CCNZ PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE CCNZ HIREPOOL CONSTRUCTION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

2025

INCORPORATING
THE CONNEXIS CIVIL INDUSTRY TRAINING AWARDS
THE Z PEOPLE AWARDS

Civil Contractors New Zealand

Hirepool
CCNZ Principal Business Partner

CONNEXIS
INFRASTRUCTURE TRAINING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Civil Contractors NZ established the Construction Excellence Awards in 1978 as a means of recognising excellence in the civil engineering, construction, maintenance and contracting industry. Hirepool has been a proud sponsor of the awards since 2003.

Civil contractors who are members of CCNZ compete for the awards annually. The winners are presented with their award at a gala awards dinner held in conjunction with CCNZ's annual conference.

In 2025 the annual conference and awards were held on 23 July - 25 July 2025 at Mercury Baypark, Tauranga

CCNZ Principal Business Partner

MAJOR ASSOCIATE AWARD 2025

WINNER • CablePrice (NZ) Ltd

The CCNZ Major Associate award is presented to an associate member of Civil Contractors New Zealand who has demonstrated exceptional service to the civil construction industry. This includes providing exemplary service, innovation in services or products, strong partnerships with CCNZ and its branches, and high levels of community service.

This year's recipient is well known across the CCNZ network. They have been providing high quality, world leading equipment to contractors for many years. They are actively involved with our branches and are committed to supporting our communities in such areas as mental health.

This core associate is also very closely aligned with the success of our regional and national excavator competitions, being premium sponsor of the events since 2009. Integrally involved in the planning and logistics for the events, this core associate not only provides financial and in-kind support but ensures that the latest Hitachi excavators are available and moved around the country to support the regional excavator competitions, culminating in the finals held in Fielding in March each year.

This core associate provides outstanding support for the competition and is a driving force in delivering the event across our 12 regions. They have shown an outstanding commitment to the industry by recognising and developing the industry's skilled excavator operators through this competition.

They have continued to support our industry partnership through the tough times we have all experienced over the past 12 to 18 months, and we are grateful for that continued support.

The winner of the 2025 major associate of the year award is CablePrice.

CCNZ HIREPOOL CONSTRUCTION EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2025

The Toki Pou Tangata is a ceremonial adze worked from pounamu and lashed to a finely carved wooden handle. Toki Pou Tangata were carried by a person of mana (prestige), high rank, and great leadership qualities.

CATEGORY 1 • WINNER

HEB CONSTRUCTION – BRIDGE 57 PIER WASH-OUT

PROJECTS WITH A VALUE OF UP TO $2 MILLION

A complex project in a challenging site with very high time pressures. Only two days after initial site inspection, which was effectively undertaken by drones as the Rangitata River was still in flood, HEB, working closely with both Kiwirail and Consultants Novare, had designed a temporary fix and mobilized on site.

Utilising innovative design and construction methodology the temporary support was in place and the line opened to trains only 10 days later. The permanent pier replacement saw further innovation in piling, precast design and lifting techniques and meticulously planned site methodology.

The total project was completed incident free in only 6 weeks. HEB assembled a truly collaborative team and showed how seemingly impossible time targets could be achieved without comprising safety, quality and the environment.

CATEGORY 1 • HIGHLY COMMENDED

PIPELINE & CIVIL – AUCKLAND HARBOUR BRIDGE 90° BEND REPLACEMENT

PROJECTS WITH A VALUE OF UP TO $2 MILLION

It is hard to imagine a more logistically challenging job. North Shore's water is supplied through twin 500mm diameter pipes attached to the Auckland Harbour Bridge but as they both feed via a single manifold a failure to either pipe leaves less than 24 hours supply.

Replacing a 90 degree bend, which has two third dimensional bends to clear the bridge superstructure, required millimeter perfect fabrication. Access required bespoke scaffolding and crane jib modification to get the 500 kilogram bend into place 10 m above ground and with less than 50mm headroom.

Exhaustive planning and co-ordination over six months saw the shutdown, existing pipe cut out, new bend installed and flow restored in less than 24 hours. The Pipeline and Civil team excelled and left a very happy client in Watercare.

CATEGORY 2 • WINNER

ISAAC CONSTRUCTION - ALDWINS-ENSORS-FERRY INTERSECTION UPGRADE

PROJECTS WITH A VALUE OF BETWEEN $2 MILLION AND $5 MILLION

Building from the benefits of ECI and drawing from previous experience of partial road closures Isaac undertook extensive stakeholder engagement and achieved agreement to implement a 7 day full closure of this 15,000 vehicles per day intersection which also forms part of the bus network.

Isaac proposed innovative design changes and methodology to mitigate the risk of damage to an heritage listed brick arch stormwater culvert which had minimal cover. With meticulous attention to detail an hour by hour, task by task week long programme was developed which included not only plan B but in some cases plans C and D to mitigate the risks of "unforeseens" should any occur with plan A. To further de-risk the 7 day closure Isaac undertook 3 weeks of night shift enabling works installing signal ducting, kerb and channel and various services works.

Running 12 hour shifts across several different work types required extensive communication with thorough handover meetings to ensure no detail was lost or forgotten. Isaac's focus on acceleration without compromise saw $2.7M of high quality civil works delivered without incident during the week closure.

CATEGORY 2 • HIGHLY COMMENDED

ABERGELDIE COMPLEX INFRASTRUCTURE

– FISH PASSAGE PUMPS CHURCHILL EAST PUMPSTATION CONSTRUCTION

PROJECTS WITH A VALUE OF BETWEEN $2 MILLION AND $5 MILLION

Collaborative pre-construction planning saw innovative construction methodology deliver this complex project in an environmentally challenging site ahead of programme. Utilising a gravel coffer dam provided additional construction plant access as well as leaving the client much needed material for other on site work.

For once the weather co-operated and the pumps were able to handle the bypass flow for the duration of the works. Partial demolition of the existing structure revealed additional challenges which the Abergeldie team handled within their original programme.

The two large Archimedes pumps, each 18m long, 3m diameter and weighing 33 tonnes were installed without issue – testament to the accuracy of the concrete works.

A high quality project delivered ahead of schedule has helped Abergeldie win further Waikato Regional Council work.

CATEGORY 2 • HIGHLY COMMENDED

BRIAN PERRY CIVIL – TE ARA TUPUA REEF – PRECAST SUPPLY AND INSTALL

PROJECTS WITH A VALUE OF BETWEEN $2 MILLION AND $5 MILLION

Marine work is not new to Brian Perry Civil but constructing an artificial reef was a first.

Utilising Australian client MMA Offshores' moulds BPC undertook the precasting and placing of 56 pyramid shaped units, each 4m x 4m and 5m high and weighing 23 tonnes, in Wellington harbour.

Detailed planning and co-ordination was required to get the units from the precast site via a staging area onto a barge and then across the harbour to site.

Working strictly in favourable weather, especially low wind, innovative temporary barge anchoring and GPS guidance saw all units placed within the specified 300mm tolerance at depths up to 15m.

Recent underwater filming shows that the marine life also appreciate the quality Brian Perry Civil work.

CCNZ HIREPOOL CONSTRUCTION EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2025

CATEGORY 3 • WINNER

MAPS PROJECTS – OBRENWE HYDRO POWER PROJECT

PROJECTS WITH A VALUE OF BETWEEN $5 MILLION AND $20 MILLION

MAP Projects overcame extraordinary challenges over four years including a remote location, engaging with local villages to employing and develop their people, five cyclones, logistics issues and unstable ground. The project required meticulous planning and marine logistics. Everything required for four years was packed into containers, and the pandemic hit shortly after construction started. But throughout the project, MAP Projects kept everyone engaged, resulting in highly satisfied clients and locals.

This project was a major 'step up' for this small to medium contractor and the amazing results show what they are capable of. Supporting a local workforce in Vanuatu involved learning the language and local culture to train them in construction methods they had had never seen before, and build a new power plant to New Zealand specifications. Brenwe Hydro Power Scheme now scheme extracts a portion of flow from the river for approximately 1km and then down the penstock to output up to 550kw through twin turbines in the powerhouse, providing electricity to 15 villages.

MAP Projects' achievement was a masterclass in leadership and how to tackle the unknown. The team overcome challenges others would see as insurmountable, to deliver excellence in complex construction.

