explored since the late 1800s and a number of mineral occurrences are recorded here, especially for Sn and especially at the southern limits of the intrusive body (e.g., greisens near Lake Cumberland). Recent academic work has focused on better understanding the petrogenesis of the granite and its mineralization potential (e.g., Hajitaheri 1985, Cooke *et al.* 2019). It has been explored many times over the last >100 years, and most recently by Minrex Resources (Munro 2018, expired EL18/2011) from 2011 to 2018. That recent work was targeting the potential of a larger lower grade resource for Sn, however, the field work concluded that "the results to date are disappointing". For example, in 2017 a total of 58 rock samples were taken from some of the most prospective areas, and only 5 samples yielded Sn values above 0.2%. As a result, the project was discontinued.

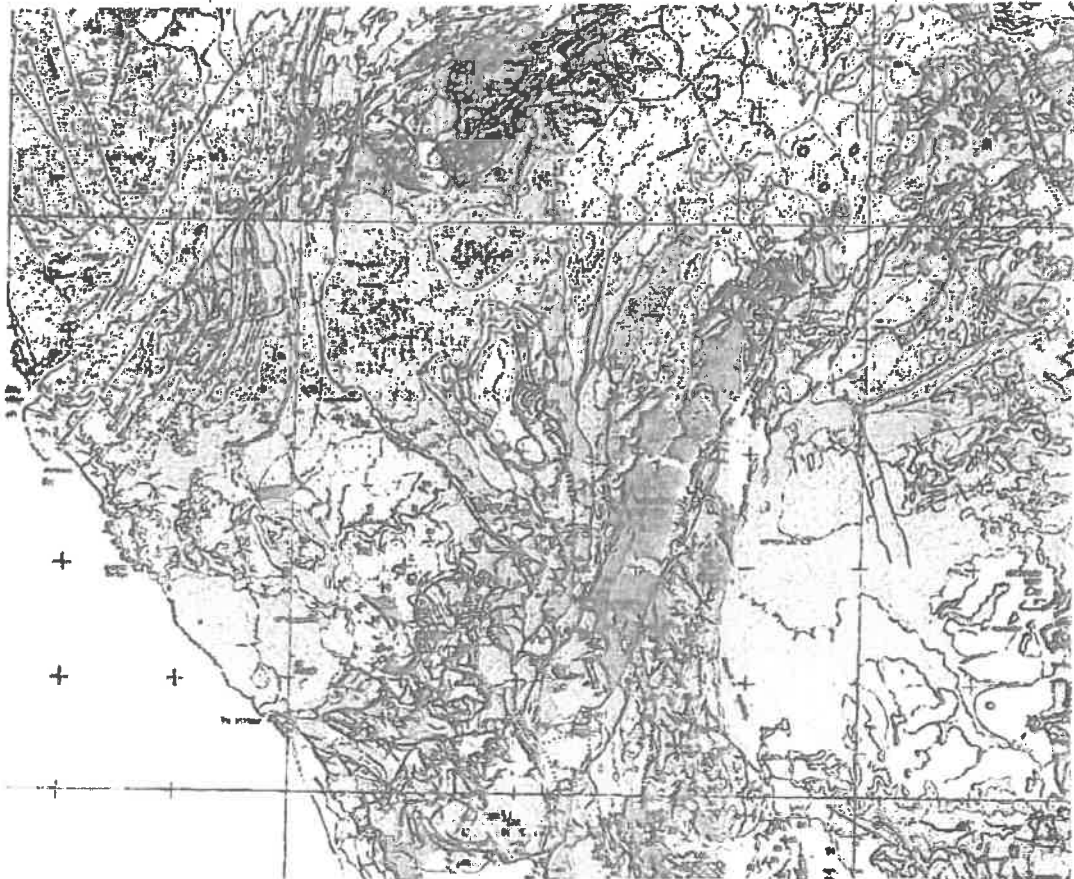


Figure 15. Regional geological map of the area, as extracted from the Tasmanian Government geoscience and mapping portal. The Renison Bell area is denoted by the orange star with red outline. Rocks that host this mineralization are largely the Renison Mine Sequence and Success Creek Group, but are generally in close proximity to the Pine Hill Granite and tied closely to structural features. Empty red stars are Rosebery (to NE) and Zeehan (to SW) areas. The central square is 50 km by 50 km, and north is upwards on the map.

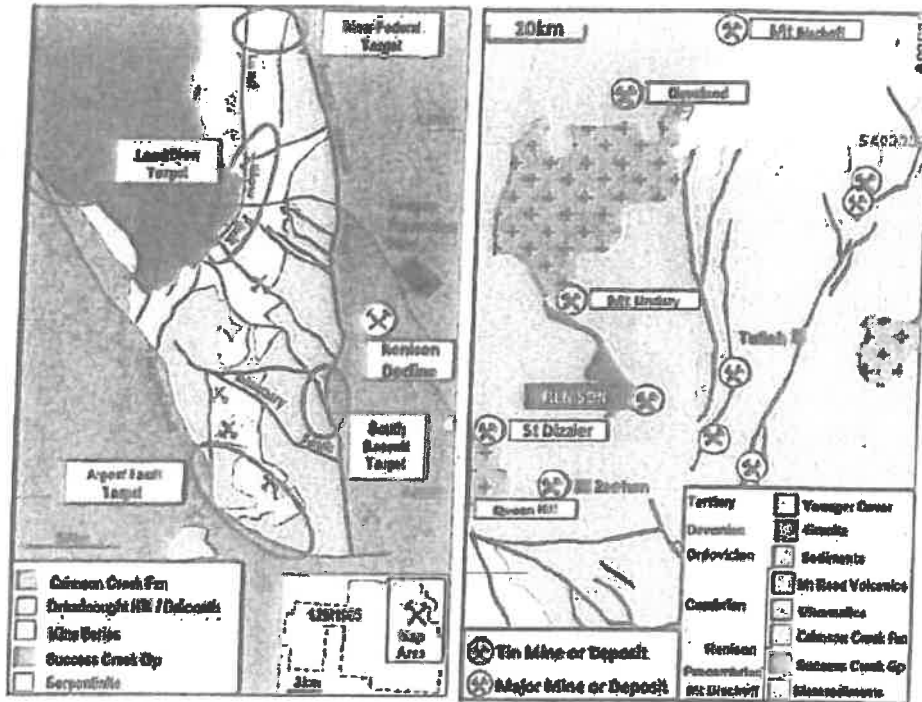


Figure 16. Simplified local geological setting near Renison Bell with local exploration targets (left) and regional map denoting exploration targeting (right), from the Metals X June 2020 Company Presentation.

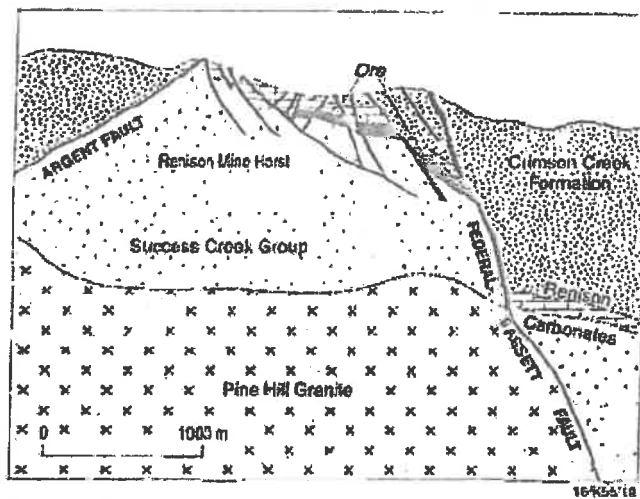


Figure 1. Renison--regional geology.

Figure 17. Renison-style carbonate replacement Sn deposit cross section schematic from Kitto (1998).

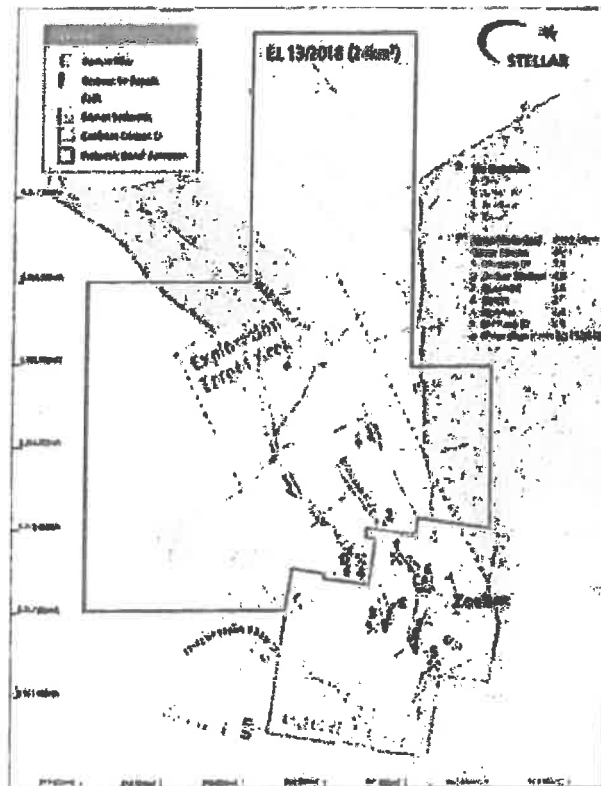


Figure 18. Stellar Resources principal Sn targets in the Zeehan region, including the broader Exploration Licence (EL 13/2018) termed Montana Flats. Advanced targets include Severn (A), Queen Hill (B), Montana (C) and Oonah (D). Geological structures are important features of the mineralizing event.

