

ICI AUSTRALIA LIMITED - AUSTRALIAN FERTILIZERS LIMITED

EXPLORATION LICENCE 1081 - ALROY - ALEXANDRIA

ANNUAL REPORT 1976

Mount Isa
February 1977.

D. O'N. Hackett

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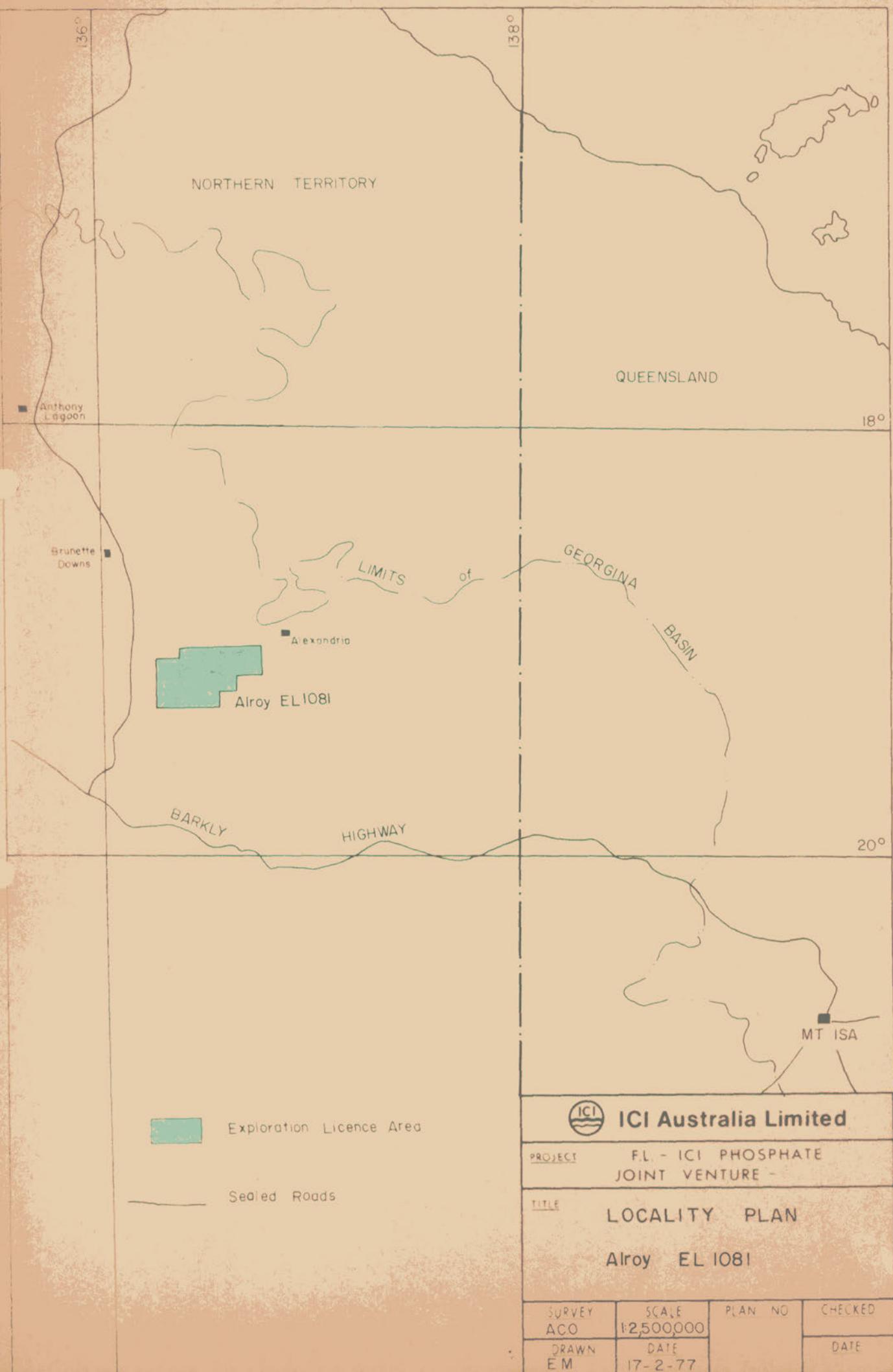
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PLANS

LOCALITY PLAN	1082/1	1:2,500,000	✓
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1. INTRODUCTION

Exploration Licence 1081 was granted to ICI Australia Limited and Australian Fertilizers Limited for a twelve month term commencing 6th May 1976.

