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Title:

Press release: Nephrite jade deposits

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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN.

NEPHRITE JADE DESPOSITS

18.1.75

Deposits of nephrite jade in South Australia represented a significant new mineral resource, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said

He was commenting on report of the deposits prepared by Mr. D. Nichol, a Department of Mines Geologist which details the occurrence of nephrite jade in the Cowell district on Eyre Peninsula.

The deposits were discovered by Mr. A.H. Schiller and commercial production was initiated in 1970.

Within an area of four square miles northwest of Cowell almost 100 separate lenses and pods ranging up to 180 ft. long by 10 ft. wide occur in surface outcrop in association with marble.

The nephrite jade varies in colour from greenish yellow and green to black.

Fine grained black nephrite jade is the highest quality material available from these deposits.

It is similar in chemical composition to jade from Alaska, Japan, Lower Silesia and New Zealand.

The association of nephrite jade with marble appears to be unique since the traditional Chinese gemstone occurs in volcanic rocks.

Two companies are engaged in mining and marketing of the gemstone, Jade (Australia) Pty. Ltd. and Australian Jade Mines Pty. Ltd.

The stone is quarried and brought to Adelaide for cutting and polishing. Its value is dependent on size of recoverable blocks, colour and freedom from flaws, cracks and inclusions.

These deposits represent a significant new mineral resource as 45,000 tons are estimated to be available.

On the basis of 10% of this reserve being saleable and at a value of \$2.00 per pound the potential value of the raw material is about \$20 million.

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