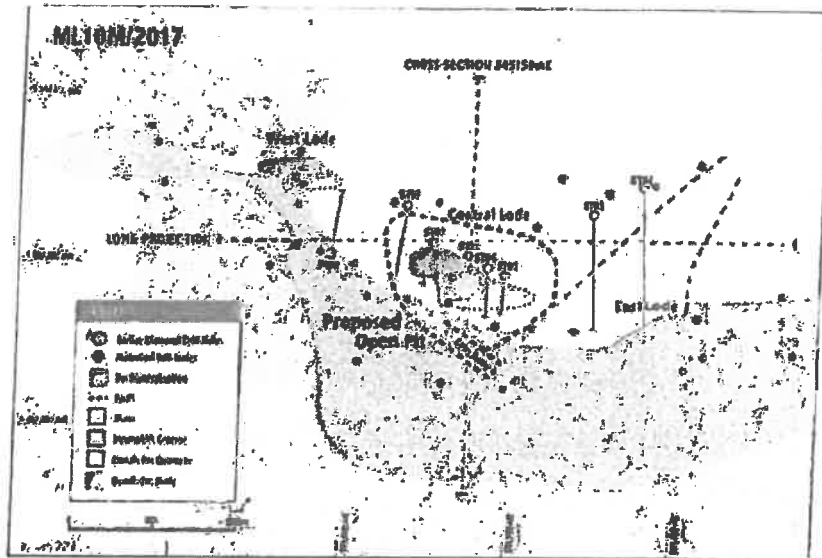


Figure 19. St Dizier plan and small proposed open pit over the Central Lode. Figure from Stellar Resources website.

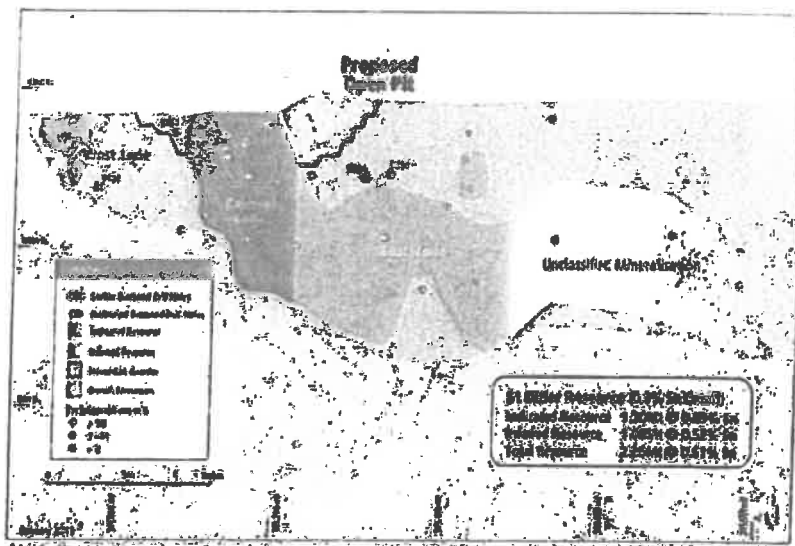


Figure 20. St Dizier cross section of proposed open pit. Figure from Stellar Resources website.



Figure 21. Granville Tin Skarn Small-Scale Mining, April 2019. Mining has since ceased. Photo from AusTinMining website.

Granville has proved a challenging asset and distracted from the Company's key value drivers of Taronga and Mt Cobalt. The proposed divestment of Granville will provide an opportunity for renewed emphasis on exploration and development. The sale will also provide \$1,000,000 in cash proceeds for re-investment into the business.

Figure 22. Quote from AusTinMining in an April 2020 update presentation. Presentation accessed online from website.

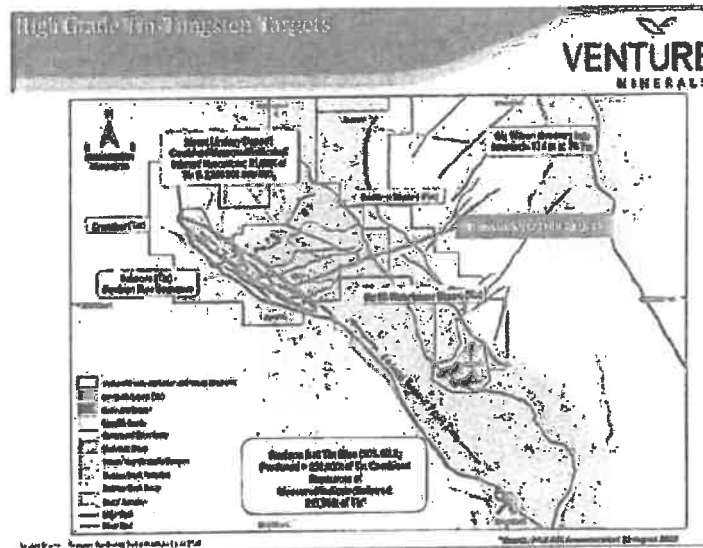


Figure 23. Mount Lindsay deposit and surrounding targets, with mineralization focused along Crimson Creek Formation and Success Creek Group in proximity to structural features. Image from Venture Minerals Presentation files, dated June 2020.

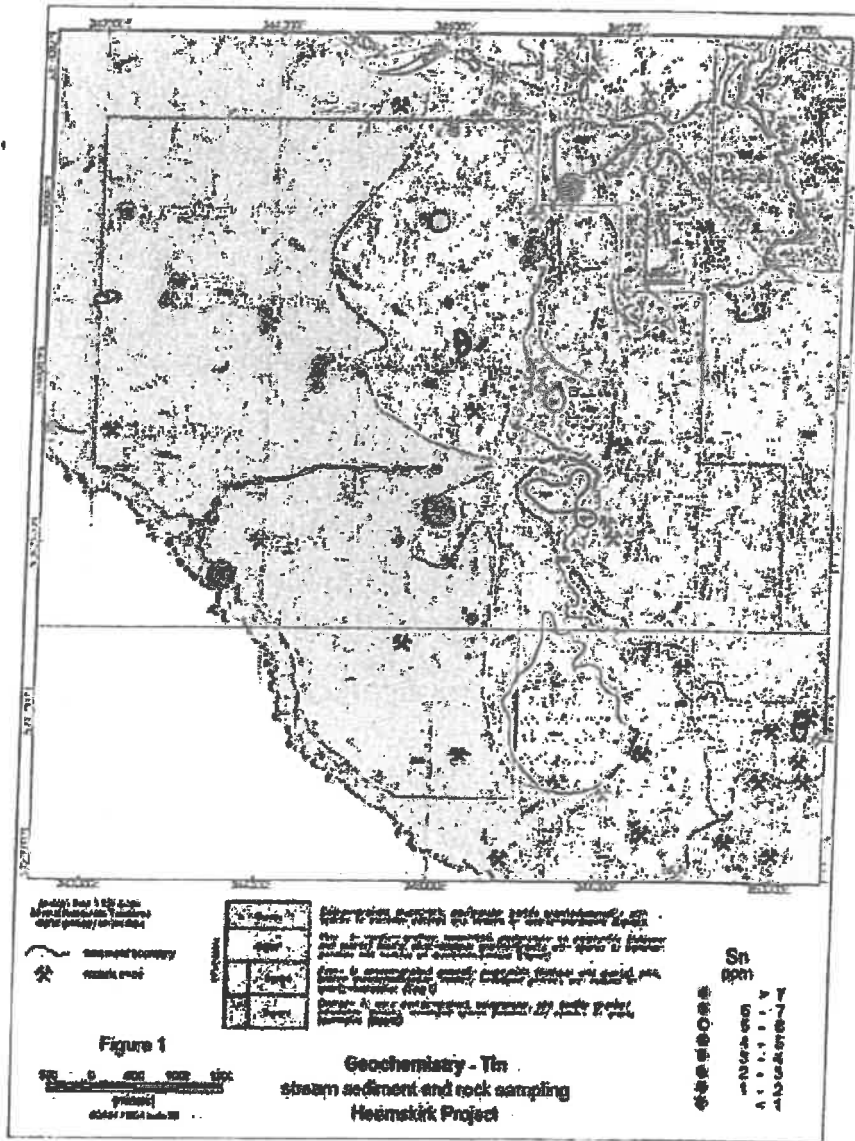


Figure 2: E18/2011 Geology with mine sites and tin geochemistry from pre-2012 exploration

Figure 24. Regional geology and historical stream sediment sampling results from Minrex Resources, 2018 Annual Report on expired EL18/2011.

3.4 Hydrothermal Polymetallic Veins – Zeehan

The region is generally well known for mining, with the Zeehan silver-lead orebody being discovered in the late 19th century and many small to medium size mines operating up until the mid 1900's (Williams and Both 1971). The Zeehan mineral fields are generally described as hydrothermally-related replacement, vein and skarn deposits with enrichment in Pb, Zn and Ag. These ore systems all cross cut their host rocks, which include older Precambrian Oorah Formation quartzites and siltstones. The mineralization event itself is thought to be related to Devonian granites and related hydrothermal fluid circulation. While many historical mines and prospects exist in the area, as evidenced by the large number of documented mineral occurrences, these all fall close to the town of Zeehan. The majority of the contemporary exploration in this region is currently focused on tin (Sn) mineralization (see previous section).