The area consists of 1278 sq. km situated between Alroy and Alexandria Stations on the Barkly Tableland in eastern Northern Territory.

The area was taken up to further explore the phosphate mineralisation discovered in 1967 by Conaus - Pickands Mather. A programme of rotary/percussion drilling has provided further information about the mineralisation. The target areas will be further tested in 1977.

Total expenditure at E.L. 1081 to the end of 1976 was \$10,365.

2. TOPOGRAPHY AND ACCESS

The area consists of gently rolling downs country covered by dark grey to black pedocalcic soils and is bisected by the Playford River and Buchanan Creeks of the Barkly Internal Drainage System.

The downs are typically grass-covered and tree growth is largely restricted to the drainage courses.

Access is gained from the Barkly Stock Route using station tracks of Alexandria and Alroy Stations.

3. PREVIOUS INFORMATION

The regional geology of the area is covered by the 1:250,000 Geological Series Sheet SE/53-15 - ALROY, produced by the B.M.R. (1966).

The regional stratigraphy is described in B.M.R. Bulletin No. 111 - 'Stratigraphy of the Georgina Basin', K.G. Smith (1972).

Between 1968 and 1970 Continental Oil Corporation and Pickands Mather drilled 22 holes in the area for 2332 feet (710 metres) as part of a regional exploration programme under Prospecting Authority 1874 - "Alroy".

The reconnaissance programme resulted in discovery of phosphate in Hole 2-2A with assay values up to 21.3% P₂O₅ over a 1' interval at 10% P₂O₅ over 21 feet.

Follow up drilling in 1970 indicated two areas in which reserves were indicated; Forrest - "Northern Territory Phosphate 1970 Drilling Programme. Prospecting Authority 1874." - concluded that reserves of 100×10^6 short tons of 15.3% P₂O₅ could be inferred from one area, and 88×10^6 short tons at 25% P₂O₅ from the other.

The phosphatic intersections were logged as calcilutite but no mineralogical examination appears to have been undertaken.

The best intersections obtained in the second stage drilling are:

Hole A-10-70	32% P ₂ O ₅	64 to 65 feet
Hole A-12-70	32.6% P ₂ O ₅	45 to 49 feet
	31.2% P ₂ O ₅	51 to 53 feet
	31.1% P ₂ O ₅	57 to 59 feet

4. GEOLOGY

No Pre-Cainozoic outcrops occur in the E.L. which is totally covered by pedo-calcic black/grey soils, with alluvium in the seasonal swamps associated with the Playford and Buchanan Rivers.

The under lying rocks are siltstones, shales, cherts, limestone and dolomite, probably the Lower Middle Cambrian Burton Beds - a stratigraphic equivalent of the Wonarah Beds to the South and the Beetle Creek Formation in Queensland both of which are phosphatic in parts.

No information is available about rocks below the Middle Cambrian.

5.0. EXPLORATION PROGRAMME

The initial exploration programme under E.L. 1081 was designed to test around the main phosphate indications from Pickands Mather drill holes A-10-70 and A-12-70, then to reassess the prospects on the lithological, chemical and mineralogical data obtained.

5.1. Drilling and Sampling

Nine rotary/percussion drill holes A-16-76 to A-24-76 for a total of 219.5 metres were sunk. The drilling was done by Rotary Drilling Pty. Ltd. using a drill rig of their own design.

