

Re-examination of land at Penguin.

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As a result of a survey some years ago a block of land owned by Mr J. Owens of Penguin was placed in a zone, which it was recommended should not be developed because of possible effects of land slips developing on the slopes behind it. Mr Owens requested a re-examination of the block as his daughter is anxious to build a house on it.

The land which slopes at about 6° is at the southern end of Seaside Crescent just in front of a steep slope about 75 ft high. There are strong seepages emerging from these slopes and around two of them, in the vicinity of Mr Owens' block, possible small recent movements have occurred.

On re-examination it is still thought that there is some risk of the block being affected by landslips that could develop on the slopes behind it. The risk to a house built on the block being so affected could be minimised by certain measures.

- (1) By building the house as close as possible to the northern boundary of the block.
- (2) By draining the seepages on the slope so that there is no build up of water in the basalt talus which underlies the slope. This could be difficult to perform adequately as Mr Owens owns only a small portion of the land on the slope.
- (3) By planting trees on the slope, the roots of which, once established, would act as a mechanical binding for the talus.

[21 December 1972]