- Drawing a 750 m buffer around the reported mineral occurrences envelops 4 proposed turbine locations at the far NNW extent of the buffer. These turbine locations could be given lower priority in a queue of construction to allow for unhindered interim exploration.

Interestingly, there is also a renewed interest in the Zeehan area by researchers at University of Tasmania that are looking to unlock value of the disposed slags (e.g., Parbhakar-Fox *et al.* 2019) and rehabilitate the area. While this has no direct impact on the concepts of exploration and mineral development near to the turbines, there are some shared ideologies with renewable energy generation.

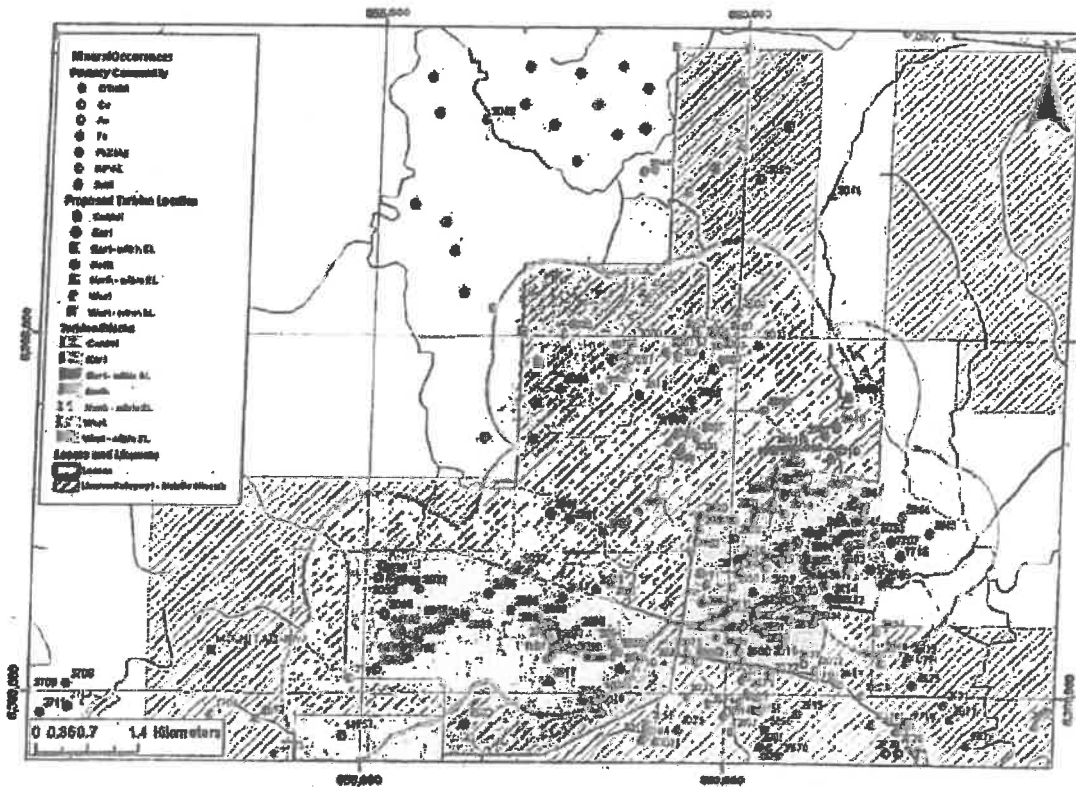


Figure 25. Proposed turbine locations and associated Blocks, plotted with mineral occurrences coloured by dominant commodity. Occurrences proximal to Zeehan towards the proposed turbines have had a 750 m buffer drawn in purple, and show that only 4 proposed turbine locations fall near to 2 PbZnAg-dominant occurrences (3035 and 3036, both unnamed).

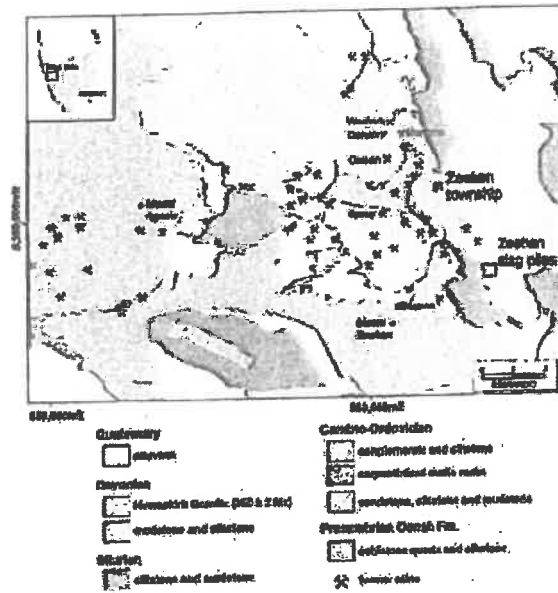


Figure 1. Geological map of the Zeehan field, Western Tasmania, with the location of the Zeehan slag piles and township marked (Identified from Fox et al. [19]).

Figure 26. Generalized geological map of the Zeehan area with emphasis on historical production and the location of the Zeehan Slag Piles. Map from Parbhakar-Fox et al. (2019).

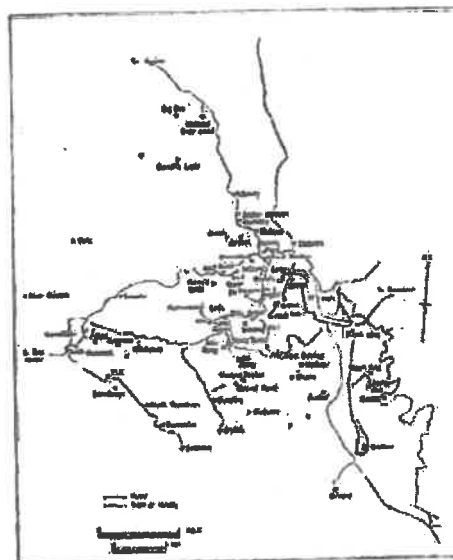


Figure 27. Mine and prospect localities of the Zeehan area (from Williams and Both 1971)

3.5 Polymetallic VMS Deposits - Rosebery

The ore bodies at the Rosebery mine are hosted in Cambrian-aged Mount Read Volcanics, and are generally described as polymetallic massive sulfide deposits with enrichment in Zn, Pb, Au, Ag and Cu. These ores are restricted to these Cambrian rock packages, and also include a number of other related deposits (e.g., as in Corbett 2002 and Seymour *et al.* 2006). The prospective host rocks for these deposits generally fall considerably to the east of the proposed turbine sites, but are commented on here because of their significance and small slivers of unit CMVS rocks near to Zeehan (see Corbett 2002).

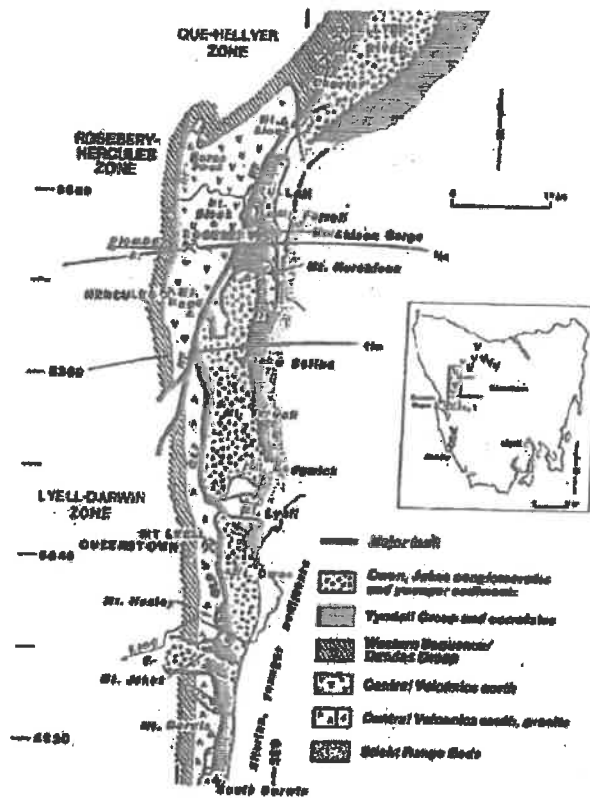


FIG. 1. Geological map of the Mount Read Volcanics from Corbett (1971), Emery (1981), and Corbett and Mather (1988). The 1 km and 4 km contours are average depths to the Devonian granite surface, based on gravity data (Lawson *et al.*, 1988).

Figure 28. Geological map from Solomon *et al.* (1988) of the Mount Read Volcanics, including the Rosebery Deposit at the northern part of the complex. To the west are rocks of the Dundas Group and Western Sequence.

3.6 Other Mineralization Styles

The Avebury nickel deposit immediately to the south of the area of interest has been variably described, but is thought to be either related directly to the Heemskirk granite or more probably a pre-existing ophiolitic-hosted Ni ore with overprinting alteration from the Heemskirk granite (e.g., Keays *et al.* 2013, Seymour *et al.* 2006, Hong *et al.* 2017). This deposit has seen intermittent development and underground mining, and recent news releases available online suggest that production will restart, but that there have been some challenges. Leases in this area are currently held by Allegiance Mining Pty Ltd. Continued exploration for this mineralization style will be restricted to the ultramafic rocks that host the Avebury deposit, and these all lay south of the southern-most proposed turbines.

