

TASMANIA*

LEGISLATION

Statutory Rule No. 58 of 1992 proclaimed that the *Mining Act* 1929 applies to certain public reserves including all land that is a State Forest within the definition of State Forest under the *Forestry Act* 1920.

By Statutory Rules 51, 52 and 53 of 1992, the Minister has exempted from the provisions of the *Mining Act* 1929 minerals, coal and stone from 200 ha. comprising the Pasco Islands in the Bass Strait and has exempted limestone from approximately 14,000 ha. of land situated in the central southern region of the State.

A Bill to allow Queenstown's Mt Lyell copper mine to continue operating until 30 June 1996 was passed in State Parliament on 3 June 1992. The legislation gives effect to an agreement reached between Mt Lyell Mining and the State Government. The agreement includes ongoing ministerial exemption for the company and assurance from the company that environmental and rehabilitation works at the site will be undertaken.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Government has announced that the procedure for lodging mineral exploration bonds has been streamlined. Under the new process companies may now lodge a Statewide bond that will cover all the exploration licences instead of having to pay a separate fee on each licence.

The Government has announced its policy to allow controlled mining and exploration in the areas declared by the preceding Labor Government to have World Heritage Status. The Tasmanian Wilderness Society lodged objections against two exploration licences granted for exploration in such areas. The objections were struck out on the grounds that the objectors failed to establish any interest or estate on the land the subject of the application following *Stow v. Mineral Holdings (Aust) Pty Ltd*¹. The applicants, Helic Resources NL and Jervis Mining Ltd, then applied for an order of costs against the Wilderness Society and the Warden, Mr M. Hill, reserved his decision.

The Tasmanian Minister for Mines announced on 17 June 1992 that the Government is in the process of introducing major reforms to the *Mining Act* 1929. Proposed changes are aimed at giving security to the mining industry and removing bureaucratic barriers which are thought to have hindered various projects.

* Audrey Mills, Tas. Information Service Reporter.
1. (1977) 138 C.L.R. 649.