CATEGORY 3 • HIGHLY COMMENDED

G P FRIEL- TARANAKI ST WASTEWATER RISING MAIN UPGRADE

PROJECTS WITH A VALUE OF BETWEEN $5 MILLION AND $20 MILLION

GP Friel has been highly commended for their exemplary work in completing the Taranaki Street rising main upgrade in Wellington. This is a critical project for the Wellington's CBD. It caters for the growth of the city and enables renewal projects on the remainder of the existing network.

The project involved three different trenchless methodologies, resulting in impressive programme savings and environmental benefits.

CBD traffic flow, congested services, ground conditions and archaeological finds were no match for GP Friel, which overcame every adversity and offered their client solutions, not problems, resulting in a highly satisfied client.

This project is a testament expertise, capability and exceptional civil construction solutions, delivered under challenging conditions.

CCNZ HIREPOOL CONSTRUCTION EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2025

CATEGORY 3 • HIGHLY COMMENDED

HEB CONSTRUCTION - WESTPORT WHARF REPAIR

PROJECTS WITH A VALUE OF BETWEEN $5 MILLION AND $20 MILLION

The judges commend HEB construction for the Westport Wharf Repair. In a constrained site near live harbour operations, the works restored essential infrastructure that supports Westport. HEB partnered with local subcontractors and suppliers to reduce cost and support regional economic growth.

The project involved three different Trenchless methodologies including the new Guided Auger Bore machine, involving training by the German manufacturer, as an alternative method resulting in impressive programme savings and environmental benefits.

Challenges included dealing with traffic flows in the CBD, extensive congested services, ground conditions and archaeological finds. GP Friel overcame every adversity that was thrown at them and offered their client Solutions, not Problems, resulting in a highly satisfied Client.

Development of staff and subcontractors included promoting a local manager and engagement with local college students to refurbish sports facilities.

CATEGORY 4 • WINNER

BRIAN PERRY CIVIL – KAITOKE FLUME PIPE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

PROJECTS WITH A VALUE OF BETWEEN $20 MILLION AND $100 MILLION

The Kaitoke Flume Pipe Bridge is critical link in Wellington's main water supply network. Replacement of the old earthquake prone bridge was essential for security of supply. The bridge carries a 1500 diameter pipe which supplies approximately 60 per cent of Wellington's Water.

However, the bridge's location in an isolated regional park with poor access and steep terrain presented many construction challenges. These included: narrow single lane access with low-capacity bridges preventing heavy mobile cranes, limited working space on unstable cliffs, no temporary works permitted in the river and a tight programme requiring no water supply disruption over summer.

And this project is an outstanding example of contractor involvement in design and planning. Arguably, this bridge could not have been built without early contractor involvement. The judges were blown away by the vast number of innovative solutions developed to achieve the successful completion of this project.

The result was a project delivered five months early, with no harm or environmental incidents and no loss of water supply to Wellington. It is an outstanding result, and the collaborative approach developed with Wellington Water and DOC greatly assisted the outcome.

CCNZ HIREPOOL CONSTRUCTION EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2025

CATEGORY 5 • WINNER

TE AHU A TURANGA ALLIANCE – TE AHU A TURANGA: MANAWATŪ TARARUA HIGHWAY

PROJECTS WITH A VALUE OF GREATER THAN $100 MILLION

Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū Tararua Highway is a new four-lane highway. The 12km road traverses the foothills of the Ruahine ranges and Te Apiti windfarm It was delivered by an alliance comprising Fulton Hogan, HEB Construction, Aurecon, WSP and five iwi partners.

The successful completion of earthworks in steep terrain and construction of the extra-wide balanced cantilever bridge over the Manawatū river and railway, along with the associated eco bridge are impressive.

Of the many, many achievements on this project, the factors that most impressed the judges were full inclusion of local iwi as project partners, successful programming, delivery and risk management strategies applied. And smooth delivery of the project ahead of time, when dealing with the complexity of the consenting requirements, covid, geography and adverse weather events.

The new road replaces the Manawatū Gorge Road, to provide a more resilient connection for the communities separated by the Ruahine and Tararua ranges.

CATEGORY 6 • WINNER

AUCKLAND SYSTEM MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE – AUCKLAND SYSTEM MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE

MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF ASSETS

ASM Alliance is all about continuous improvement. The passion and ownership is on display, from field crews through to senior management.

At the core of ASM is commitment to keep Auckland moving. Innovative ideas such as roadblock closures have transformed road maintenance in Auckland, enabling synchronised, timely, efficient and safe maintenance.

Tandem paving crews (and where feasible triple crews) on the same motorway closure has increased productivity and efficiency, including reduced temporary traffic management.

The contract offers a prime opportunity for innovative ideas which are shared with other NZTA networks around the country.

CCNZ HIREPOOL CONSTRUCTION EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2025

CATEGORY 6 • HIGHLY COMMENDED

DOWNER – NORTH CANTERBURY NETWORK OUTCOMES

MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF ASSETS

The North Canterbury maintenance contract covers 948 km. Disciplined management is needed due to the region's complex geography.

Downer's approach to coastal maintenance and earthquake mitigation, alpine and ongoing winter maintenance, plus specialised management of the Lyttleton tunnel deserves commendation.

NZTA has recognised the contract as providing best practise results for three successive years, including one outstanding rating. An independent health & safety audit conducted in 2025 found zero areas for improvement.

Downer also undertook a feasibility trial of the New Zealand Guide to Temporary Traffic Management, which it has now rolled out across the North Canterbury network.

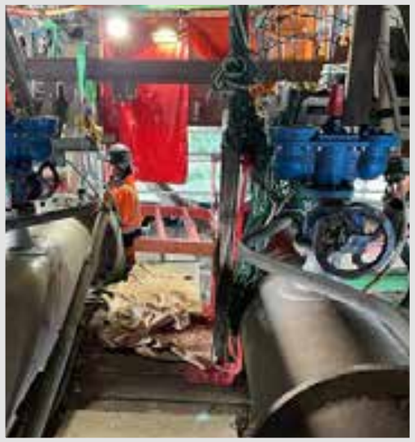
BIG CONGRATS!

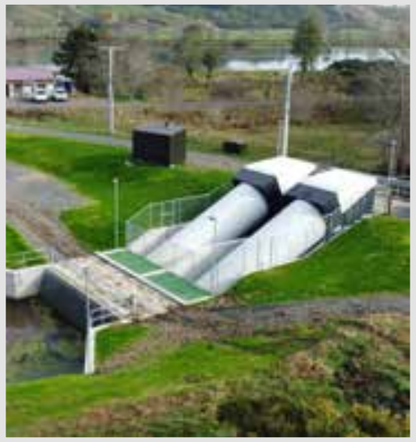
Let's hear it for all the category winners and finalists in the 2025 CCNZ Hirepool Construction Excellence Awards. We're always stoked to be involved with epic projects like these and to see them come to completion.

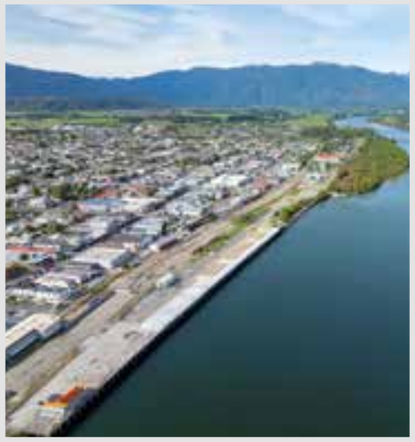
Talk to us about how we can help with your next project.

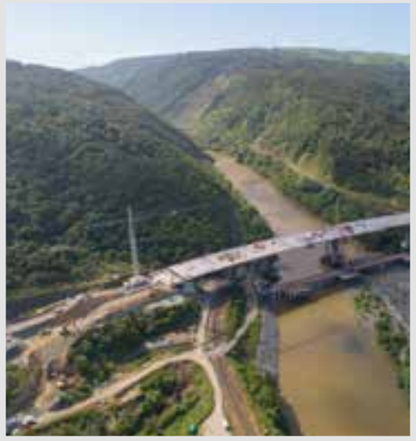
Hirepool

HIREPOOL.CO.NZ | 0800 15 15 15









CATEGORY

1 AN EARLY UPGRADE IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

PROJECT: Omaha Drive and Boat Ramp Stormwater Upgrade
CONTRACTOR: Abergeldie Complex Infrastructure
CLIENT: Auckland Council
VALUE: $1,981,711

Abergeldie delivered the Omaha Drive and Boat Ramp Stormwater Upgrade for Auckland Council, significantly enhancing flood resilience in the Omaha North area.