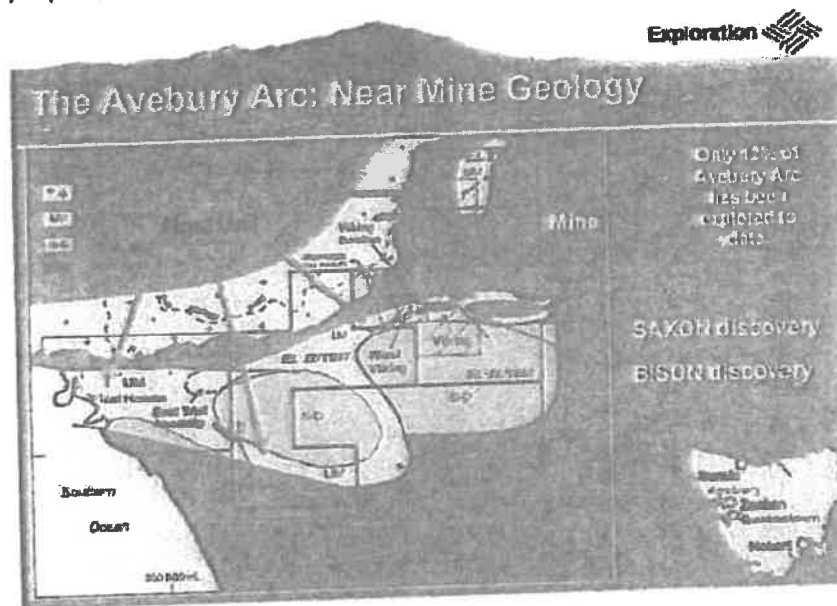


Figure 29. Near-mine geological setting of the Avebury Ni deposit. Note that the prospective ultramafic rocks are all south and east of the Heemskirk granite. Figure from Allegiance Mining Pty ASX filings, dated August 2007.

At the northern extents of the Area of Interest, an exploration licence (EL2/2018) held by Georgina Resources Pty Ltd. appears to be focused on the Bowry Formation greenschists of the Arthur Metamorphic Complex, and nearby mineral occurrences (and their associated historical reports, e.g., 88-2779) suggest that exploration is likely focused on magnetite and/or gold metal potential. Some industrial minerals are also present regionally within the Arthur Metamorphic Complex.

- There are 4 proposed turbine locations within this licence, however, they are not placed within these mapped prospective lithologies and instead land within the Oonah Formation "Whyte Group" quartzites and quartz-dominated pelitic schists.

3.7 Summary of Mineral Exploration and Mining in the Context of Turbine Sites

Active mining is taking place at the Renison Bell Mine. Advanced exploration is being carried out near Zeehan for Ni (Avebury) and Sn (Zeehan ore fields), and small pits and occurrences are located near Granville Harbour. Earlier stage exploration activities focus on Sn (Mt Lindsay) and Au (Bowry Fm) prospects to the north and across the Heemskirk granite. The most prominent overlap between proposed turbine sites and exploration activity is near Granville Harbour, however, the level and scale of exploration activities suggest that the two activities could easily co-exist. The next most prominent area of overlap is in proximity to the Zeehan ore fields where more advanced exploration is taking place within a brownfields setting. These proposed turbine sites would have a greater influence on exploration activity, however, the stage of exploration for these projects suggests that diamond drilling will be required to start exploring at greater depths. Diamond drilling can largely coexist with wind turbines.

The following map shows all the known mineral occurrences in the region. The dominance of PbZnAg (lead, zinc, silver) and SnW (tin, tungsten) occurrences is consistent with the current exploration and historical mining in the area. The turbine sites have been largely placed in locations with low number of mineral occurrences and lesser mineral exploration activity. The Heemskirk area stands out in contrast to others, where numerous SnW occurrences are within the West Block and not covered by any licences. This region has been the focus of many exploration programs in search of lower grade and higher tonnage SnW deposits, but has not been successful historically (e.g., the abandoned Peripatetic mine) or recently (e.g., Minrex Resources, 2012 to 2017).

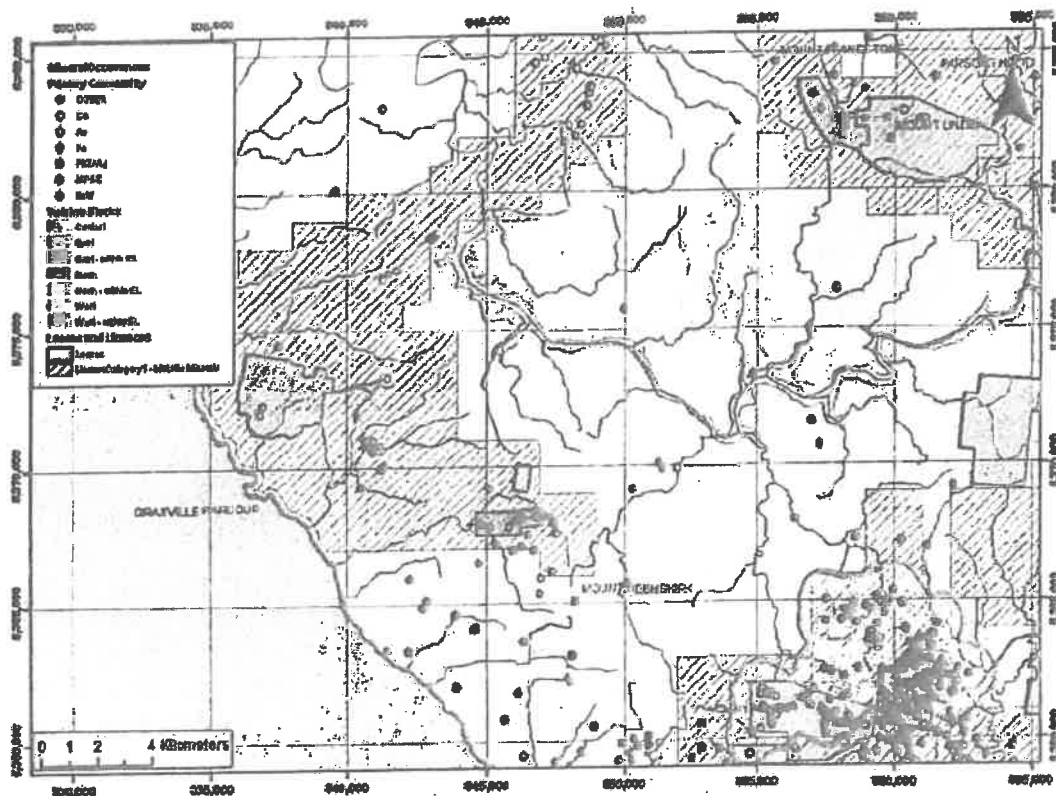


Figure 30. Mineral occurrences of the Granville Harbour and Zeehan region. Occurrences have been grouped into primary commodities, and shortened by element abbreviations (e.g., Sn=tin). The region is clearly dominated by SnW (red) and PbZnAg (blue) occurrences. The purple buffer in the Zeehan area is 750 m around the dominant PbZnAg and Sn occurrences.

Overall, the proposed turbine locations are well placed in the context of not interfering with current exploration activity. Minor adjustments to the few challenging proposed locations could avoid any potential interferences with exploration. For example, there is one proposed turbine location immediately adjacent to the Renison Bell Lease, and if deemed problematic could be pulled back or relocated to the other side of the East Turbine Block where there are no potential conflicts with existing tenure.

New discoveries outside of historical areas are always possible, however, it is important to note that mining and exploration in this region has been active since the late 1800's. Furthermore, the important ore and related gangue minerals in these fields (e.g., cassiterite, galena, tetrahedrite, fluorite) are generally dense, resistive to abrasion and/or in high geochemical contrast to host rocks, thus making them very suitable for discovery along drainages either through panning or silt sample geochemistry. A

conclusion from this statement is that while not all of the individual deposits may have been found, their distribution should fall within the existing limits of mineral occurrences. For example, the polymetallic veins and Sn lodes in the Zeehan area are very well clustered, and a buffer around these occurrences should delineate their outermost prospective region. If there were surficial outcrops of similar mineralization outside of this boundary they would have likely been reported and possibly explored.

It is important to recognize that recorded mineral occurrences can range widely in importance and relevance, from single outcrops that have associated poor assays or limited work (e.g., ID7705, Trial Creek "Construction Materials" listed as Unknown), to those that are very historical in nature (e.g., ID3251, shaft sunk circa 1895 at McNamaras Prospect), as well as to more developed prospects with diamond drilling or underground development (ID2958, drilling, underground mapping and geophysics, supporting resource calculation at Sn lodes of the Zeehan field). Point locations for mineral occurrence locations are also a convenient way to record information, but by this design it excludes the fact that an occurrence will always have a spatial footprint and not be a single 'point'. Thus, while it is visually useful to obtain a high level understanding of the spatial distribution of mineral occurrences it is important to not assume that a dot on the map could indicate a potential mine. These data are all readily available through the Tasmanian Government geoscience portals and resources.

There will also always be exploration work that is conducted but not recorded or publicized. These activities are assumed to be minor in the area of interest due to the limited diversity of currently active licences. Nevertheless, it will continue to be feasible for this type of smaller scale prospecting to take place amongst the wind farm turbines.

