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12. REPORT ON THE STABILITY OF LOT 25, BAY ROAD, PARKLANDS, BURNIE

by P. C. Stevenson

The block lies to the S of Bay Road and slopes steeply towards the sea. Talus derived from weathered Tertiary basalt and possibly soft Tertiary sediments overlies hard, folded, Precambrian sediments. The sediments are strongly jointed and because of the folding the joint or bedding planes dip downhill in places. This situation has resulted in a proportion of Precambrian material being in the talus.

The talus consists mainly of soil containing clay derived from the weathering of the overlying basalt which has slumped down over a steep face in the hard sediments. There is little doubt that the material is still moving slowly, as small fresh slip scars can be seen at several places at the uphill end of the block, and the lower part shows several slip bulges. In addition the curb stones on the roadside at the bottom of the block may have been affected by heaving of the slip toe.

A small trickle of water emerges from the area at the roadside, indicating that water is already involved in the ground movement. Since movement has already occurred, movement planes exist and are probably carrying water, so that any attempt to provide surface drainage has been forestalled.

The block is reasonably stable in its present condition but the disturbance involved in the construction of a house and garden could decrease the stability. In particular the unloading of the of the toe area would steepen slopes locally as well as decreasing the natural support.

Previous reports have dealt with similar situations in this area, (see references). These show that landslips are endemic and continued stability is unlikely.

REFERENCES

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