

TR16_168

29. Drainage problems at Prospect, Launceston.

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The Westbury Council sought advice on problems of drainage and ground-water seepage in an area adjacent to the Westville Estate, Prospect, which was subject of previous reports by Messrs Scott & Furphy, Consulting Engineers.

Backhoe trial pits were recommended as a quick and cheap means of showing subsurface conditions, three of these were put down under the supervision of the engineers, and samples and photographs of the pits forwarded to the Department.

The samples confirmed that the area where the holes were excavated was in Tertiary clay. The material from the holes is a stiff, largely unfissured grey and red-brown mottled plastic clay derived mainly from dolerite, but deposited by water in its present position. The dolerite crops out within about 60 m of the pits and also underlies the clays; completely altered but still recognisable dolerite boulders were excavated from the pits, indicating that the dolerite exists at no great depth.

The troubles in the adjacent Westville Estate appear to have been caused by surface stormwater being allowed to flow into that area, and the trapping of this water by fissures and thin gravel bands in the clays. No such gravels are apparent in the pits excavated and the flows of water into the pits are small. Additionally no source of the surface stormwater is nearby.

It is not therefore anticipated that groundwater seepage on the scale experienced at the Westville Estate will occur at this site.



Figure 48. Location of geological work and watering, Westville Estate, Prospect Vale.