4. Exploration Methods Applicable Near to Wind Turbines

4.1 Traditional Exploration Methods

Traditional exploration techniques will be largely unaffected by the presence of wind turbines. While some areas will not be accessible due to turbine piers and safety buffers, it is unlikely that a mineral prospect will be entirely missed if of sufficient size for further exploration. This includes bedrock and alteration mapping, rock sampling, stream water and sediment sampling, heavy mineral concentrate (HMC) sampling, hyperspectral and radiometric surveys, trenching and diamond or RC drilling. Seismic surveys might be affected by wind-induced vibrations emanating from the turbines.

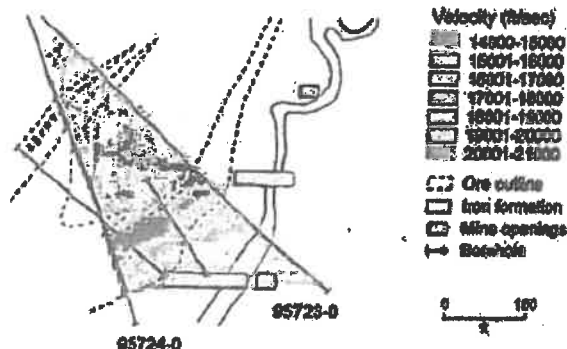
For the previously described mineralization styles, many of these exploration methods are strongly applicable along many stages of exploration from greenfields prospecting (e.g., HMC sampling for cassiterite) to resource definition (e.g., diamond drilling for all commodities), and can be carried out in proximity to wind turbines. Indeed, exploration reports that are publicly available extensively make use of these methods.

4.2 Geophysics and Remote Sensing for Mineral Exploration

Perhaps the most significant perturbation to 'traditional exploration' is the difficulty that turbines will pose to EM-based methods. In particular, active turbines will pose challenges for fixed wing survey. However, so long as the turbines are widely spaced enough and short term shut downs are feasible there should be no problem flying within the wind farm and especially if by helicopter. Furthermore, UAV-based survey methods have progressed substantially in the last 10 years and are able to survey in very technically challenging conditions *without* danger to pilots. Noise from electrical and conductive materials will pose a challenge to interpreting results, but this is manageable through data integration and modelling, and many brownfields, civil engineering and in-mine surveys have had similar challenges where locations of underground workings, metallic structures and tramp metal at surface are present or not well defined (e.g., King *et al.* 2006, McDowell *et al.* 2007, Johnson and Wellman 2015, McClymont *et al.* 2016). Downhole geophysical surveying is common in the industry, and crosshole or between-hole approaches are also becoming more widespread, allowing for EM and seismic-based probing to start in a subsurface environment (e.g., Polzer 2000, Enescu *et al.* 2002, Lamontagne and Milkereit 2007, Lee *et al.* 2016). It is important to also remember that remote sensing methods such as photogrammetry, multispectral, hyperspectral, thermal, and radiometrics will not be affected by the presence of turbines. Consequently, an array of geophysical surveying methods will remain at the disposal of the modern mineral exploration company.

In the context of local current mineral exploration much of the work is being done appears to have an emphasis on tin systems, which commonly has pyrrhotite associations. Magnetic surveys are a great approach for these types of systems, and especially so with UAVs where the magnetometer can be

flown close to the ground yet daily coverage can be very high. The magnetic character for ophiolite hosted rocks would be similarly use for exploration purposes (e.g., at Averbury). Radiometric surveys are also useful for delineating granite-host rock contacts and different phases of composite intrusive bodies (e.g., Heemskirk), and can be readily flown using UAV-based systems or carried out on the ground.



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Figure 6: Results of the T-3, 1C seismic tomography survey. Orebody outline shown in dashed red.

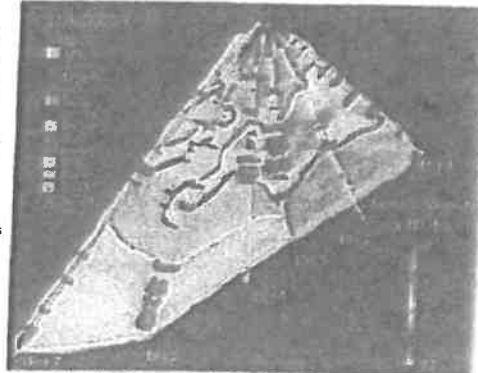


Figure 22: 37500 N section seismic tomography results looking South. Seismic tomography ore envelope interpretation shown in dark grey.

Figure 31. Example cross-hole seismic tomography results for complexly folded stratigraphically hosted mineralization of Thompson, MB, Canada. Images from McDowell *et al.* (2007)

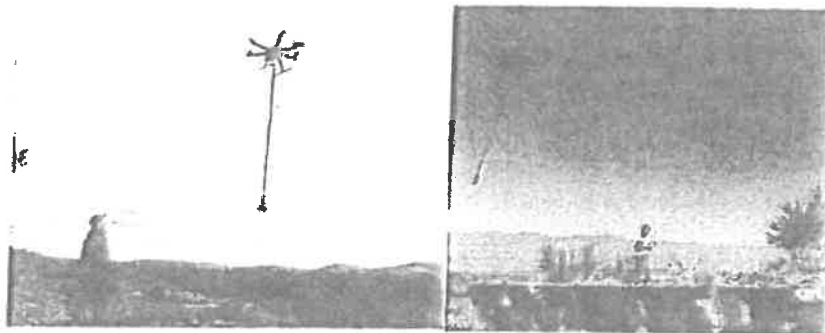


Figure 32. Example images of multirotor UAVs towing magnetometers in Russia and Chile. Left is from Parshin *et al.* (2018) and right is from Global UAV Technologies website.

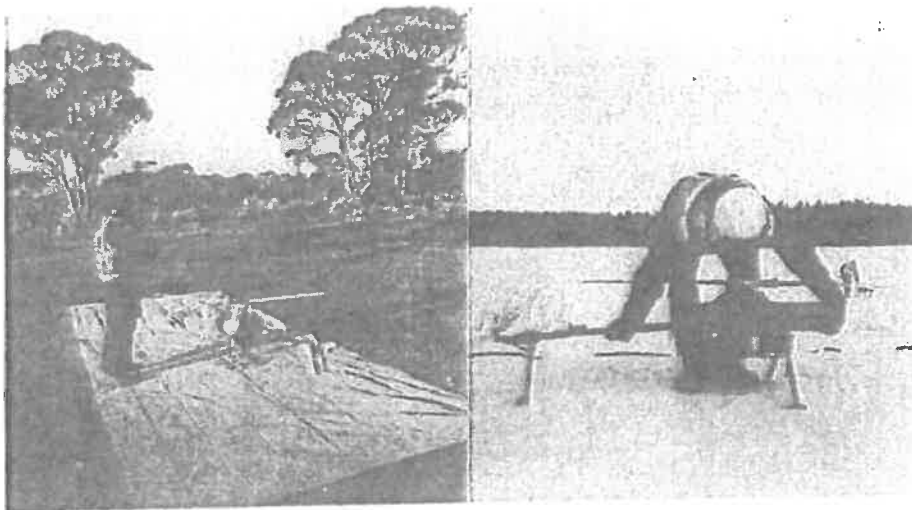


Figure 33. Example images of heli UAV systems towing magnetometers in Australia and Canada. Left is from Pegasus Airborne Systems, based in Perth, Australia, and right is from Global UAV Technologies in Canada.

DATA QUALITY COMPARISON

Survey results comparing 4 different types of magnetic surveys over the SAME line on the SAME anomaly

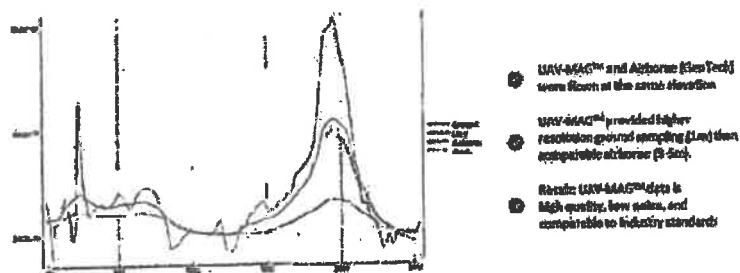


Figure 34. UAV-Mag Data Quality Comparison from Global UAV Technologies / Pioneer Aerial Surveys, a Canadian based exploration consulting company serving international clients.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

West Coast Renewable tasked the author with evaluating the mineral potential in the area surrounding its proposed wind farm. This wind farm currently comprises 429 turbine locations spread over 4 general geographic blocks. Some of these blocks with turbine locations overlap with existing exploration licences, however, no proposed turbine locations are sited directly within existing leases.

The mineral exploration review and potential assessment was carried out as a desktop study in a limited time frame and did not include any ground prospecting or geophysical surveys, nor deep investigations into geological or exploration databases. It is relatively easy to establish that the area east and south east of the proposed wind farm has strong metal endowments, as evidenced by mineral production since the 19th century. The mineral deposits that comprise the metal endowment of these areas were reviewed (e.g., Renison Bell, Zeehan) and compared against the geology where the turbines are proposed. Current exploration activities and academic literature was also consulted to evaluate what other potential might be present (e.g., Heemskirk tin project, Avebury.NI development).