Beginning in September 2024, the project involved constructing new stormwater infrastructure to improve the capture and conveyance of runoff, addressing long-standing issues of surface flooding, property flooding, and ponding.

Despite uncovering gravity sewer clashes during early site investigations, the team worked collaboratively to redesign the works and successfully complete the project one month ahead of schedule.

Early delivery meant the boat ramp car park was fully operational for the peak holiday period, maximising parking and boat trailer access for locals and visitors.

Strategic problem-solving, transparent communication, and strong stakeholder engagement were critical to success.

Completed in December 2024, the upgraded system now provides greater protection for the community, showcasing Abergeldie's ability to deliver complex infrastructure with innovation and care for the community and environment.

CATEGORY

1 A HEAVEN-SENT SILKEN RECOVERY

PROJECT: Coromandel Cyclone Recovery
Brett Heaven Slip Repair SH25
CONTRACTOR: Brian Perry Civil
CLIENT: New Zealand Transport Agency – Waka Kotahi (NZTA)
VALUE: $1,300,00

Brian Perry Civil (Central Branch), in partnership with NZTA and consultants WSP and Beca, successfully delivered one of the most complex and high-risk cyclone recovery projects on the Coromandel Peninsula. The Brett Heaven Slip Repair involved stabilising a major slip beneath State Highway 25 with a 2400m cubic metre earthworks cut and the construction of a mechanically stabilised earth (MSE) retaining wall – all while maintaining two-lane traffic on this vital route.

Despite steep terrain, soft ground conditions, and tight access at the intersection of three roads, the project was completed 20 working days ahead of schedule and under budget at $1.3m. Innovation, collaboration, and community engagement were key to its success.

From smart traffic management, re-use of site materials to save time and costs, and building a culture of ownership on site, this project is a good example of how strong relationships and practical problem-solving can turn – as the landowner, Brett Heaven described it - a "sow's ear into a silk purse."

- Start date 30 September 2024
- Final Contract Completion date 28 March 2025
- Practical Completion date 28 February 2025 – completed 20 working days ahead of schedule.

CATEGORY

1 BRIDGE IT WORKS WONDERS IN BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

PROJECT: Tukemokihi Station 50m bridge
CONTRACTOR: Bridge It NZ
CLIENT: Te Whakaari Incorporation
VALUE: $846,141

Tukemokihi Station's new bridge, in the rugged hills of northern Hawke's Bay, is an incredible feat of engineering and teamwork.

The 50m truss bridge is the largest single span structure that Bridge It NZ (BINZ) has ever built, in the most difficult terrain they have ever faced.

BINZ has built over 300 bridges right across New Zealand, many of them on rural farm and forestry sites. Māori land trust Te Whakaari Incorporation engaged BINZ to replace a century-old suspension bridge that was destroyed in a storm in mid-2022. The project's complexity required meticulous planning, perseverance, and skill at every step.

Every conceivable challenge was thrown at BINZ including near impossible access and treacherous ground conditions. A unique launch method was developed to literally pull the bridge 50m in mid-air from one side of the riverbank across to the other – something they had never done before.

With no access to a crane, and a 16m drop below, BINZ worked with Tiaki Engineering to think outside the box to make this happen.

The new bridge was successfully installed in October 2024 thanks to BINZ's expertise, determination, professionalism and ability to adapt to even the toughest environments.

CATEGORY

1 MILITARY-GRADE INGENUITY FOR RAPID WATER REPAIRS

PROJECT: Upper Nihotupu Headworks
CONTRACTOR: Cassidy Construction
CLIENT: Watercare Services
VALUE: $1,435,333

When Watercare Services commissioned Cassidy Construction to shore up a live cast iron water pipe that had been left hanging precariously in mid-air by a large landslide in the remote, bush-clad Waitākere Ranges in West Auckland, extraordinary circumstances prompted an exceptional response.

The steep, constricted Upper Nihotupu Headworks site was accessible only by a 40-minute hike from the nearest road, had no cell phone reception and posed many logistical, safety and ecological challenges.

As a trusted partner on numerous prior Watercare jobs, Cassidy Construction was brought in early to collaborate with Watercare and Tonkin + Taylor geotech engineers during planning for the multi-stage remediation, which involved reinstating a blocked culvert and installing a bigger culvert, a reinforced soil slope (RSS) wall and a riprap swale.

The project was completed in just over three months – a week early – between March and June 2024, with two choppers (including a former US military Black Hawk) racking up more than 500 return trips during the three-month project.

An aligned, solutions-focused, one-team approach was central to the success of this complex civil project that showcases Cassidy's safe delivery of quality work. A dash of Kiwi ingenuity and military-grade airpower helped too.

CATEGORY

1 HELPING TAURANGA'S WATER FLOW SMOOTHLY

PROJECT: Omanu Flow Control Valve - Physical Works
CONTRACTOR: CB Civil & Drainage
CLIENT: Tauranga City Council
VALUE: $1,023,141

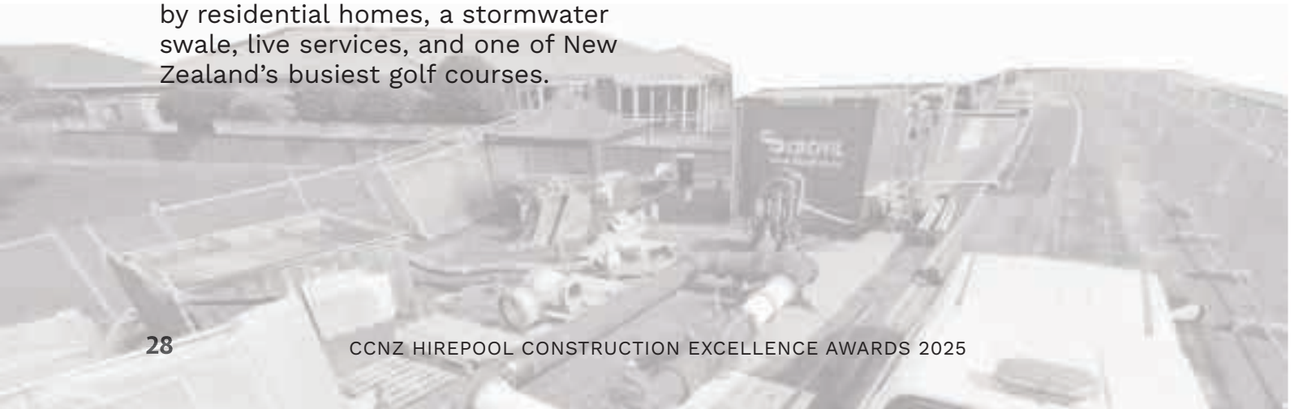
The Omanu Flow Control Valve project, delivered by CB Civil in collaboration with Tauranga City Council, is a leading example of innovative, contractor-led infrastructure delivery under pressure.

Located on Matapihi Road in Mount Maunganui, this essential upgrade involved the installation of a flow control valve, pressure relief valves, and flow metering on Tauranga's bulk water main – safeguarding supply for the Mount region ahead of peak summer demand.

Starting on 13 August 2024 and completed by 19 November 2024, the project was delivered in a tightly confined road reserve surrounded by residential homes, a stormwater swale, live services, and one of New Zealand's busiest golf courses.

Despite these challenges, CB Civil delivered the project ahead of the critical deadline and under budget allowing Tauranga City Council to reinvest the savings in yet more critical infrastructure upgrades.

Working from a 60 percent preliminary design, CB Civil led the refinement and execution of the design, implementing complex temporary works and managing a 24/7 dewatering system. The project showcased exceptional teamwork, community engagement, and value engineering – earning further work from the client and reinforcing CB Civil's reputation for delivering high-risk, high-value infrastructure in urban environments.



