

MINERALS PTY. LTD.

MT. FREELING TALC DEPOSIT  
CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

CR1968/063

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9th October, 1968

Kenneth McMahon & Partners Pty.Ltd.

### INTRODUCTION

The talc deposit situated at Mt. Freeling in Central Australia was inspected for Minerals Pty. Ltd., during the period 13th-15th September, 1968.

Access to Mt. Freeling, which lies about 20 miles west of the Stuart Highway is by the Napperby Road, whose turn-off from the highway is approximately four miles south of Aileron (See Locality Plan).

In order to evaluate the deposit, a tape and compass survey of the area was undertaken and a number of random grab samples of the higher grade talc were taken from the lode.

## GENERAL GEOLOGY

The geology of the area consists of Archaean metamorphics of the Arunta Complex comprising talc-schists, calc-silicate rocks and epidote marbles which have been intruded by the Napperby Granite. This is a grey-white medium to coarse grained porphyritic biotite granite whose main mass lies approximately 2000 feet south of the talc lode. Numerous small lenticular masses of the granite up to 30 feet long and 3 feet wide are intruded along the schistosity of the meta-sediments which strikes at approximately  $250^{\circ}$  and dips south-easterly at angles ranging from  $25^{\circ}$  to  $65^{\circ}$  (Plate II).

The talc lode is conformable with the schistosity of the meta-sediments and consists of massive schistose talc of generally good quality ranging from 90 feet to 2 feet in horizontal width. The lode can be traced over a strike length of approximately 3000 feet, however it attains interesting dimensions only in the vicinity of Mt. Freeling, towards the eastern extremity of the tape and compass survey (See Geological Plan), where it achieves a horizontal width of approximately 90 feet and thence rapidly diminishes to the east and west to less than 5 feet.

Approximately 1200 feet west of this point the lode again increases in width to 20 feet, but does not maintain this over any appreciable strike length and rapidly lenses down to 5 feet and less.