At present, it is the opinion of the author that the proposed locations of the turbines generally should not directly impact mineral exploration and development activities. However, a conservative approach to turbine placement could allow for prioritization of areas 'clear' of current mineral exploration activity (e.g., Central Block), with later turbine construction in the regions geographically closer to the highest potential areas. These highest potential areas include near Zeehan (e.g., exploration by Stellar Resources) and Renison Bell (active Sn mining). Exploration licences near Granville Harbour are currently targeting low grade Sn (West Block), and possibly Fe/Au (North Block), and while there is potential for discovery the history of development as compared to Zeehan and Renison Bell ascribes a lower mineral potential.

In all areas with exploration activity it is recommended that Westcoast Renewable Energy discuss potential turbine locations with mining and mineral exploration stakeholders in case there are clear opportunities to optimize placements for lesser potential impact on exploration. Accordingly, it is the understanding of the author that proposed turbine locations are not currently 'fixed' and so early opportunities exist to optimize placements. As previously stated, these locations could potentially be scheduled near the end of the broader construction phases so as to allow licence holders a window to conduct airborne geophysics if they wish.


The Tasmanian Government could supplement this prioritization by organizing or subsidizing additional high resolution EM-based geophysical surveys in the highest mineral potential regions prior to turbine installations. This would allow mineral exploration companies the opportunities to evaluate the data and highlight any significant mineral potential. However, it must also be repeated that the presence of wind turbines does not preclude most traditional methods of mineral exploration. In some cases, such as with electromagnetics, it could require additional creativity for full exploration.

In summary, it is the author's opinion that:

- Turbines are generally placed in areas of lower mineral potential, and earliest installations should be emphasized at regions where no licences or leases are present (e.g., Central Block).
- Specific proposed turbine locations are not currently fixed in place, and therefore opportunity exists to:
 - expand certain clusters of turbines, such as for the Central and North Blocks,
 - adjust the location of some turbines, such as near Renison Bell mine lease, and/or
 - relocate certain turbine locations, such as for licences and leases near Zeehan.
- Collaboration and consultation with mineral exploration stakeholders is encouraged, such as with Stellar Resources and others developing Sn projects, so as to ensure open communication regarding activities that may impact exploration.
- The presence of wind turbines does not preclude the ability to continue exploration with the majority of traditional methodologies, and the two industries can coexist.

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- The presence of wind turbines does not preclude the ability to continue exploration with the majority of traditional methodologies, and the two industries can coexist.

Respectfully Submitted,


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- Independent Analysis of Exploration Activities and Methods around the Proposed Whaleback Ridge Wind Farm, northwestern Tasmania, Australia*

5

Retallick, Amanda

From: The Premier
Sent: Monday, 2 November 2020 4:42 PM
To: 'craig.brakey@westcoastrenew.com.au'
Subject: FW: Summary update on Project Renewable Future

Dear Craig

On behalf of the Premier, the Hon Peter Gutwein MP, thank you for your email dated 30 October 2020.

Your correspondence is currently being considered.

Kind regards

Office of the Premier
The Hon Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of Tasmania
Treasurer
Minister for Climate Change
Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Tourism
Level 11, 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000
Phone: (03) 6165 7650
Email: premier@dpac.tas.gov.au
www.premier.tas.gov.au

From: Craig Brakey <craig.brakey@westcoastrenew.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 30 October 2020 4:57 PM
To: Gutwein, Peter <Peter.Gutwein@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Alan Morrell <alan.morrell@westcoastrenew.com.au>; Alex Simpson <alex.simpson@westcoastrenew.com.au>
Subject: Summary update on Project Renewable Future

Dear Premier

Since we spoke last week there have been some developments that adds urgency to our situation. As follows :

- Re Waratah Dam. We have been asked to a meeting with TasWater next Thursday to discuss the specifics of our interest in using the Dam: We understand TasWater plan to start decommissioning the dam in 5-6 months and want to know our timeline as part of their decision-making
- [redacted] contacted us again this week. It is clear they are wanting to develop their interest in our project, and are asking the situation about securing lease arrangements
- Our CEO (Alan) and Director (Alex) had a very positive meeting with [redacted] it is likely he will visit Tasmania as soon as practicable as part of next steps in developing his interest

In each case above we need some resolution of the issues we discussed last week in order to progress next steps. We are very confident that if we can, then the project will be positioned to develop quickly.

I am very happy to elaborate in a phone call if that is easier so please don't hesitate to call or text.

Regards
Craig Brakey

From: Alan Morrell <alan.morrell@westcoastrenew.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 23 October 2020 12:24 PM
To: Gutwein, Peter <Peter.Gutwein@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Craig Brakey <craig.brakey@westcoastrenew.com.au>; Alex Simpson <alex.simpson@westcoastrenew.com.au>
Subject: Summary update on Project Renewable Future

Dear Premier

Craig Brakey advised me of his discussion with you last night. I understand he also provided you with copies of recent correspondence we have sent to Minister Jaensch and to the Crown Solicitor.

For ease of reference I draw out the salient points of those letters below.

- We received approval to install Met Masts on 28 August. This is welcome news, however there are limitations on the approval that we are endeavouring to clarify:
 - The two year time limit on the license approval - license should be ongoing with annual or bi-annual renewals as the masts remain in situ for many years.
 - Series of limitations on the license relating to what we can access on the ground to enable the various enviro studies, etc as part of the larger approvals process for a wind farm – this should be addressed as part of our lease – detailed below.
 - It is worth noting that the proposed area for lease is approximately 200 ha. There is a much larger 'study area' used for initial survey studies but this has been refined considerably over the past 12 months:
 - We wrote to Min Jaensch on this subject 17 Sept 2020
 - Our lawyers wrote to the Crown solicitor seeking clarification 16 Sept 2020
 - We are awaiting their response

6

Retallick, Amanda

From: Tyrrell, Tammy (Sen J. Lambie) <Tammy.Tyrrell@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 10 November 2020 9:43 AM
To: The Premier
Cc: Craig Brakey; Amos, Cameron (Sen J. Lambie)
Subject: Correspondence for the Premiers attention.
Attachments: Premier Gutwein - West Coast Renewable Energy 10-11-20.pdf
Categories: PJ

Good Morning,

Please find correspondence for the Premiers attention.

Kind regards



**Office of Senator
Jacqui Lambie**

Tammy Tyrrell
Office Manager

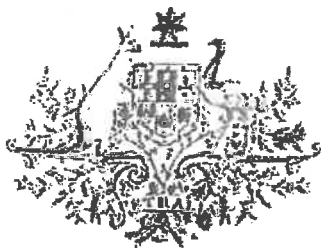
Office of Senator Jacqui Lambie

Electorate Phone: 03 6431 3112

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or Senate Suite 147

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Office of Senator Jacqui Lambie
Senator for Tasmania

Tuesday 10th November, 2020

The Hon Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of Tasmania
Level 9, 15 Murray Street
HOBART, TAS 7000

Dear Premier

I have been following the proposed 'Project Renewable Future' green hydrogen project by Westcoast Renewable Energy Pty Ltd since its beginnings almost two years ago. You and I both believe renewable energy has great potential for Tasmania and Tasmanians and it is clear to me this project can take the development of the sector on the west coast to a new level.

The team at Westcoast Renewable Energy has a track record as the developers of the near complete Granville Harbour Wind Farm and is a great example of Tasmanians doing it for themselves. Throughout my regular updates on the project, I have been impressed by the team's vision and tenacity.

This week I again met with Mr. Craig Brakey and asked for an update on progress. I was delighted to hear momentum with potential investors and other partners is returning after the COVID-19-related slowdown, but I was dismayed to learn of the continued delays they are facing at the hands of the state government.

Environment Minister Roger Jaensch has issued Ministerial Directives requiring the project to be assessed by third parties such as the Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council and Mineral Resources Tasmania prior to and outside of the legislated approval assessment process. This requirement seems highly unusual. I do not understand why these entities should be afforded an opportunity to raise issues above and beyond that opportunity to every other stakeholder, as part of the mandated planning process. Why is Westcoast Renewable Energy being assessed twice?

As I write, the proponents have waited more than eight weeks for a response from Minister Jaensch's office or from the Office of the Crown Solicitor to their submission of a minor amendment to a License Agreement.

Office of Senator Jacqui Lambie

Email: Senator.Lambie@parh.gov.au

Electorate Phone: 03 6431 3112

Mail: PO Box 256, Burnie TAS 7320

Electorate Office Address: 4/22 Mount St, Burnie TAS 7320



**Office of Senator Jacqui Lambie
Senator for Tasmania**

For 12 months, Westcoast Renewable Energy has had a multi-national equity investor waiting to inject upwards of \$50m in development capital which can take the project through to financial close. The delay is directly related to land tenure issues stalled in Minister Jaensch's office. This delay has a cost to the proponents, but also to the state of Tasmania. In the period waiting for the State Government to allow the project to proceed, the project's equity investor has taken considerable stakes in two large-scale green hydrogen projects in NSW. These investments represent jobs and investment not flowing to Tasmania.

In the 18 months since its inception, this project has gone from being among the first large scale green hydrogen projects in Australia to being behind eight other large-scale hydrogen projects of similar (and larger) scale across Australia. Some of these mainland projects have been fast tracked by the various State and Federal Governments. These governments have all had to cope with the effects of COVID-19. They have all had other priorities to manage. Tasmania, uniquely, is letting slip a considerable opportunity to be a market leader in this major emerging industry.