CATEGORY

1 SETTING THE STANDARD FOR DECONTAMINATING NZ'S SCENIC BEACHES

PROJECT: Tāhunanui Back Beach Contaminated Sawdust Remediation
CONTRACTOR: Downer
CLIENT: Nelson City Council
VALUE: $559,181

Downer successfully delivered the Tāhunanui Back Beach – Contaminated Sawdust Remediation project in Nelson, with Tonkin + Taylor as consultants.

The 3500 square metre site was originally reclaimed with sawdust from timber mills in the 1960s. Ongoing coastal erosion exposed arsenic, chromium, copper, boron, and dioxins, requiring urgent intervention to protect public health and the marine environment.

Between September and November 2024, Downer safely excavated and removed 6500 cubic metres of contaminated material under challenging conditions, including tidal risks, restricted site access, and live public use of the beach.

The team employed GPS-controlled excavation, dust suppression, sand bund protection, and wildlife fencing to ensure safety and compliance throughout.

Delivered ahead of schedule and under budget, the project sets a benchmark for contaminated coastal land remediation. It also supports Nelson City Council's broader managed retreat strategy and helped safely reopen a treasured public asset before the summer season.

Consultants Tonkin + Taylor noted: "The final product stands as a testament to Downer Group's high standards in delivering a well-managed, efficient, and quality project."

CATEGORY

1 ROAD REBUILD SAVES SETTLEMENTS FROM ISOLATION

PROJECT: Marainanga Gorge Rebuild
CONTRACTOR: Downer - Tararua Alliance
CLIENT: Tararua District Council
VALUE: $1,300,000

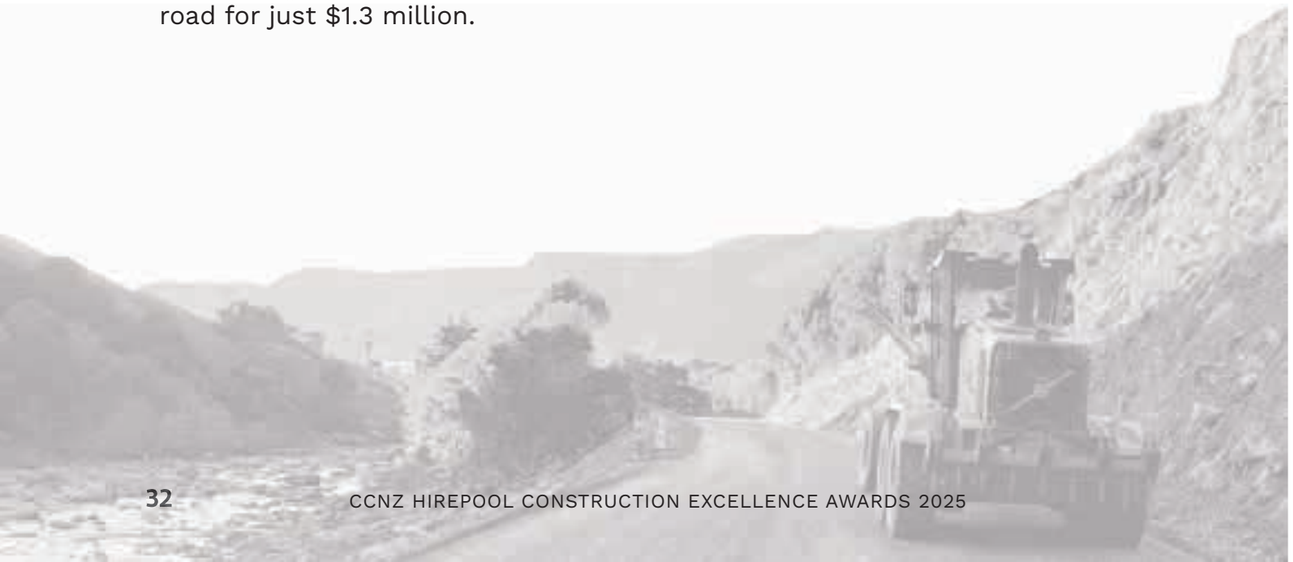
When Cyclone Gabrielle destroyed Marainanga Gorge, washing away 300 meters of Coast Road, the Ākitio and Owāhanga communities faced isolation. The Tararua Alliance, in collaboration with local iwi and contractors, sprang into action.

Initial estimates of repairs were $5million-$6 million: an innovative and cost effective alternative was urgently needed.

With iwi permission, the team used boulders from the Aohanga River and nearby limestone to rebuild the road for just $1.3 million.

This community-led approach saved millions and achieved in six months what could have taken years.

The result is a remarkably resilient road that has restored vital access for the community. This project exemplifies the power of collaboration, resourcefulness, and community-driven solutions in the face of natural disaster.



CATEGORY

1 A DESIGN STRAIGHT FROM NATURE FOR ROAD REPAIRS

PROJECT: Masterton District Council post cyclone road repairs
CONTRACTOR: Fulton Hogan Corporate
CLIENT: Masterton District Council
VALUE: $1,900,000

This project shows how collaboration between a contractor, local entrepreneur and council can solve a problem for communities devastated by extreme weather events. Pioneered in Wairarapa, the approach has potentially significant applications New Zealand-wide, particularly in light of increasing climate change-induced storms.

The Wairarapa team's work is an impressive response to local coastal and river erosion realities. It is scalable and adaptable wherever there's a need for remediating and strengthening roads and bridges in flood-prone areas, with significant environmental, financial and social benefits.

Fulton Hogan and Agmar Tools have used the groundbreaking Ecoreef pods they pioneered on the wild South Wairarapa Coast to address coastal erosion, to address nine non-coastal projects for Masterton District Council, from dropouts to bridge abutment repairs in this $1.9m project.

The pods provided a solid foundation and allowed the team to build as they went; their point facing making them as good for retaining walls, support structures and as a drainage system. They have proven to be a defence against the region's rough seas on coastal roads.

With construction time around 30 percent less than traditional techniques and the ability to use all local materials, the project shows the way in rebuilding safely, assuredly and with minimum environmental effects.

CATEGORY

1 CREATIVE THINKING STABILISES WELLINGTON SLOPE

PROJECT: Lennel Road Slope Stabilisation
CONTRACTOR: Geovert - Wellington
CLIENT: Wellington City Council
VALUE: $699,255

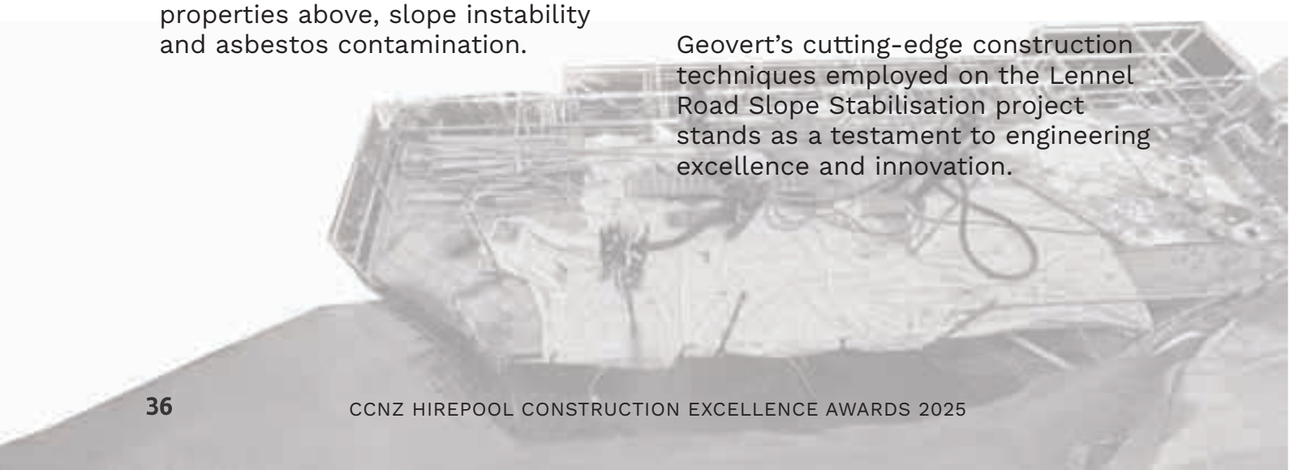
Thinking outside the box to integrate multiple construction techniques on the Lennel Road Slope Stabilisation project in Wadestown, Wellington showcases Geovert's adaptability to successfully deliver engineering excellence and innovation in a challenging environment.