The drill data is summarised below:-

Hole No.	Total Depth metres	Finished in	Main Phosphate Section	
			From	To
A-16-76	20	Dolomite	8	13.5
17-76	27	Dolomite	11	19
18-76	20	Limestone	10	13
19-76	16	Limestone	9.5	15
20-76	28.5	Calcareous	21	25
21-76	46	Dolomite	20	43
22-76	25	Calcareous	18	23
23-76	25	Limestone	11	22
24-76	12	Limestone	5	10

Samples taken over one metre intervals were spot-tested for phosphate using an acid solution of ammonium vanado-molybdate (AVM). When a positive reaction with AVM was obtained the sample interval was reduced to 0.5 metres.

All samples showing a positive reaction with AVM were analysed in the field for phosphorus using a mini spectrophotometer following digestion of the sample in concentrated nitric acid and treatment with ammonium vanado-molybdate.

Samples showing significant amounts of phosphorus (usually >4% P₂O₅) were accurately assayed for P₂O₅, Fe₂O₃, Al₂O₃ and CO₂ by Australian Fertilizers Ltd. at their Port Kembla Laboratories.

Detailed Drill Logs with assay values are in Appendix I.

5.2. Drill Results

The four holes A-16-76 to A-19-76 drilled to test the area around A-12-70 and located one kilometre from it, all failed to intersect phosphorite of a grade resembling that found in the previous holes. The depths from surface to the top of the phosphatic section were similar but the thickness of the phosphorite was generally thinner and the grades markedly lower. Lithologies are apparently similar in all cases, the phosphorite being associated with slightly calcareous cherty siltstones.

The failure to reproduce grades anywhere close to those found in A-12-70 suggests either (a) the high grade material formed in very small depositional basins; or (b) the high grade material developed in narrow but presently undefined, possible inter-reefal, channels 0.5-1 kilometre wide; or (c) that diagenetic concentration has led to local high grade patches, following general leaching from the surrounding siltstones.

Petrographic examination (see Appendix II) of samples from A-16-76, A-17-76 and A-19-76 show that the phosphorite is a mixture of the collophane and pelletal forms in A-16 and A-17, whilst in A-19 the phosphorite is mainly secondary. Cuttings from A-12-70 are not available for study.

The second group of four holes A-20-76 to A-23-76 were sunk to test the area around A-10-70. These holes intersected variable thicknesses of medium and low grade phosphorite but these occurred at differing levels in the holes and correlations between holes is difficult. The phosphorite is a mixture of the pelletal and collophane varieties in a matrix of siltstones, calcite, clays and iron oxides. Generally the Fe_2O_3 and Al_2O_3 values are high.

Hole A-24-76 was drilled to test a gap west of Alexandria Station basin-ward from a Lower Proterozoic ridge flanked by Middle Cambrian Burton Beds - only very low values of phosphate in a thin siltstone chert section were indicated.

APPENDIX I

DRILL HOLE LOGS AND ASSAY DATA



ICI Australia Limited

DRILLING DATA SHEET

HOLE No A16 - 76

Area E.L. 1081 ALEXANDRA DOWNS (ALROY)

Project Code NT 15

Plan Ref Contractor ROTARY DRILLING PL

Started 1-8-76

Drill DRILLMATIC Method ROTARY 0-93
HAMMER 92-20

Finished 1-8-76

Petrographic Rep.....