Westcoast Renewable Energy has never requested approval up front for use of the land. It negotiated and submitted staged leases (as directed by Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Services) over 12 months ago which progressively facilitate a staged assessment and approval process without locking the Crown into any agreement prior to the full approval of all relevant. The staged lease arrangement is standard practice; it allows for an open and transparent assessment of the project in accordance with Crown requirements.

This lease application has stalled due to a series of directives from the Minister's office.

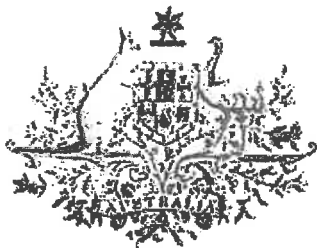
I do understand such projects are complex and need assessment. I do not expect Westcoast Renewable Energy to be granted any benefit not otherwise available to proponents of other projects. I only expect for the Tasmanian Government to not act in a manner that unreasonably, unnecessarily and unproductively frustrates the development of a key economic opportunity for the state of Tasmania. Westcoast Renewable Energy is not asking for special treatment; it is asking for fair treatment.

I write this to fully inform you of the circumstances around the Project Renewable Future hydrogen project in the hope that you may assist in the return to a fair, even-handed and transparent approval process. I know you resent opportunities to improve Tasmania being left to wither on the vine, and how passionate you are for improving the lives of Tasmanians right across the state. I share this passion, and echo this resentment. I fear that this project may be frustrated by delay and inaction,

Office of Senator Jacqui Lambie

Email: Senator.Lambie@aph.gov.au Electorate Phone: 03 6431 3112
Mail: PO Box 256, Burnie TAS 7320 Electorate Office Address: 4/22 Mount St, Burnie TAS 7320

6



**Office of Senator Jacqui Lambie
Senator for Tasmania**

and an opportunity to bring much-needed employment and investment to our economy will be left to pass us by.

I look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JL'.

**Senator Jacqui Lambie
Senator for Tasmania**

Office of Senator Jacqui Lambie

Email: Senator.Lambie@tas.gov.au

Electorate Phone: 03 6431 3112

Mail: PO Box 256, Burnie TAS 7320

Electorate Office Address: 4/22 Mount St, Burnie TAS 7320

7

Retallick, Amanda

From: Executive Assistant <ea@westcoast.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 12 February 2021 12:19 PM
To: The Premier; Guy Barnett, MP, Liberal Member for Lyons; Jaensch, Minister
Cc: Phil Vickers; David Midson
Subject: Saved to CM: Project Renewable Future
Attachments: Project Renewable Future.pdf

Good afternoon

Please find the attached letter from West Coast Mayor Phil Vickers.

Regards
Samantha Eley
Executive Officer



Address: 11 Sticht Street (PO Box 63), Queenstown TAS 7467
Phone: (03) 6471 4721
Email: ea@westcoast.tas.gov.au
Website: www.westcoast.tas.gov.au



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WEST COAST COUNCIL

Tasmania

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PO Box 63, Queenstown 7467
11 Sticht St, Queenstown 7467
Email wcc@westcoast.tas.gov.au
Web www.westcoast.tas.gov.au
ABN 20448787926



11 February 2021

Enquiries to: Executive Officer (03) 6471 4721 or
email ea@westcoast.tas.gov.au

Premier Gutwien
premier@dpac.tas.gov.au

Minister Barnett
evy.barnett@parliament.tas.gov.au

Minister Jaensch
minister.jaensch@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Premier Gutwein, Minister Barnett, Minister Jaensch

PROJECT RENEWABLE FUTURE

I am aware that you have received a letter recently from Mayor Steve Kons on Project Renewable Future. I have written to you and spoken to you about this project before, but I write to reiterate our strong support for the project and disappointment in the lack of support from the State Government.

Burnie Council and West Coast Council are aligned on their thinking for this vital project. While the project has benefits for the West Coast Community, it will be a significant change for our region and our State. It is the type of project we need if we are going to lead the way in renewable energy and hydrogen. It has been disappointing to see the lack of support from the State Government and the delays caused by unnecessary red tape and inaction.

I hope this show of support from Councils in our region will lead to increased support at a State level. I would welcome your confirmation of this support and your efforts to combat the bureaucracy that is hindering the project.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Vickers', written over a horizontal line.

Phil Vickers
MAYOR



8

Retallick, Amanda

From: The Premier
Sent: Tuesday, 16 February 2021 4:17 PM
To: senator.lambie@aph.gov.au
Cc: Tyrrell, Tammy (Sen J. Lambie)
Subject: RE: Westcoast Renewable Energy Pty Ltd
Attachments: Letter from Premier to Senator~coast Renewable Energy Pty Ltd.pdf

Good afternoon

Please find attached a letter from the Premier, the Hon Peter Gutwein MP.

Kind regards

Office of the Hon Peter Gutwein MP

Premier of Tasmania
Treasurer
Minister for Climate Change
Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Tourism
Level 11, 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000
Phone: (03) 6165 7650
E-mail: premier@dpac.tas.gov.au

Department of Premier & Cabinet
www.premier.tas.gov.au



8



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

16 FEB 2021

Senator Jacqui Lambie
Senator for Tasmania
Email: Senator.Lambie@aph.gov.au

Dear ~~Senator Lambie~~ *Jacqui*

Thank you for your letter regarding the progress of the projects for Westcoast Renewable Energy Pty Ltd.

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges that this is a significant project that could bring much-needed employment to the West Coast, particularly during construction, and provide further investment into the Tasmanian economy.

My Government is committed to doing all we can to ensure that Tasmania is recognised as one of the best places in Australia to do business; that is why we have focused on regulatory reform that supports transparent and equitable approvals processes to support business while ensuring that important matters such as community, safety, and cultural and natural values are protected.

The proposed project raises a number of complex and potentially competing issues for the future of both the renewable energy and mining industry in Tasmania. As the proposal intersects with several Ministerial portfolios, the Office of the Coordinator-General (OCG) has been appointed as the single point of contact for the client and to facilitate an assessment of the various issues relating to this project.

A meeting with the proponent was held in mid-December 2020 with senior government officials, including the Coordinator-General. The proponent has been informed that the OCG will be working with them to facilitate this assessment which will commence early this year.

Yours sincerely,


Peter Gutwein MP
Premier



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

9

Mr Alan Morrell
Chief Executive
Westcoast Renewable Energy Pty Ltd
Email: alan.morrell@westcoastrenew.com.au

24 FEB 2021

Dear Alan

Thank you for your correspondence providing me with an update on your proposed project on the West Coast of Tasmania. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges that this is a significant project that could bring much-needed employment to the West Coast, particularly during construction, and could provide major investment into the Tasmanian economy.

My Government is committed to doing all we can to ensure that Tasmania is recognised as one of the best places in Australia to do business; that is why we have focused on regulatory reform that supports transparent and equitable approvals processes to support business while ensuring that important matters such as community, safety, and cultural and natural values are protected.

I am advised that the proposed project raises complex and potentially competing issues for the future of both the renewable energy and mining industry in Tasmania. Given that the proposal intersects with several Ministerial portfolios, I have asked that the Office of the Coordinator-General (OCG) become a single point of contact for you, to help facilitate an assessment of the competing issues in this project.

To this end, I am further advised that a meeting was held in mid-December 2020 with yourself and senior government officials, including the Coordinator-General, and that the OCG is working towards engaging a Project Director to work exclusively on your project, and has been refining a draft scoping document for the key elements of the project.

Thank you for your patience, I am sure that you support making the best decision in the interests of Tasmania's economic future.

Yours sincerely

Peter Gutwein MP
Premier

10

Retallick, Amanda

From: The Premier on behalf of The Premier (DPaC)
Sent: Monday, 1 March 2021 9:40 AM
To: 'wcc@westcoast.tas.gov.au'
Cc: 'ea@westcoast.tas.gov.au'
Subject: Letter from the Hon Peter Gutwein MP

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your recent email to myself and my colleagues, Hon Guy Barnett MP and Hon Roger Jaensch MP, regarding the progress of the Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project. I understand that Minister Jaensch has also recently corresponded with you in regard to this project.

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges this is a significant opportunity that could deliver benefits to the West Coast and to Tasmania, and we support diversification of our economy.

As you are aware the Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project is a very large and complex project involving a significant tract of Crown land of various tenures and with competing interests regarding the use of that land. Therefore, there is a need to ensure the proposal is considered properly and that the complexities are fully understood and carefully assessed and planned.

Since Minister Jaensch's recent letter to you, I am advised that work has been progressing, led by the Office of the Coordinator-General (OCG), and that headway has been made on a number of components of the project's requirements. For example, Crown Licences have been executed for the purpose of undertaking wind resource modeling to inform the wind farm's business case, via the installation of meteorological masts (following your Council's approval of a development application for such).

The proponent is also now working with the OCG, Crown Land Services and other land owners regarding approvals to undertake time critical surveys in relation to fauna, including the Orange-bellied parrot.

In addition to addressing the immediate issues, the OCG has been requested by Cabinet to facilitate an assessment of the Whaleback Ridge proposal to review and evaluate the financial, economic, environmental and social aspects of the proposal and provide a report with recommendations to Cabinet on its suitability to proceed through an existing coordinated planning process. I understand that the Terms of Reference for the assessment are being finalised and the assessment will commence in the coming weeks.

Thank you again for your correspondence and your interest in the proposal, it is important we examine the proposal thoroughly to ensure future decisions are made in the best long term interests of the State.