Contracted by Wellington City Council, the scope included installation of an anchor mesh and shotcrete wall above Lennel Road to stabilise the slope and protect residences above. Challenges and complexity stemmed from the constrained worksite, limited access and space at road level, residential properties above, slope instability and asbestos contamination.

Commencing operations on 7 January 2024 and completing the job in May 2024, Geovert worked collaboratively with Wellington City Council and consulting engineers ENGEO to deliver a cost-effective and efficient solution while minimising disruption to the community and the environment.

The solution involved various drilling methods including wagon drills with anchors at the top, scaffold-mounted drill masts for inaccessible areas, and an excavator-mounted drill mast with a custom extension for drilling from the base. A bespoke scaffold platform facilitated shotcreting at the upper levels.

Geovert’s cutting-edge construction techniques employed on the Lennel Road Slope Stabilisation project stands as a testament to engineering excellence and innovation.



CATEGORY

1 GOODRICK'S GOOD WORK CONNECTS NEW SUBDIVISION

PROJECT: Oturoa Vista Subdivision Gully Crossing
CONTRACTOR: Goodrick Contracting
CLIENT: Doug Dibley
VALUE: $809,441

The Oturoa Vista Stage 2 Subdivision in Ngongotahā, Rotorua, is a high-quality residential development. The project began in November 2024 and reached completion in March 2025, showcasing a strong commitment to excellence across all stages of delivery.

This stage of the subdivision involved complex civil works, including significant earthworks, managing steep and varied terrain, and implementing robust environmental controls. Goodrick Contracting approached each challenge with precision and professionalism, ensuring a high standard of finish that reflects the project's premium residential nature.

Stratum Consultants provided engineering consultancy and oversight throughout the development.

A collaborative approach, combined with Goodrick's dedication to quality, ensured seamless communication, effective problem-solving, and timely delivery.

Health and safety remained a top priority throughout the duration of the project, with all works executed in line with best-practice standards and strict environmental compliance.

The successful delivery of Oturoa Vista Stage 2 is a testament to the strength of local partnerships and the proven capability of Goodrick Contracting to deliver complex and high-value subdivision projects across the Bay of Plenty region.

CATEGORY

1 ANCHORING LYTTELTON'S HERITAGE DRY DOCK

PROJECT: Lyttelton Port Dry Dock
CONTRACTOR: Groundfix
CLIENT: Lyttelton Port Company
VALUE: $1,200,000

Groundfix was contracted to provide ground anchor and specialist construction services at the dry dock in Lyttelton, which is a "Highly Significant" heritage item in the Christchurch District Plan and a Category 1 listed Historic Place on the New Zealand Heritage List.

As such, the works required novel and a distinctly collaborative work ethos, with several work streams and work types requiring multiple skillsets. Groundfix was committed to ensuring that the dry dock's historic character was preserved with minimal interference.

The geotechnical design was provided by TetraTech, and structural/heritage consulting by WSP. The works lasted nine weeks from June 2024.

The client's satisfaction with Groundfix can be summarised in this statement from the Lyttelton Port Company's Head of Environment and Sustainability:

"What really stood out throughout the project was their genuine willingness to work collaboratively. They engaged early, listened to our feedback, and worked closely with our environmental team and heritage professionals to solve problems before they became issues. That attitude made a real difference on a site where both heritage constraints and operational challenges had to be balanced carefully. In short, Groundfix delivered a technically challenging project with a strong sense of responsibility – to both the past and the future."

CATEGORY

1 URGENCY IS THE MOTHER OF INNOVATION

PROJECT: Bridge 57 Pier wash-out
CONTRACTOR: HEB Construction
CLIENT: KiwiRail
VALUE: $1,730,000

On 12 April 2024, a pier supporting KiwiRail's 610m Bridge 57 on the Main South Line between Christchurch and Dunedin washed away, leaving approximately 40 tonnes of twisted, unsupported steel hanging over the Rangitata River. This closed the 50km section between Ashburton and Timaru.

Under urgency, KiwiRail contacted HEB Construction to inspect the bridge on 13 April. It was possible the girders would drop and damage the SH1 Road Bridge 100m downstream, now carrying an additional 200 freight trucks per day. HEB, working with KiwiRail's designers, Novare, designed a temporary fix overnight.

With the support of local companies, who immediately leapt in to help, within three hours earthworks were underway to create an access, retrain the 530m wide river, and create failsafe stop banks and crane pads. Flash floods were a constant danger. Response to the many challenges led to truly innovative techniques, which KiwiRail has adopted for future emergency situations.

The Bridge 57MSL Pier Wash-out project began 15 April 2024. The temporary support enabled the bridge to re-open within 10 days, and the permanent piling structure and project was completed within six weeks on 26 May 2024, a project which would normally have taken five months, without incident.

CATEGORY

1 A BEAM OF LIGHT FOR KIWIRAIL

PROJECT: Bridge 52 rail beam replacement project
CONTRACTOR: Isaac Construction
CLIENT: KiwiRail
VALUE: $1,725,703

The Bridge 52 Rail Beam Replacement Project was a significant structural refurbishment initiative delivered by Liddell Construction (part of the Isaac Construction Group) for KiwiRail. Located on the Midland Line near SH73, Otira, the project involved replacing ageing wooden rail beams with KiwiRail-supplied steel rail beams and installing new walkways on both sides of the bridge.

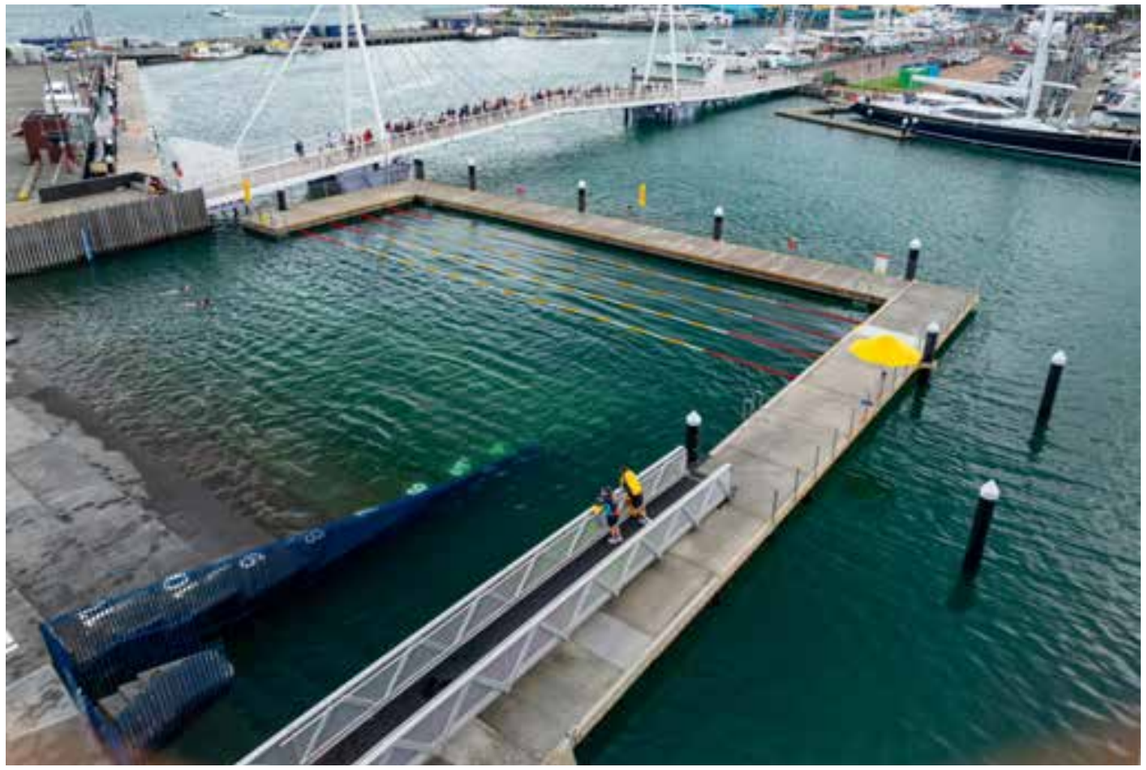
Key works included site establishment, scaffold installation, crane pad construction, material transportation, concrete bolster pre-casting and installation, rail beam removal and replacement, walkway installation, and the application of protective coatings.

