Licensee: Ashton Mining Limited
Operator: Ashton Mining Limited
Sheet Reference: Urapunga (SD53-10) 1:250,000
CONTENTS

SUMMARY .................................. 1
INTRODUCTION .............................. 1
EXPLORATION PROGRAM .................... 2
CONCLUSIONS .............................. 3

FIGURES

Figure 1 Location E.L. 3352

PLANS

Plan 1 Sample Locations

TRANSPARENCY STORED SEPARATELY

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Expenditure
Appendix 2 Results of Laboratory Examinations
SUMMARY

A regional gravel sampling program was undertaken in E.L. 3352 at a density of one sample per 9.07 square kilometres. A total of 129 gravel samples were collected and the heavy mineral fractions examined for kimberlitic indicator minerals.

No indicator minerals were found and the licence was subsequently surrendered.

INTRODUCTION

Exploration Licence 3352 was granted to Ashton Mining Limited on 20th April, 1982, for an initial period of twelve months. It covers an area of 1169.84 square kilometres and is on the Urapunga 1:250,000 sheet.

The target of exploration was diamonds and the principal exploration technique employed was regional gravel sampling. This report summarizes the results of the regional gravel sampling program undertaken during the period 20th April, 1982 to 24th January, 1983 which is the date of surrender of the licence.

A statement of expenditure is presented in Appendix 1.
EXPLORATION PROGRAM

Prior to the commencement of field work, gravel sample locations were plotted in the office on the Benda, Chapman, Throsby and Urapunga 1:100,000 sheets so that sample sites tested the available drainage at intervals of approximately five kilometres.

During the field program, individual sample sites were selected on the basis of the quality of the available heavy mineral traps in the vicinity of the preselected site, care being taken to sample the most suitable trap site. Helicopter was the most practical mode of transport as it had the advantage of ease of access and navigation and enabled the geologist to scan the area for suitable trap sites.

Once a suitable sample site was located, approximately 40 kg of gravel were gathered, sieved and the minus 4mm fraction collected for laboratory examination. Generally the minus 4mm samples weighed 25 - 30kg. The sample sites were accurately plotted in the field on a prepared 1:100,000 base plan. Within E.L. 3352 a total of 129 samples were collected corresponding to a sample density of one sample per 9.07 square kilometres. Sample locations are given in Plan 1.
The samples were processed at the Ashton Mining Limited laboratory in Perth where they were concentrated by Wilfley Table and heavy liquid separation techniques.

The heavy liquid used was tetrabromoethane with a specific gravity of 2.96. The concentrates were then screened into various size fractions, further concentrated, where required, by magnetic and electrostatic separation techniques and a comprehensive grain by grain examination carried out on the minus 1.0mm plus 0.425mm fractions.

Of the 129 samples collected within the licence 127 contained no detectable kimberlite indicator minerals. Chromite grains were identified in the remainder. On further detailed examination these proved to be of non-kimberlitic origin.

CONCLUSIONS

Laboratory testing failed to give any kimberlite-derived minerals in the samples. As the sampling program was considered to have tested the licence adequately, it was concluded that the likelihood of finding kimberlites in E.L. 3352 was remote and that no further exploration for diamonds should be undertaken. The licence was subsequently surrendered with effect from 25th January, 1983.
APPENDIX 1.
ADE JOINT VENTURE

EXPLORATION LICENCE NO. 3352

FINAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD 20th April 1982 to 24th January 1983

$  

Salaries 8,732
Field & Laboratory Expenses 28,577
Miscellaneous 2,381

Total Expenditure $ 39,690

Date Licence Granted: 20th April 1982

JPC: 7/3/83
APPENDIX 2.
RESULTS OF LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS

REGIONAL GRAVEL SAMPLES - E.L. 3352

The following fractions of each sample were studied:

-1.0 mm  +0.8 mm; denoted by +0.8
-0.8 mm  +0.5 mm; denoted by +0.5
-0.5 mm  +0.425 mm; denoted by +0.4

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