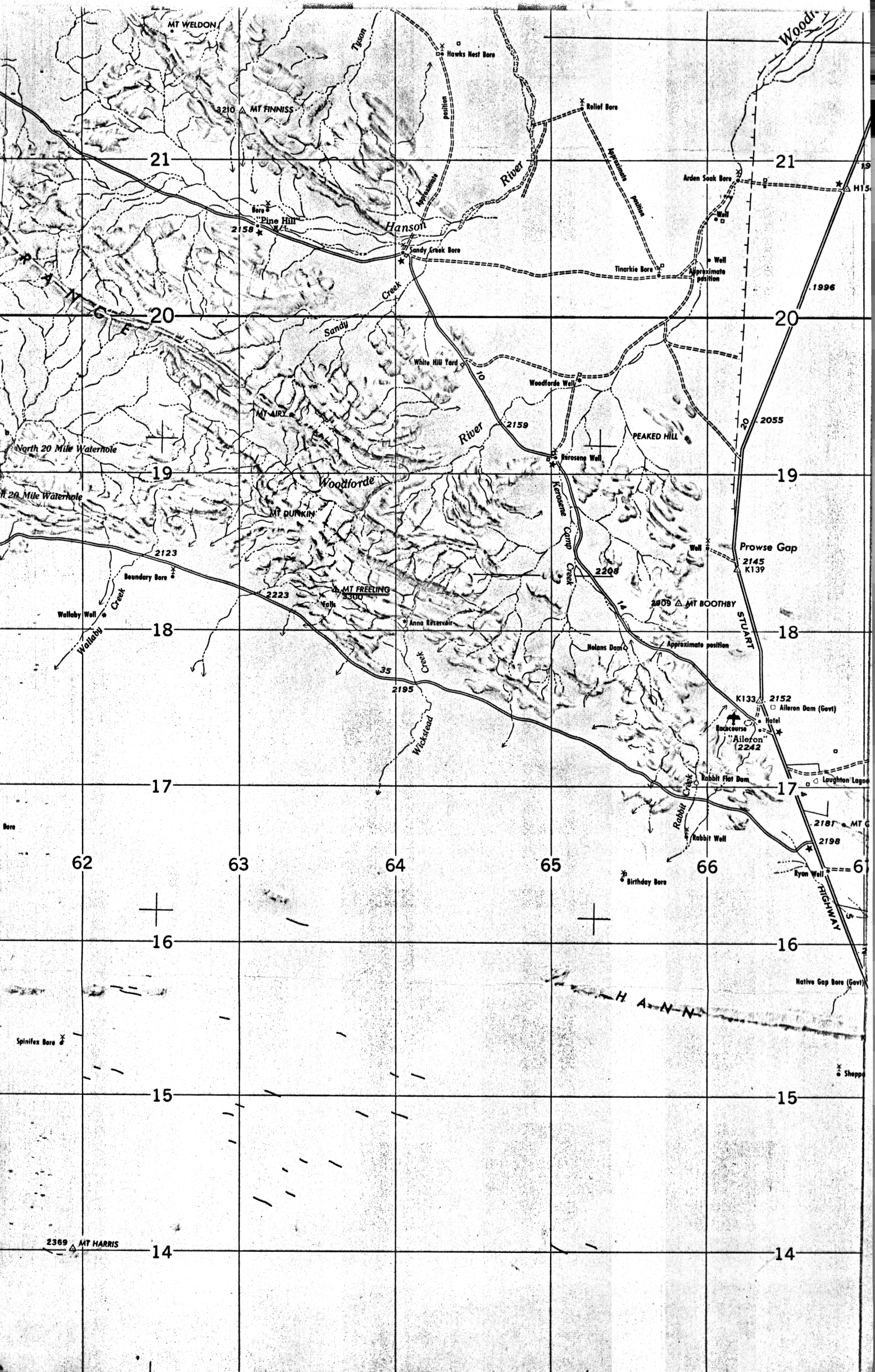
In both areas where the lode thickens, the talc is heavily invaded by quartz veins and contains included masses of the host talc-schists and calc-silicate and the thickening appears to be due to repetition of the lode by faulting (See Geological Plan).

