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Test pits near Durham Road, Cooee.

W.L. Matthews

Mr P.T. Tanner of Coastal Real Estate, Burnie, is planning to develop a subdivision south of Durham Road, Cooee. Following the recommendations of an earlier report (Matthews, 1974), two test pits were dug to examine the foundation conditions for an access road required to traverse a steep scarp to the south.

Both test pits were dug on the path of an existing track which is incised into the slope. In the vicinity of Test Pit 1, about one third of the way up the slope, the track has a cutting on the uphill side of approximately 3 m in height. The exposure consists mainly of a brown clay. Test Pit 2, located approximately three quarters of the distance up the slope encountered rock throughout its depth, while the lower pit struck similar rock at a depth of 2.9 m.

RESULTS OF TEST PITS

Hole 1

Depth (m)	Description
0-0.8	Red soil, clay, basalt boulders and some Precambrian sandstone boulders. Some zones consist mainly of a fissured, grey clay with a red stain and slip surfaces.
0.8-2.3	Red and grey fissured clay with boulders of Precambrian quartzite. The clay has slip surfaces and is relatively stiff.
2.3-2.9	Bouldery clay, grading into a micaceous sandstone which is <i>in situ</i> .

Hole 2

0-1.2	Micaceous sandstone interbedded with banded black and grey shale. Beds strike to the north-east and dip about 60° south-east.
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CONCLUSION

The developers propose to excavate a considerable amount of material during the construction of the road, including much clayey material near the top of the slope. If the excavation contacts or approaches the solid rock observed in the test pits, little concern would be necessary for the foundations of the proposed road. Alternately, if the cuttings mainly expose the brown clay that occurs on the existing track, the batter on the cuttings would have to be low so that slumping is not induced. Berms would need to be developed if the cuttings exceeded 3 m in height.

REFERENCE

MATTHEWS, W.L. 1974. Stability of land at Durham Road, Cooee. *Unpubl. Rep. Dep. Mines Tasm.* 1974/79.

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