

Stability of block Bd-558, Cormiston.

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The Department of Mines has been requested to examine the stability of an area of land at Cormiston referred to by the Town and Country Planning Commission as Proposal Plan Bd-558. A plan has been devised for the subdivision and erection of two dwelling houses on the land.

On the upper part of the land the slope is approximately 8-12°, while the lower 200 ft is steeper and sloping at approximately 12-18°. The soil consists of silty clay of the Launceston Beds and dolerite with an upper surface inclined to the north-east underlies the clay. The boundary between the Tertiary clay and the dolerite passes through the lower third of the property, isolating the northern corner of the land. One small recent slide is present close to the road, and the undulating and slightly hummocky appearance of the ground along the road indicates that some soil creep or sliding has occurred in the past.

In the lower part of the area slight erosion is active, and the soil has left a gap around the concrete frame of the manhole to the powerline. The soil is less than 3 ft in thickness throughout the entire area and outcrops of the underlying dolerite are very common. Large masses of dolerite may exist in a talus slope and buildings founded on such masses could move if the slope was sufficiently steep. On this property however, the general appearance of the slope suggests that some of the outcrops are *in situ* and the upper part of the slope is not steep enough to cause trouble even if some talus is present.

CONCLUSION

Construction on the lower 100-150 ft level should be avoided unless the buildings can be founded on solid dolerite. On the upper part of the slope houses are recommended to be sited as much as possible on solid dolerite.

REFERENCE

LONGMAN, M.J.; MATTHEWS, W.L.; ROWE, S.M. 1964. Geological atlas 1 mile series. Zone 7 sheet 39 (8315S). Launceston. *Department of Mines, Tasmania.*

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