Total Depth 20 metres

Assay Rep

Logged by D. Hackett

SAMPLE INTERVAL metres		STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	SHAPIRO FIELD TEST (% P₂O₅)					A.F.L. ASSAYS (%)				PETROGRAPHY RESULTS AND COMMENTS
				0	2	5	10	20	P₂O₅	Fe₂O₃	Al₂O₃	CO₂	
FROM	TO			2	5	10	20	+					
0	2.5	C2	Black soil and clay										
2.5	4.5		Silty clay and ferruginous calcareous										
4.5	8	Em (S)	Siltstone and 30% brown chert.										Holo carbonatite (4/6) -ive AVM.
8	9		Siltstone and chert bands.	12.3	11.95	0.97	2.81						-ive AVM.
9	9.5			15.5	14.45	1.95	1.89						
9.5	10		Chert with siltstone	9.2	7.6	1.17	1.45	2.73					
10	10.5		Siltstone + trace chert	9.5	6.6	0.89	1.28						Moderately Carbonaceous
10.5	11		Siltstone with 20% chert	10.0	8.55	0.66	1.36						
11	11.5			12.5	11.05	0.90	1.09						
11.5	12			10.6	9.8	0.72	1.17						
12	12.5			7.2	7.8	1.77	0.77	3.35					
12.5	13			10.8									
13	13.5			8.2	7.1	0.84	0.94						
13.5	14			2.8									
14	14.5	Cm (L)	Calcareous siltstone	10.3									weak +ve AVM.
14.5	15		and 20-25% brown chert.	11.9									
15	15.5			1.4									
15.5	16		Dolomitic limestone	1.31									
16	16.5		and chert	1.40									
16.5	17			1.19									
17	17.5												
17.5	18												
18	18.5												
18.5	19												
19	19.5												
19.5	20		Dolomite and Trace chert.										v. weak +ve AVM.



ICI Australia Limited

DRILLING DATA SHEET

HOLE No. A-17-76

Area E.L. 1081. ALEXANDRIA DOWNS. (ALROY).

Project Code N.T. 15

Plan Ref Contractor ROTARY DRILLING.

Started 1-8-76

Drill DRILLMATIC Method Blade / Percussion.

Finished 1-8-76

Petrographic Rep.

Total Depth 27 metres

Assay Rep.

Logged by D. HACKETT

SAMPLE INTERVAL metres		STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	SHAPIRO FIELD TEST (% P₂O₅)					A.F.L. ASSAYS (%)					PETROGRAPHY RESULTS AND COMMENTS
				0	2	5	10	20	P₂O₅	Fe₂O₃	Al₂O₃	CO₂		
FROM	TO			2	5	10	20	+						
0	3	C2	Black soil, clay and gypsum.											
3	5.5	C2 and T(P)	Sand and gravel.											
5.5	9.5	E ² (S) ?	Siltstone with brown chert.											-ve AVH.
9.5	10		Pale siltstone + chert											
10	11	E ² (S)	White siltstone + chert	7.0					6.9	1.18	0.94			+ve AVH.
11	11.5			7.1					7.8	0.79	1.36			
11.5	12		BLD											
12	12.5			3.2										
12.5	13				17.4				14.0	3.22	2.70	2.95		
13	13.5		Calcareous, phosphatic	5.3					5.0	3.95	1.28			+ve AVH.
13.5	14		silstone ad 50%	4.4					3.0	1.14	1.17			
14	14.5		brown chert.	7.3					6.95	0.68	1.28			
14.5	15			7.3					6.6	0.8	1.09			
15	15.5				12.4				10.8	0.87	1.74	3.00		
15.5	16				6.6				6.4	0.79	0.87			
16	16.5				5.5				5.0	0.82	0.51			
16.5	17			4.1										
17	17.5			2.8										
17.5	18			3.3										
18	18.5			3.3										
18.5	19			4.0										
19	19.5													
19.5	20													
20	20.5													
20.5	21													
21	21.5	E ² (L)	Limstone											Weak +ve AVH.
21.5	22													
22	22.5													
22.5	23													
23	23.5													
23.5	24													
24	24.5													
24.5	25													
25	25.5		Brown calc. silstone and chert.											
25.5	26													
26	27		Dolomite.											Weak. +ve AVH.



ICI Australia Limited

DRILLING DATA SHEET

Area E.L. 1081 ALEXANDRIA DOWNS CAAROY

Plan Ref Contractor ROTARY DRILLING P/L.

Drill DRILL MATIC Method ROTARY

Petrographic Rep.

Assay Rep.

HOLE No. A-21-76

Sheet 1.

