

**TASMANIA DEPARTMENT OF MINES
UNPUBLISHED REPORT 1979/58**

**Examination of Lots 3 and 4, Nobelius Drive,
Freshwater Point**

by P. C. Stevenson

The area covered by Lots 3 and 4 Nobelius Drive at Freshwater Point, Legana, has been re-examined to ascertain if there were geological conditions preventing the installation of septic tanks.

A recently drilled borehole on the mutual boundary of these lots showed that the surface gravel overlies plastic clay at a depth of about seven metres and that a free water table is present at this depth. These general conditions are controlling the failure of the cliff face, and the position of the 'A' landslip zone line across these blocks is therefore confirmed. It would be imprudent to attempt to build on the legal limit of the zone and a working limit not greater than 55 m (180 ft) from the road might be assumed.

With regard to the siting of French drains for effluent disposal any part of the blocks between the house site and the road frontage would be acceptable from a stability viewpoint, the distances being such that the addition of effluent would have an insignificant effect on water table conditions.

The disposal of stormwater must be carefully controlled. In no circumstances should it be allowed to flow freely down the cliff face as it will undoubtedly assist and aggravate the landslip condition. Piped disposal to the foot of the cliff is highly desirable and this should be done in a manner that the house owner can monitor and maintain. Numerous examples of similar geological conditions can be quoted around Tasmania and elsewhere where failure to maintain adequate stormwater drainage in the admittedly difficult surroundings of an actively moving slope has precipitated and aggravated the movement.

[19 June 1979]