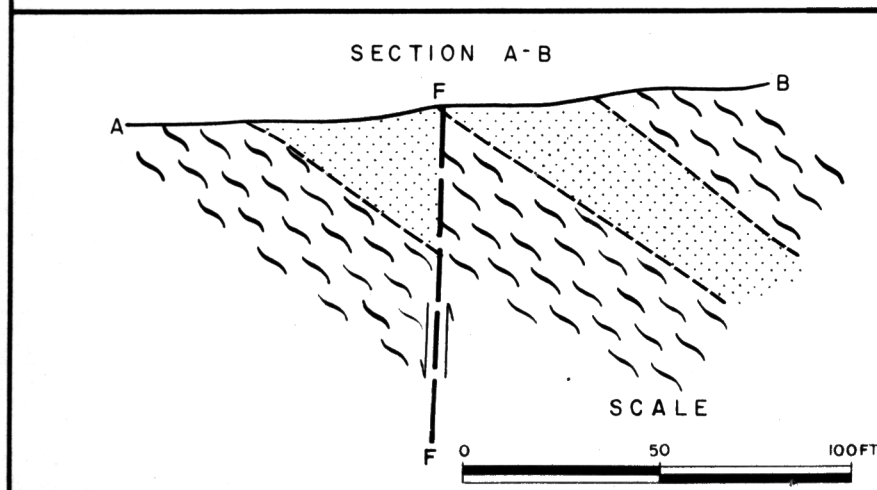
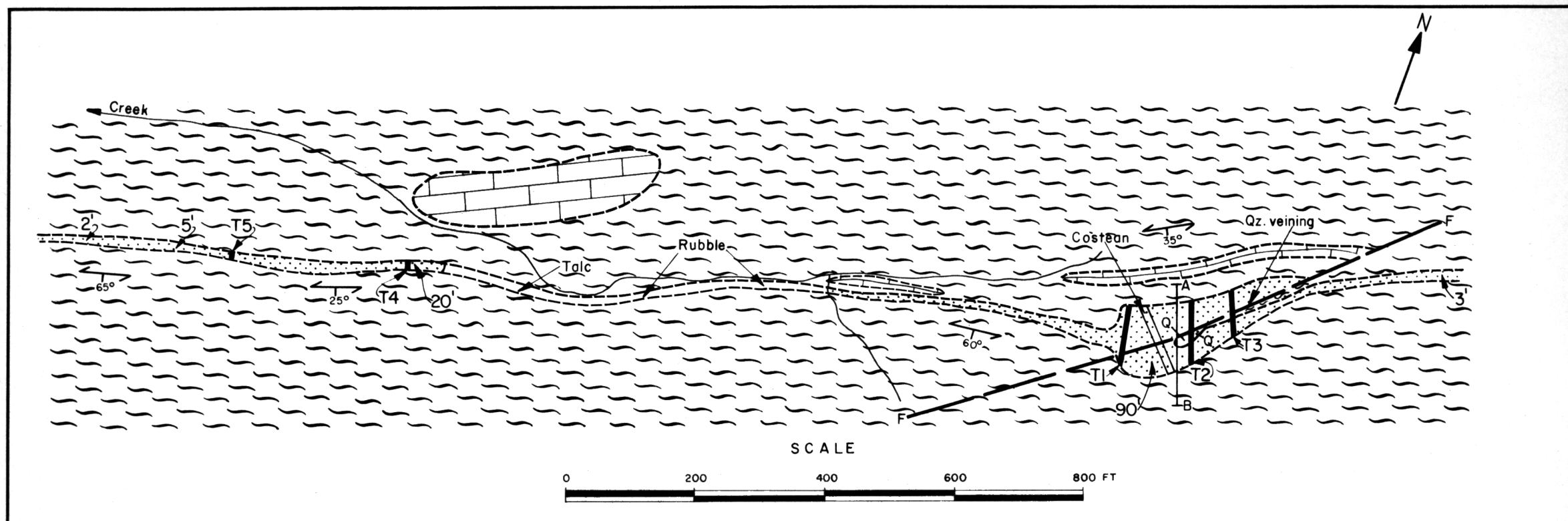
The quartz gangue and included country rock would have a deleterious effect on bulk mining of the deposit.

## CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The lode in general is too narrow to be economically exploited by open-cast methods.
2. It achieves interesting dimensions in the vicinity of Mt. Freeling where it averages approximately 80 feet in horizontal width over a strike length of 150 feet.
3. Within this area of thickening, the talc is heavily invaded by quartz veins and contains included masses of country rock, so that selective mining of the lode would have to be undertaken.
4. The increase in thickness is attributed to repetition of the talc bed by faulting.
5. The fault plane is dipping at a much steeper angle than the talc lode and the appreciable width at the surface can be expected to diminish rapidly with depth, and the lode to achieve its mean dimensions of 5-10 feet within a depth of 20-30 feet below the surface.
6. The low dip of the lode in this area, approximately  $34^{\circ}$  S.E. would not allow it to be exploited by open-cut methods.
7. The above factors would render the exploitation of the deposit a marginal operation even if it were located in close proximity to coastal markets and its remote location in Central Australia completely prohibits the economic utilisation of the deposit.
8. The deposit is uneconomic and no further work is recommended.







LEGEND	
	Talc-schist, Calc-silicate rock
	Schistose talc
	Epidote-marble
	Massive white quartz
	Strike, dip schistosity
	Fault
20' etc.	Horizontal width talc lode
T4 etc.	Random grab sample talc lode

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GEOLOGICAL PLAN & SECTION MT FREELING TALC DEPOSIT CENTRAL AUSTRALIA	Date
	Scale
	FIGURE
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