

TR12-72

16. EXAMINATION OF STABILITY OF LAND - BOAT HARBOUR BEACH

by W. L. Matthews

Mr W. J. Hyland owns some land on the eastern part of the Boat Harbour beach settlement and plans to develop a market garden and build a house there. The Wynyard Council have requested an examination and report on the stability of the area.

The main part of the settlement is between two ridges of Precambrian quartzite. Deeply weathered Tertiary basalt, sloping steeply seawards, occupies a pre-basalt valley between ridges of quartzite. Groundwater drainage is controlled to some extent by this valley and much of it is probably directed there from the quartzite ridges. Because of this drainage, the deep weathering of the basalt and the steep slope, mass movements have been widespread in the area in the past.

Mr Hyland's property borders on the western side of the eastern quartzite ridge but most of it is on landslide debris. It is backed by steep slopes. A recent small slip has taken place on the western part of the property just above the planned building site. The block frontage is on the foreshore and seepage is almost continuous along the beach. A large seepage occurs near the western margin of the property and just above the house site.

Much of the area has been unstable in the past and any building programme would be hazardous because of this. The only really safe building area on the block is on the eastern side but this is probably too steep and access may be difficult.