Project Code NT.15

Started 2-8-76

Finished 2-8-76

Total Depth 46 metres

Logged by D. HACKETT

SAMPLE INTERVAL metres	STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	SHAPIRO FIELD TEST (% Fe O ₃)					A.F.L. ASSAYS (%)				PETROGRAPHY RESULTS AND COMMENTS
			0	2	5	10	20	P ₂ O ₅	Fe ₂ O ₃	Al ₂ O ₃	CO ₂	
			2	5	10	20	+					
0	2.5	C2	Black soil and clays									
2.5	3		Pallid clays.									
3	5		Calcareous and sandy silt.									
5	12.5	E m(s)	Siltstone and brown chert.									= Intra Zonation?
12.5	13		Siltstone + yellow chert									-ve AVMM
13	16		Calcareous and chert									-ve AVMM
20	20.5	E m(s)	Siltstone + trace chert	2.3								+ve AVMM. Calcareous.
20.5	21		" + 10% chert	5.1				3.65	0.74	1.72		
21	21.5		" + 20% chert	5.3				3.65	0.77	1.74		
21.5	22		5% chert	3.9				3.0	0.29	1.42		
22	22.5		trace chert	8.0				5.75	5.75	3.80	2.76	
22.5	23				11.2			9.15	0.44	3.85		
23	23.5					16.4		11.7	0.90	4.75		
23.5	24					19.7		18.35	4.45	3.60		
24	24.5					19.7		15.35	4.7	3.45		
24.5	25		5% chert.		14.6			11.0	0.80	2.36	5.49	
25	25.5					13.7		9.85	1.17	2.20		
25.5	26		Siltstone + trace chert.		14.1			10.55	0.61	3.65		
26	26.5					10.9		9.85	1.17	2.22		
26.5	27					11.8		10.55	0.61	3.65		
27	27.5					12.6		11.0	0.54	3.85		
27.5	28					9.2		7.8	0.30	2.63	5.45	
28	28.5		Cherty siltstone and block ch.		12.3			12.15	0.92	3.17		
28.5	29					14.6		13.05	0.90	3.59		
29	29.5					19.7		20.65	1.43	3.21		
29.5	30						20.1	22.95	1.29	2.17		
30	30.5		Calcareous siltstone	4.9				3.65	1.27	1.93		
30.5	31				4.5			3.2	1.13	3.40	3.38	
31	31.5					10.9		8.25	0.54	2.74		
31.5	32					8.0		5.5	0.43	2.08		
32	32.5					11.2		5.05	0.31	1.79		
32.5	33					2.9						
33	33.5					1.3						
33.5	34					1.1						
34	34.5					1.9						



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DRILLING DATA SHEET

Area
 Plan Ref Contractor
 Drill Method
 Petrographic Rep
 Assay Rep

HOLE No. A-21-76
(Sheet 2)

Project Code
 Started
 Finished
 Total Depth 46, metres
 Logged by

SAMPLE INTERVAL metres	STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	SHAPIRO FIELD TEST (% Fe O ₃)					A.F.L. ASSAYS (%)				PETROGRAPHY RESULTS AND COMMENTS
			0	2	5	10	20	P ₂ O ₅	Fe ₂ O ₃	Al ₂ O ₃	CO ₂	
			2	5	10	20	+					
34.5	35	E	Phosphatic siltstones.	4.9				3.65	0.93	1.88		+ve AVH, calcareous.
35	35.5				5.6			5.05	0.54	1.72		
35.5	36				9.5			8.0	0.54	1.93	1.65	
36	36.5				9.5			7.8	0.64	1.79		
36.5	37			4.7				4.1	0.57	1.32		
37	37.5		Siltstone + 15% chert		8.7			7.8	0.43	1.91		
37.5	38		20% chert			11.8		10.55	0.57	2.46		
38	38.5				9.2			11.0	0.56	1.66		
38.5	39				8.0			9.85	0.61	1.61	1.52	
39	39.5		15% chert		7.2			9.15	0.81	1.32		
39.5	40				9.0			12.35	0.86	1.92		
40	40.5				8.0			11.7	2.65	2.23		
40.5	41				8.4			13.75	1.64	1.75		
41	41.5		20% chert			15.5		23.4	1.64	1.36		
41.5	42		15% chert			10.8		8.0	0.46	0.53	3.47	
42	42.5					10.0		12.6	1.29	1.60		
42.5	43	Fm(L)	Calcareous & chert		5.7			7.1	0.84	1.17		weak +ve AVH
43	43.5	*			4.0							
43.5	44				1.9							
44	44.5											v. weak +ve AVH
44.5	45	Fm(L)	Dolomitic & chert									
45	45.5											
45.5	46											



ICI Australia Limited

DRILLING DATA SHEET

HOLE No. A-22-76.....

