

**TASMANIA DEPARTMENT OF MINES
UNPUBLISHED REPORT 1982/49**

Examination of a proposed subdivision at Deviot Road, Deviot

by W. R. Moore

A proposed subdivision at Deviot Road, Deviot, was examined at the request of the Department of Health Services. The road immediately in front of the land is actively slipping, being just north of a recent road collapse.

The land covered by the proposed subdivision was examined on 20 May. Only proposed lots 2, 3 and 4 (fig. 1) were examined as lot 1 was steep and scrub covered. This lot will require further examination when a contour map has been obtained, either by enlarging any existing maps or by surveying.

The three proposed lots between Bowman's house to the west and the property to the east are extremely narrow and small. In view of the difficulty Bowman is currently experiencing in confining the septic tank overflow to his property, there appears no possibility of three additional houses on the size of the proposed blocks being able to confine their overflow. At the most only one house appears feasible but severe misgivings are felt even about one house.

The blocks form a natural depression into which all the surrounding surface water collects. In winter much of the area is under water. Draining the area without putting the water onto the road appears unlikely. The road in front of these blocks currently shows severe cracking, with the cracks spreading across the road towards the River Tamar. Some of these cracks have been filled with bitumen but have cracked again. These tension cracks are strong evidence of potential failure and give a general indication of the general instability of the locality.

The clays exposed along the road at the subdivision are highly plastic and very moist and would be most difficult to drain. They also appear to have low shear strength.

Even though the slopes are low on the front blocks the addition of more water through septic tanks and additional weight can only make worse what is already a bad situation. Failure of Deviot Road is likely, as has already occurred to the south. It seems very likely that Bowman's sullage overflow added or contributed to the road cracking.

[27 May 1982]

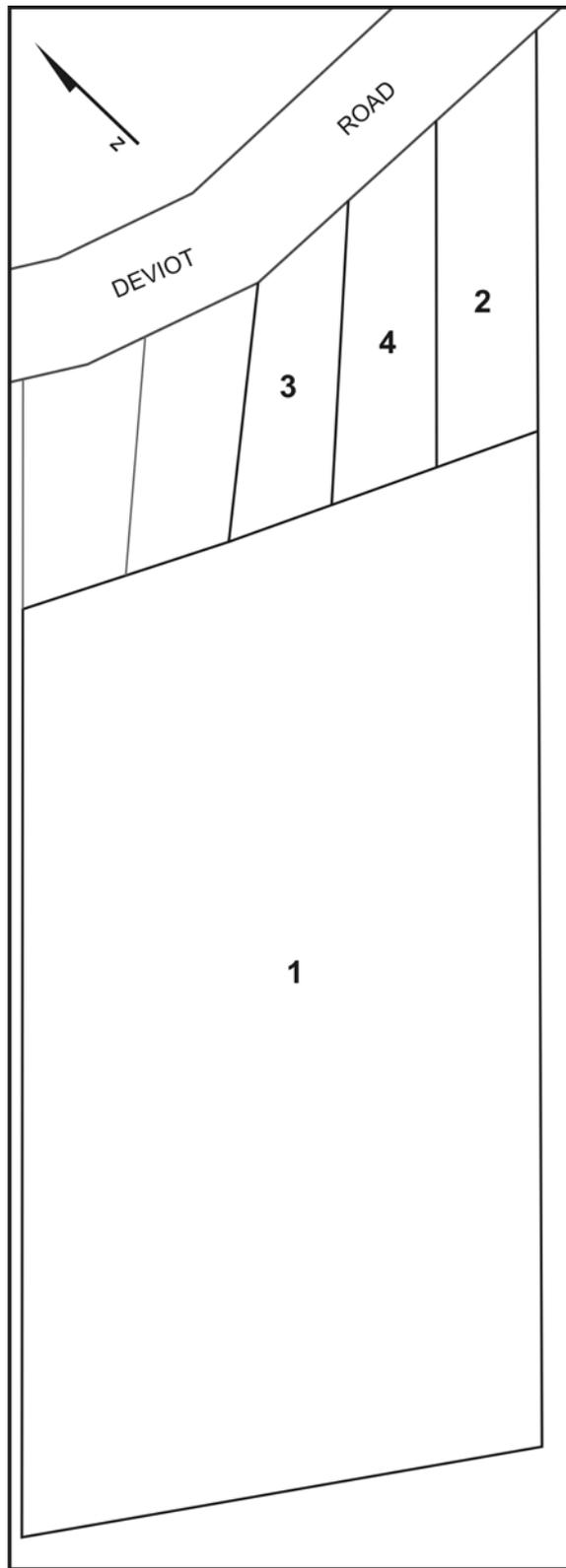


Figure 1

Proposed subdivision, Deviot Road