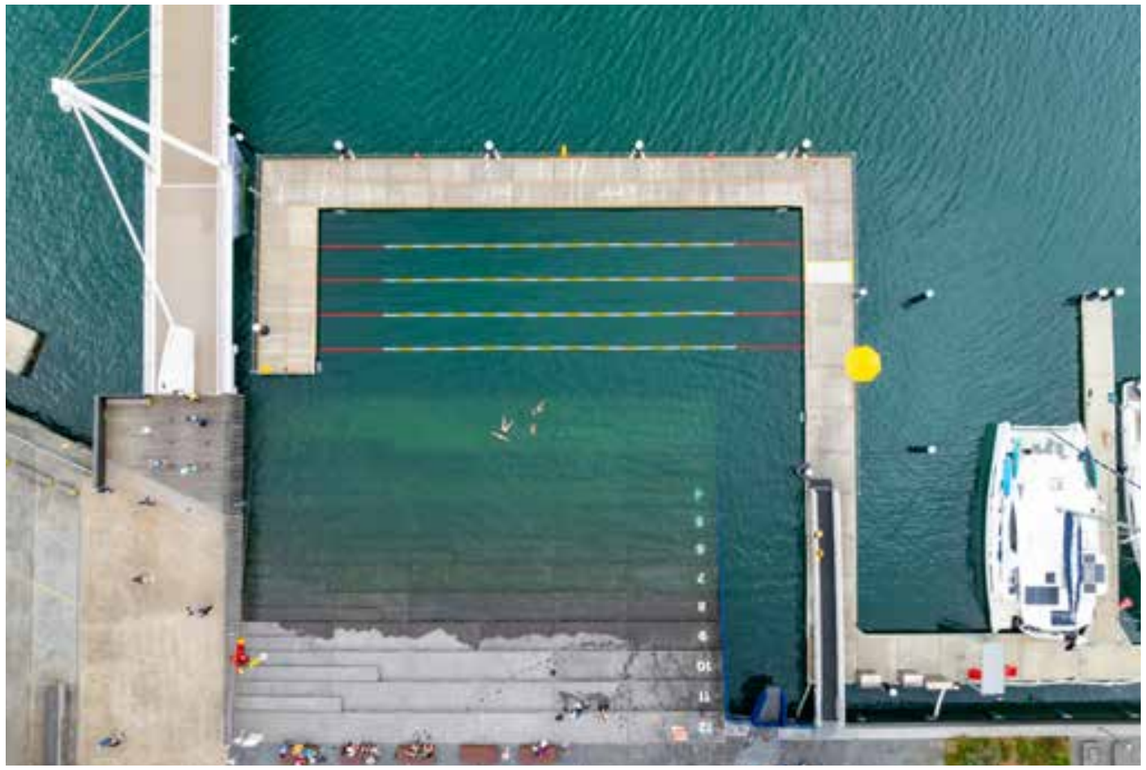
A seven-day, six-night block of line in August 2023 facilitated the seamless execution of critical activities.

The project began on 4 June 2023 and reached practical completion on 15 December 2023 due to client-led variations expanding the scope of protective coatings and structural strengthening of steel cross members.

Liddell Construction successfully delivered the project with Holmes Consulting Group (consultant), Davis Ogivie (survey support), Elmac Consultants (crane pad design), Rosco Contracting (earthworks), and Southern Lakes Scaffolding (scaffolding).

This complex project highlights Liddell Construction's comprehensive in-house capabilities, including steelwork fabrication, welding, precast manufacture, and gravel extraction consents, ensuring a high-quality outcome for KiwiRail.





CATEGORY

1 A SHOWCASE IN CREATIVE STEEL CONSTRUCTION

PROJECT: Karanga Plaza Jump Platform & Harbour Pool
CONTRACTOR: McConnell Dowell
CLIENT: Eke Panuku Development
VALUE: $1,473,811

McConnell Dowell delivered one of the most high-profile public projects in Auckland for Eke Panuku Development in 2024.

The Karanga Plaza Harbour Pool and Jump Platform Project scope was initially to install a new jump platform and recreation area next to the Tidal Steps in Auckland's Wynyard Quarter.

After extensive consultation, and further design refinement and approval from Auckland Council, the scope was extended to include an enclosed harbour pool. The client was very satisfied with the new facilities which opened with a splash on 20 December 2024.

McConnell Dowell's 'Mechanical Division' focuses on creative steel construction projects, so this project was a perfect fit. Having a specialised team is perhaps why it was so successful, delivered to programme, without any safety or environmental incidents, and within budget.

The project is testament to the skill and expertise of McConnell Dowell's Mechanical Division and showcases its ability to work creativity with steel and concrete.

CATEGORY

1 A CUT ABOVE THE REST

PROJECT: Mangarino Road Slip Repair
CONTRACTOR: Nicholls and Uttinger Civil
CLIENT: Waitomo District Council
VALUE: $941,054

This slip repair project demonstrates Nicholls and Uttinger Civil's skill in large slip repair sites. Detailed planning and collaboration with the Consultant and Geotechnical Engineers resulted in this project being delivered over 10 percent under budget and to a high-quality standard.

The project included building a 70m long, 15m high, rock structural fill buttress in Waitomo where the road was completely washed out from a previous cyclone.

With 8,000 cubic metres of cut to and fill required to expose the rock buttress subgrade before structural fill import, this site required a resource consent and was environmentally sensitive but was completed with excellent environmental audit scores.

Finally, 7,000 cubic metres (16,000 tonnes) of GAP100 rock was imported from a nearby quarry to build up the rock buttress.

Due to client satisfaction with this project, WDC submitted it for an award at the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia, at which the project has been shortlisted in the finalists.

CATEGORY

1 HIGH-STAKES CONSTRUCTION, WITH PRECISION

PROJECT: Auckland Harbour Bridge 90° Bend Replacement
CONTRACTOR: Pipeline & Civil
CLIENT: Watercare Services
VALUE: $338,096

Vehicle movement on the Auckland Harbour Bridge had gradually caused wear to a 90-degree bend on the 500 nominal bore North Shore Number 2 transmission pipeline, where it contacted the bridge structure – putting the asset at long-term risk. Pipeline & Civil's Technical Services team was called in to deliver a constructible solution.

Led by Patrick Hansell, the project involved coordination with five consultants, multiple subcontractors, and asset owners. Before replacement, critical valves were upgraded to support the drain down of the pipeline to allow the works to take place.

Working 10 metres above the ground from a scaffold – in an area where a crane could only just reach – the team removed the old bend and installed a complex mitred assembly.

Laser jigs, 3D models and precision fabrication ensured a perfect fit, with 50mm clearance from the bridge. The work was delivered ahead of schedule and without incident; a high-stakes job, executed flawlessly.

CATEGORY

1 RESTORING BRIDGE INTEGRITY WITHOUT DISRUPTION

PROJECT: Bridge 45 Mid Pier Replacement
CONTRACTOR: Smith Crane and Construction
CLIENT: KiwiRail
VALUE: $964,000

The ageing timber piers of Bridge 45 posed a critical risk to its structural integrity, requiring rapid stabilisation and replacement to ensure continued safe rail operations.

KiwiRail's key objectives were to enhance operational reliability, maintain or increase line speed, eliminate structural timber in line with network-wide policy, and – crucially – complete the works without requiring a block of line or disrupting services.

Smith Crane and Construction's innovative solution met these demands by immediately installing four permanent piles that served dual purposes: forming the foundations of the new piers while also supporting a temporary structural steel frame.

This frame was placed beneath the existing steel plate girder spans to support the bridge during construction.

By leveraging internal stockpiles of steel and permanent piling, and deploying its in-house civil, fabrication, crane hire and transport capabilities, the team mobilised rapidly. This integrated approach enabled work streams to run in parallel, significantly reducing project duration and avoiding service interruptions. The project exemplifies agility, technical expertise, and commitment to delivering critical infrastructure solutions with speed, safety, and precision.