Area ... E.L. 1081 ALEXANDRIA DOWNS (ALROY)
 Plan Ref Contractor ROTARY DRILLING P/L
 Drill ... DRILLMATIC Method ROTARY
 Petrographic Rep
 Assay Rep

Project Code A-7-15.....
 Started 2-8-76.....
 Finished 2-8-76.....
 Total Depth 25..... metres
 Logged by D. HACKETT

SAMPLE INTERVAL metres		STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	SHAPIRO FIELD TEST (% Pe O ₅)					A.F.L. ASSAYS (%)				PETROGRAPHY RESULTS AND COMMENTS
				0	2	5	10	20	P ₂ O ₅	Fe ₂ O ₃	Al ₂ O ₃	CO ₂	
FROM	TO			2	5	10	20	+					
0	2.5	C2	Black soil and clay.										
2.5	4.5		Pallid clays.										
4.5	5.5		Pallid clay + brown chert nubbles.										
5.5	6		Calcareous chert & nubbles.										+ve AVM
6	6.5	6m(s)	Siltstone + brown chert	1.7									
6.5	7			BLD									+ve AVM
7.5	7.5			BLD									
7.5	8			BLD									
8	8.5			BLD									
8.5	9			BLD									
9	9.5			BLD									
9.5	10			BLD									
10	10.5			BLD									
10.5	11			BLD									
11	11.5			10.5									
11.5	12			10.5									
12	12.5			10.5									
12.5	13			10.5									
13	18		Siltstone + trace chert.										+ve AVM
18	19		Phosphatic siltstone +		18.2	16.8	1.37	1.28					
19	20		50% grey chert,		17.8	16.95	7.15	0.87					
20	21				10.5	16.5	87.15	0.93	7.96				
21	22				3.9	2.7	8.45	0.57					
22	23		Siltstone + trace chert		4.8	3.9	6.15	0.59					Weak + v AVM
23	24	6m(L)	Limestone/calcilutite										
24	25												



ICI Australia Limited

DRILLING DATA SHEET

Area ... E.L. 10.B.1 ALEXANDRIA PMS... (ALDY).....

Plan Ref Contractor ROTARY DRILLING P/L

Drill ... DRILLMATIC Method ROTARY

Petrographic Rep

Assay Rep

HOLE No. 1-23-76.....

Project Code ... NT 15

Started ... 2-8-76

Finished ... 2-8-76

Total Depth ... 25 metres

Logged by ... D. M. HACKETT

SAMPLE INTERVAL metres	STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	SHAPIRO FIELD TEST (% P₂O₅)					A.F.L. ASSAYS (%)				PETROGRAPHY RESULTS AND COMMENTS
			0	2	5	10	20	P₂O₅	Fe₂O₃	Al₂O₃	CO₂	
FROM	TO		2	5	10	20	+					
0	1.75	C2										
1.75	3											-ve AVMT
3	7	6m(s)										-ve AVMT
7	11											-ve AVMT (Incl=)
11	12											+ve AVMT
12	13											
13	14											
14	15											
15	16											
16	17											
17	18											
18	19											
19	20											
20	21											
21	22											
22	23											
23	24	6m (L)										
24	25											