Yours sincerely

Hon Peter Gutwein MP

Premier of Tasmania
Treasurer
Minister for Climate Change
Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Tourism
Level 11, 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000
Phone: (03) 6165 7650
Email: premier@dpac.tas.gov.au
www.premier.tas.gov.au

5/6/22, 4:50 PM

RTI - Whaleback Ridge - OneDrive



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From: The Premier <Leanne.Madden@dpac.tas.gov.au> on behalf of The Premier
Sent on: Thursday, June 24, 2021 5:02:12 AM
To: Tyrrell, Tammy (Sen J. Lambie) <Tammy.Tyrrell@aph.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Afternoon Premier!

Dear Tammy

On behalf of the Premier, the Hon Peter Gutwein MP, thank you for your email dated 22 June 2021

Your correspondence is currently being considered.

Kind regards

Office of the Premier
The Hon Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of Tasmania
Treasurer
Minister for Climate Change
Minister for Tourism
Level 11, 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000
Phone: (03) 6165 7650
Email: premier@dpac.tas.gov.au
www.premier.tas.gov.au

From: Tyrrell, Tammy (Sen J. Lambie) <Tammy.Tyrrell@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 June 2021 1:17 PM
To: The Premier <premier@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Afternoon Premier!

Afternoon Premier,

Please find attached correspondence from Senator Lambie for your attention.

Kind regards



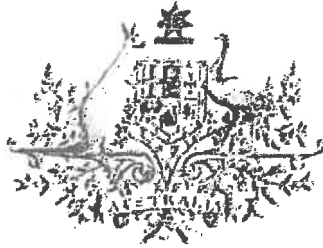
Office of Senator
Jacqui Lambie

Tammy Tyrrell
Office Manager

Office of Senator Jacqui Lambie

Electorate Phone: 03 6431 3112

4/22 Mount St, Burnie TAS 7320
or Senate Suite 147



**THE OFFICE OF SENATOR JACQUI LAMBIE
SENATOR FOR TASMANIA**

The Hon Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of Tasmania
Level 9, 15 Murray Street
HOBART, TAS 7000

Email: premier@dpac.tas.gov.au

Tuesday 22 June, 2021

Dear Premier

I write again to you on the subject of renewable energy projects in the north west and on the west coast of Tasmania.

Firstly, thank you for your reply to my letter of 10 November 2020 which sought answers to questions about 'Project Renewable Future', a large-scale renewable energy/green hydrogen project proposed by Tasmanian-owned company Westcoast Renewable Energy Pty Ltd.

Your reply contained references to 'competing land use' and the role of the Office of the Co-Ordinator General. There have been several developments since our correspondence, and I am compelled to take you up on a range of issues that are both unresolved and concerning.

Let it be clear that I am motivated to do this because of what appears to be the deliberate stalling of your Government in relation to the project. It is putting at risk thousands of new renewable energy and advanced manufacturing jobs in the northwest and on the west coast. This is something I care about deeply.

The recent article in The Australian, 'Whale of a Project' (Saturday 05 June 2021) explains much about the persistent comments of Ministers and officials in your Government relating to 'competing use of land'. It is quite clear the influence of the CEO of TMEC, Ray Mostogl, has an outsized influence on the Government. His comments suggest the Mining and Renewable Energy industries are in conflict. They are not. In fact, my discussions with a range of companies and individuals (including TMEC members!) shows there is much agreement between the industries, and a willingness to work together for common goals. In short, the two industries can and should co-exist as this will deliver the best outcomes for the region and for the State:

AUSTRALIAN SENATE

MAIL: PO BOX 256 BURNIE TASMANIA 7320 • Telephone: +61 3 6431 3112 • Email: Senator.Lambie@aph.gov.au
ELECTORATE OFFICE: 4/22 MOUNT ST BURNIE TASMANIA 7320

Backing this up, I have learnt your government, including yourself, received an independent report from a recognised global expert, Dr David Turner, in May last year. That report showed the two industries are far from competing and demonstrated there are technologies available and in wide global use that allow mineral exploration to be undertaken within a wind farm.

The CEO of TMEC persists in peddling the line that building a wind farm will 'sterilise' the land for any future exploration, despite the fact he has been briefed that there is no conflict between renewables and mineral exploration. His opinion is simply not true, but it is clear your Government accepts his views without question.

Where is the evidence for this contrary view? There has been no acknowledgment or reply from any Tasmanian Government Agency or Minister to Dr Turner's report - not even from the Director of Mineral Resources Tasmania - and that is simply not good enough given it presents concrete evidence that there is no "competing land use".

My perception is that the Minister for Energy and Minister for Resources, Guy Barnett is clearly conflicted in his portfolios. While he talks of the potential of Burnie for hydrogen related projects, he has done nothing to encourage any either. Meanwhile he hands out \$50m in grants to companies for mining exploration and proclaims the industry has no greater friend than him in Tasmania!

Minister Barnett has not visited the project sites with the proponents and his understanding of the project aims and benefits is questionable, given he told me in a recent meeting that the project is not required to support Marinus Link, as Robbins Island Wind Farm was the doing this. To be clear, the project has a clear goal of value adding Green Hydrogen in Tasmania, with the stated objectives of building the green hydrogen export market and guaranteeing green hydrogen volume and storage for state-wide domestic distribution.

Let's also call out the Minister hiding behind the Strategic Perspective Zone (SPZ) legislation as another reason for stalling this project. Legal advice from the reputable law firm Allens Linklaters highlights there are clear exceptions to the application of the SPZ Act. Two key exceptions relevant to the project - there is no intent for any Crown Land to be sold or have its status changed, and the area for lease is less than 500ha - have not been argued or refuted by MRT or anyone else in Government. The fact this legal advice was discussed with both offices almost two years ago now, is ample evidence of stalling.

To avoid any doubt, there is no request for preferential treatment, and no suggestion that the project should avoid the full environmental, social, and commercial approvals processes. There is however a request, for your Government to stop holding the project out of normal due process and issue the staged leases, as agreed to by Parks two years ago, so the assessment process can commence.

Despite the complete lack of interest shown by your Government, Westcoast Renewable Energy have continued to make progress. I know they are a determined bunch who will overcome the inertia of the Tasmanian bureaucracy and the favouritism you have shown to the mining sector in the west and Bell Bay for hydrogen. They have a track record of success in delivering major projects in Tasmania which is more than many entities in the industry can claim.

It is frustrating that the lack of State Government support for a key project, by a Tasmanian Company, with a track record in delivering, is preventing to help our economy diversify, and deliver real jobs in the northwest and on the west coast, and bring much needed investment into the State.

AUSTRALIAN SENATE

MAIL: PO BOX 256 BURNIE TASMANIA 7320 • Telephone: +61 3 6431 3112 • Email: Senator.Lambie@aph.gov.au
ELECTORATE OFFICE: 4/22 MOUNT ST BURNIE TASMANIA 7320

(11)

I am requesting that you show good faith towards this project by looking at the clear evidence around 'competing land use' and instructing your agencies to actively engage on negotiating the Leases as requested by the company. The staged leases do not commit the Crown to "lock the land up" rather they allow for normal assessment processes to take place with the surety that if the project meets the requirements of the assessment process, it can proceed and meet the stated objectives of your Government's hydrogen plan.

This lack of support and stalling for a world class project has gone on long enough and needs to stop.

I look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely



Senator Jacquie Lambie

Independent Senator for Tasmania

AUSTRALIAN SENATE

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12

Retallick, Amanda

From: The Premier
Sent: Friday, 30 July 2021 2:27 PM
To: senator.lambie@aph.gov.au
Subject: Letter from the Premier, Hon Peter Gutwein MP
Attachments: Letter from the Premier, Hon Peter Gutwein MP.pdf

Good afternoon Senator Lambie,

Please find attached a letter from the Premier, the Hon Peter Gutwein MP.

Kind regards

Leesa Grundy
Departmental Liaison Officer
Office of the Premier, the Hon Peter Gutwein MP

Premier of Tasmania
Treasurer
Minister for Climate Change
Minister for Tourism
Level 11, 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000
Phone: (03) 6165 7650
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PREMIER OF TASMANIA

12

Senator Jacqui Lambie
Independent Senator for Tasmania
Email: Senator.Lambie@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Lambie *Jacqui*

Thank you for your further letter of 22 June 2021 in respect of the large-scale wind power projects proposed by Westcoast Renewable Energy Pty Ltd.

Tasmania is a leader in climate action, and we will continue to be. We have the lowest per capita emissions in Australia, and some of the lowest in the world. We are one of the only places where we have more renewable energy than we use, and it comes at a time when companies, investors and talented people from around the world are looking for this type of energy resource.

I wish to reaffirm my previous acknowledgement that this is a significant project that could bring much needed employment to the West Coast, particularly during construction, and provide further investment into the State's economy.

To maintain Tasmania's competitive advantages and to capitalise on our natural assets there is a need to ensure proposals such as this are considered properly and that the complexities which lie within are fully understood and carefully assessed.

The Office of the Coordinator-General (Office) is facilitating an assessment of the proposal by an expert panel to review and evaluate the regulatory, financial, economic, environmental and social aspects of the proposal and subsequently provide recommendations to Cabinet. The recruitment of a dedicated project director to manage this process has recently been finalised by the Office.

I look forward to Cabinet considering such recommendations in due course and thank you for your ongoing interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Peter Gutwein MP
Premier