CATEGORY

1 MAKING COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION LOOK SIMPLE

PROJECT: Rakaia Labyrinth Weir
CONTRACTOR: Smith Crane and Construction
CLIENT: Central Water Plains
VALUE: $1,306,921

The Rakaia River Intake is the largest irrigation project ever undertaken in the South Island, delivering environmentally sustainable water management since its opening in 2015.

With a total investment of $187m, the scheme has significantly reduced groundwater abstraction – by up to 70 per cent – through a shift from bores to alpine river water, replenishing aquifers and lowland streams across Canterbury.

To protect this critical infrastructure during storm events, an overflow system was originally constructed, featuring a weir and gravel fuse plug.

However, the frequent reinstatement of the fuse plug proved costly. In a major upgrade, the original weir was replaced with a larger, more efficient $1.7m labyrinth weir designed to handle higher volumes and reduce maintenance needs.

Engaged by Central Water Plains, Taylors Contracting and Smith Crane and Construction successfully delivered this vital upgrade. The new labyrinth weir enhances the resilience and efficiency of the Rakaia River Intake, safeguarding a project that plays a key role in sustainable irrigation and water management in the Canterbury region.

CATEGORY

2 A STATE-OF-THE-ART WATER SOLUTION

PROJECT: Fish Passage Pumps Churchill East Pumpstation Construction
CONTRACTOR: Abergeldie Complex Infrastructure
CLIENT: Waikato Regional Council
VALUE: $2,861,365

First built in 1965, the Churchill East Pump Station has long played an important role in protecting over 1400 hectares of productive farmland near Hampton Downs.

In October 2023, Abergeldie began delivering a major upgrade for WRC, replacing the ageing infrastructure with two state-of-the-art, Netherlands-built Archimedes screw pumps. The enclosed pumps, each 18m long and 3m in diameter, deliver a combined capacity of 2250 litres per second, while meeting future fish passage standards.

Delivering the works within a very tight 65 working day window, Abergeldie demolished and rebuilt the intake and outlet structures behind a temporary cofferdam.

The Churchill East Pump Station stands out for the collaboration between the Abergeldie as contractor, the Client Waikato Regional Council and their consultants WSP and Seven Rivers.

The upgrade highlights delivery of technical complexity, environmental innovation, and collaborative delivery under challenging conditions.

CATEGORY

2 A STABLE APPROACH TO SLIP REPAIR

PROJECT: Takatu Road Cyclone Gabrielle Slip Repairs Project
CONTRACTOR: Downer
CLIENT: Auckland Transport (AT)
VALUE: $4,300,000

Following the devastating impact of Cyclone Gabrielle, Downer delivered emergency slip repairs along Takatu Road, the sole access route to the Tāwharanui Peninsula. The $4.3 million design and build project involved stabilising six major slips in geotechnically unstable and environmentally sensitive terrain, restoring essential connectivity for local residents and visitors.

Construction included complex soil-nailed shotcrete walls, a rock buttress, and foreshore protection installed under extreme conditions – steep drop-offs, wet weather, limited access, and tidal costraints.

Downer deployed innovative methodologies including a custom A-frame drilling rig provided by specialist subcontractor Groundfix.

Despite challenging topography and evolving site conditions, the project was delivered safely, efficiently, and on programme. Real-time collaboration with AT and geotechnical advisors enabled agile responses to new risks, including integrating an additional slip mid-project.

Community access and safety were maintained throughout, and the project recorded zero serious incidents. With strong stakeholder engagement, inclusive leadership, and a high-performing team culture, the Takatu Road project stands as a benchmark for resilience, responsiveness, and innovation in post-disaster infrastructure delivery.

CATEGORY

2 WELLINGTON HARBOURS NEW MARINE HABITATS

PROJECT: Te Ara Tupua Reef – Precast supply and install
CONTRACTOR: Brian Perry Civil
CLIENT: MMA Offshore
VALUE: $3,000,000

Brian Perry Civil (BPC) exceeded client MMA Offshore's expectations in constructing and installing an artificial reef in Wellington harbour, the first of its kind in New Zealand. MMA commissioned BPC to project manage and provide the civil engineering works to deliver 56 concrete pyramid structures in the harbour, forming an artificial reef to attract fish and enhance the marine habitat.

Part of the Te Ara Tupua project, the reef supports the Petone to Ngauranga shared pathway. Mirroring the natural rocky reef lost during the pathway's construction, the artificial reef enabled the project to be completed without compromising the balance of the capital's sensitive harbour environment.

BPC set up a satellite precast yard by the harbour's edge, constructed the pyramids to MMA's design, and used its specialist barge fleet and marine experience to successfully install the reef – a "one stop shop" that was so efficient the precast structures were delivered two weeks ahead of time.

Installation was a logistical and safety challenge due to weather and positioning risks. BPC's meticulous planning of transport and barge movements, and communication between on-shore and off-shore crews, enabled the team to work with maximum efficiency on good weather days.

CATEGORY

2 RESTORING ROAD ACCESS TO NORTHLAND

PROJECT: Brynderwyns Slope Stabilisation and Resilience Project
CONTRACTOR: Geovert
CLIENT: New Zealand Transport Agency – Waka Kotahi (NZTA)
VALUE: $4,184,556

In early 2023 severe weather events impacted SH1 Brynderwyn Hills resulting in closure of this crucial transportation route to and from Northland. Initially an emergency response, the project evolved to become the Brynderwyn Hills Resilience Project.

To ensure SH1 Brynderwyn Hills would withstand future weather events over the longer term, NZTA engaged with WSP and Fulton Hogan as head contractor to devise a solution. Well recognised for its expertise in slope stabilisation, Geovert would assist in providing design and feasibility support of geotechnical slope stabilisation solutions and undertake these critical works.

Geovert joined this hugely collaborative effort beginning work July 2023. Scope included various stabilisation techniques, including the implementation of an innovative downslope shotcrete solution using gunnite (drycrete) – a first time use in a major NZ infrastructure project. Geovert completed their obligations in November 2024.

The Brynderwyn Hills Resilience Project reflects the power of collaboration and the effectiveness of a cooperative design approach. With the early engagement of Geovert as a specialist contractor working together with client, engineering experts and head contractor, the collaborative team effort designed and safely delivered a resilient solution to a complex infrastructure project to future proof a key transportation route.

CATEGORY

2 RESHAPING THE INTERSECTION OF THREE KEY ROADS

PROJECT: Aldwins-Ensors-Ferry Intersection Upgrade
CONTRACTOR: Isaac Construction
CLIENT: Christchurch City Council
VALUE: $2,760,259

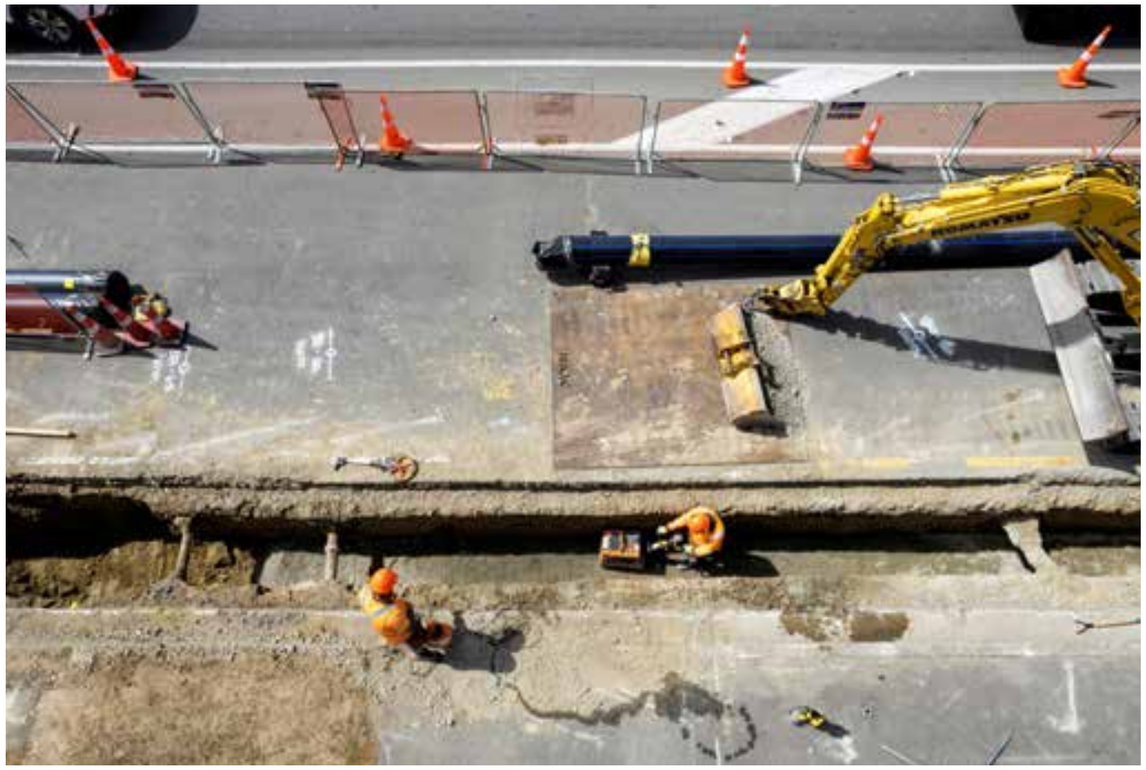
Isaac Construction's upgrade of the intersection of Aldwins, Ensors and Ferry roads compressed more than $2.5 million of physical works into a single, high-intensity seven-day full closure, backed by three weeks of enabling night shifts.

