

## TASMANIA\*

### *WARDEN'S COURT DECISIONS*

*H. PIRZL & M. WESTBROOK v. M. GRAHAM, P. REICHER & A. GRIFFIN*

The Applicants H. Pirzl and M. Westbrook, applied for a forfeiture of two mining leases relating to mining tenements at Mathinna. The leases were of adjoining lands for a five year term from 1 September, 1984. The allegations concern breaches of the labour covenants which required the employment of 8 men or the equivalent in steam, water or other power. In the period from 1 September 1984 up until 31 May, 1987, a period of 33 months, there were in force exemption certificates for a total of about 14 months and secondly mining holidays for about six months or a little less. There was a period of 13 months during which the labour covenant should have been complied with. It was found on the evidence that there was no such compliance. In the Warden's view the work carried out by the Respondents could generally be described as fossicking. The Respondents were well aware of their obligation under the labour covenants as appeared from the application for exemption certificates. No substantial reason for non-compliance with the labour covenant was forthcoming. The maximum fine of \$1,000.00 was in the Warden's opinion an inadequate penalty for a substantial breach of the labour covenant. The Respondents had not fulfilled a major obligation under the leases and accordingly both leases were forfeited.

*IN THE MATTER OF OBJECTION TO THE APPLICATION OF ELECTROLYTIC ZINC COMPANY OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED*  
under s 15(c) of the Mining Act 1929 (Tasmania) by *P. MARTIN, J. W. COOKER & ORS.*

The Warden for the North-Western mining district in Tasmania decided that there was no power in the Warden's Court to entertain objections that went to the merits of the Respondents' applications and that the nature of the objections lodged were as to the merits. The objections were over-ruled and the objectors were jointly and severally ordered to pay the Respondent's costs.

### *MINISTERIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS*

#### *Possible closure of Savage River Mines*

On 9 February, 1988 the Tasmanian Government offered to hold talks with representatives of the troubled Savage River Mines in a bid to keep it in production. However, it was announced by the Minister for Mines on 25 February, 1988, following a meeting with major consultants from Japan, that the State Government was unlikely to rescue the mine

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because of the huge costs involved. The mine faces an \$8,000,000.00 loss this financial year and there is a declining demand for its iron ore pellets.