APPENDIX II

PETROGRAPHIC REPORT

TABLE 2

NORTHERN TERRITORY AREA - RESULTS OF PETROGRAPHIC EXAMINATION

Sample No.	Hole No.	Spacing (m)	Phosphatic Material	Non-Phosphatic Material	Chert %
NTP145	A-21-76	23-23½	Argillaceous phosphorite and collophane in calcitic matrix. Some areas of pelletal phosphorite observed. 11.7/0.90/4.75	Chert, calcite and iron oxides. Aluminium silicates and sand size quartz grains.	50-60
NTP146	A-21-76	23½-24	Pelletal, with phosphatized fossil fragments. Collophane in calcite matrix present. 18.35/4.45/3.60	Iron oxides, calcite, yellow siltstone, aluminium silicates, sand size quartz grains and chert.	20-30
NTP147	A-21-76	24-24½	Pelletal and argillaceous phosphorite 60/40. Large number of phosphatized fossil fragments. Pellets appear to be rich in iron oxides. 15.55/4.7/3.45	Iron oxides, chert and siltstone.	20-30
NTP148	A-21-76	24½-25	Mainly pelletal with some argillaceous phosphorite. Collophane in calcite matrix present. Fossil fragments present in matrix with pellets. 11.0/0.80/2.36	Iron oxides present in pellets, calcite, chert and sand size silica.	10
NTP156	A-21-76	28½-29	70/30 mixture collophane in yellow siltstone and calcitic matrix and pelletal phosphorite with fossil fragments. Some ovules present. 13.5/0.90/3.59	Predominantly calcite. Iron oxides, fine siltstone and chert.	< 10
NTP157	A-21-76	29-29½	Pelletal, mainly large ovules with differing amounts of associated iron oxides. Some argillaceous phosphorite. 20.65/1.43/3.21	Iron oxides, sand size silica calcite and chert.	< 5
NTP158	A-21-76	29½-30	Pelletal with a large number of ovules rich in iron oxides. Phosphorite also present. 22.75/1.27/2.17	Calcite, fine siltstone chert and iron oxides.	10
NTP159	A-21-76	30-30½	Mainly secondary phosphorite - argillaceous and collophane. Some pelletal material with fossil fragments. 3.65/1.27/2.93	Fine siltstone, silicates iron oxides and calcite.	< 5
NTP175	A-21-76	40-40½	Low grade collophane in matrix of iron oxides and siltstone. Some pellets and ovules. 11.7/2.65/2.23	Chert, iron oxides, siltstone, fine grains quartz and calcite.	50-60
NTP176	A-21-76	40½-41	Pelletal with fossil fragments. Collophane in matrix of iron oxide and siltstone also present. 13.75/1.64/1.75	Chert, iron oxide and sand size silicates.	30-40
NTP177	A-21-76	41-41½	Mainly pelletal associated with iron oxide. Some collophane present with siltstone and iron oxides. 23.4/1.64/1.36	Chert, aluminium silicates iron oxides and siltstone.	40-50
NTP178	A-21-76	41½-42	Secondary phosphorite argillaceous and collophane. 8.5/0.46/0.53	Chert, aluminium silicates iron oxides, siltstones and sand size quartz.	40-50
NTP181	A-16-76	8-9	Mixture 50/50 Pelletal and collophane. Both varieties present in a matrix of calcite/silica/siltstone/iron oxide. 11.95/0.97/1.81	Chert, aluminium silicates, calcite, silica and siltstone.	30-40
NTP182	A-16-76	9-9½	Pellets in a collophane matrix. Ovules and fossil fragments present. Phosphate present also as a coating on chert particles. 14.45/1.45/1.69	Chert, iron oxides, sand size silica, siltstone and calcite.	30-40
NTP183	A-16-76	9½-10	Mixture of pelletal and collophane varieties. Collophane associated with calcite. 16/1.07/1.45	Chert, iron oxides, aluminium silicates and siltstone.	40-50
NTP193	A-17-76	12½-13	Pelletal and collophane varieties in a yellow siltstone matrix. Some ovules and fossil fragments present. 14.0/3.22/2.70	Iron oxides, siltstone, sand size silica, chert and calcite.	20-30
NTP213	A-19-76	14-14½	Secondary phosphorites mainly argillaceous and collophane. 12.45/1.13/1.36	Chert, iron oxides, siltstone and calcite.	30-40

