

UR1975-05

Stability of a property at West Ulverstone.

W.L. Matthews

Mr Milton Smith is planning to build a house on Lot 54 Westfield Court, West Ulverstone [DQ284444]. He requested advice on the stability of the area.

RELIEF AND GEOLOGY

The land is situated on the north side of an E-W trending ridge which slopes steeply towards a marine terrace. The ridge rises some 75 m above sea level whereas the marine terrace is about 7 m a.s.l. The block of land is near the edge of the slope down from the top of the ridge to the terrace.

The top and the slopes of the eastern end of the ridge are underlain by weathered basalt and basalt soil. To the west of the block, Precambrian quartzite and phyllite extends along the slope from the west and almost reaches to the top of the ridge. About 100 m east of the block the basalt and Precambrian contact is exposed near the level of the marine terrace indicating a steeply sloping contact between the basalt and the Precambrian rocks.

DISCUSSION OF STABILITY

Downslope from Mr Smith's land there are some probable old slips and to the east along the slope there are extensive areas that have been subject to slip in the past. Because of this past instability, care should be taken in the development of the block. The back half of the block begins to slope fairly steeply whereas the front part slopes gently. The house should be built as near to the front boundary as the building regulations permit so that it is built on the flatter ground. The rear half of the block should not be built on and drainage from the house should not be permitted to go down the slope as this could initiate further instability.

[3 January 1975]