Situated on a Level 2 arterial route carrying over 15,000 vehicles per day, the project replaced end-of-life traffic signals, installed 1,700 square metres of new pavement, and safely removed 880 cubic metres of coal tar-contaminated material.

It also introduced a 200mm-thick 50 megapascal concrete subbase, marking a first-of-its-kind pavement treatment for Christchurch.

Delivered alongside Te Aratai College and directly above a heritage 1300mm brick barrel stormwater line, the job demanded 24/7 operations, zero incidents, and uninterrupted stakeholder access. The final delivery involved six subcontractors, more than 40 crew members, and was completed ahead of programme, on budget, and with zero defects at handover.

A benchmark-setting achievement in urban civil delivery – complex, constrained, and executed without compromise.



CATEGORY

2 TURNING UP THE HEAT ON WATER CONSTRUCTION

PROJECT: Water Supply Mains Memorial Hampton and Grangewood Renewals
CONTRACTOR: Isaac Construction
CLIENT: Christchurch City Council
VALUE: $4,750,000

This project involved the installation of a new watermain and submain on Memorial Avenue and adjacent side streets in Christchurch, replacing ageing existing watermain infrastructure.

There was approx. 1.68km of 355 diameter polyurethane pipe, 1.7km of 180 diameter polyurethane pipe and 3.2km of submain pipe installed.

Isaac Construction undertook a “high impact, short duration” strategy. All works were critical to completing within the 80-day programme that was committed to with Christchurch City Council.

To achieve this, the team had to resource up and engage many subcontractors plus work on multiple work fronts at the same time. At times, crews were working both day and night, and up to 10 crews were on duty at the busiest periods.

The project required careful planning in conjunction with close supervision and coordination of the many crews working on site. The site management team had to work very hard to ensure that the project was delivered on time, on budget and to the required specification.

The tender price was just over $4.5m and this was approx. $0.5m below the next lowest price tender – so all in all, delivered extremely good value for the Christchurch City Council Three Waters team.

CATEGORY

2 A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO WATER CONSTRUCTION

PROJECT: Waikōuaiti Water Treatment Plant Intake Upgrade
CONTRACTOR: McConnell Dowell Constructors
CLIENT: Dunedin City Council
VALUE: $2,466,393

The Waikōuaiti Water Intake Upgrade, delivered by McConnell Dowell for Dunedin City Council, was a complex and culturally significant infrastructure project completed in late 2023. Located in a remote, environmentally sensitive stretch of the Waikōuaiti River, the project involved constructing a new, resilient intake structure within the riverbed, all while maintaining continuous water supply to the township.

Working under a constrained one-month consent window for in-river works, the team navigated environmental, cultural, and technical challenges with precision and care.

A key feature of the project was its close partnership with mana whenua, who supported fish management, riparian planting, and environmental consultation, ensuring cultural and ecological values were upheld throughout.

McConnell Dowell, supported by design consultant Beca and a team of specialist subcontractors, coordinated a high-stakes, multidisciplinary operation in a confined and flood-prone site. The project was delivered safely, on time, and with zero environmental incidents, restoring public confidence in Waikōuaiti's water infrastructure following past contamination issues.

The new intake not only meets modern resilience and health standards but also shows what's possible when cultural respect and environmental excellence is integrated into infrastructure delivery in Aotearoa.

CATEGORY

2 KEEPING AUCKLAND'S DRINKING WATER FLOWING

PROJECT: Mangakura Dam 1 Safety Upgrade Project
CONTRACTOR: Pipeline & Civil
CLIENT: Watercare Services Ltd
VALUE: $2,537,226

When strengthening a critical drinking water dam without taking it offline, there's no room for compromise. The Mangakura Dam 1 Safety Upgrade, delivered by Pipeline & Civil for Watercare Services, was the organisation's largest dam strengthening effort in over 20 years – carried out under full live operational conditions in Helensville.

This high-consequence project involved simultaneous delivery of two complex scopes: a downstream earth buttress constructed with 2500 cubic metres of engineered GAP40 and 420 cubic metres of specialty filter sand; and a seismic-strengthened concrete spillway featuring 16 precision-installed ground anchors and concrete overlay.

All materials were custom-designed, trialled, and tested to exacting standards, with Damwatch oversight and adaptive quality control at every stage.

The upgrade also introduced a fully automated piezometer and monitoring system, giving Watercare live instrumentation data for the first time – significantly improving dam surveillance and resource efficiency.

Despite winter earthworks, weather delays, and tight geotechnical tolerances, the project was completed on time, without spills, public complaints, or safety incidents. This upgrade future-proofs a vital water supply asset and sets a benchmark for excellence under pressure, where planning, innovation, and flawless execution came together without missing a beat.

CATEGORY

2 A RESILIENT PIPELINE THROUGH HERITAGE AREAS

PROJECT: Scruttons Road Pipeline
CONTRACTOR: Utilities Infrastructure New Zealand
CLIENT: Christchurch City Council
VALUE: $3,290,243

The Scruttons Road Pipeline project delivered a 1.5km seismic-resilient watermain upgrade through Christchurch's coastal Ferrymead corridor – navigating contaminated soils, tidal groundwater, and one of the city's most heritage-sensitive landscapes.

Commissioned by Christchurch City Council and delivered by Utilities Infrastructure New Zealand (UINZ) in partnership with WSP, the works extended the city's critical emergency water network using Japan's Kurimoto seismic resilient ductile iron pipe and expanded polystyrene jointing technology.

Executed with zero lost-time injuries and zero rework on UINZ-installed sections, the $3.29m project included complex crossings beneath a historic brick barrel culvert, Mobil fuel corridor, and active rail easement. UINZ achieved New Zealand's first certified expanded polystyrene pipe installations under such constrained conditions – with live utility coordination, deep trenching up to 2.7m, and full environmental controls throughout.

Delivered between August 2024 and March 2025, the project safeguarded uninterrupted supply to Lyttelton Port and nearby communities, while protecting native waterways and minimising impact to vulnerable residents and special-needs facilities along the route.

The result: seismic-grade infrastructure delivered with international precision and local care – setting a new benchmark for lifeline asset delivery in Aotearoa.

CATEGORY

3 MAKING A DERELICT SITE INTO SOMETHING BETTER

PROJECT: Project Burgundy
CONTRACTOR: Brian Perry Civil
CLIENT: Fletcher Wood Products
VALUE: $19,000,000

Project Burgundy at the Laminex Board Factory in Taupō marks a major redevelopment from Brian Perry Civil (BPC) for Fletcher Wood Products. The project commenced in March 2023 and was completed in July 2024, transforming a 50,000 square metre site – including remnants of a fire-damaged factory and greenfield space – into a world-class raw material storage, preparation, and board production facility.

Early Contractor Involvement by BPC enabled successful delivery of critical groundworks and foundations. Works included demolition of 5,000 cubic metres of concrete, earthworks (18,715 cubic metres of cut, 6,263 cubic metres of fill), screw piling, extensive utility removal and landscaping.

Project Burgundy's BPC site staff set itself apart as a genuine all-around team, expertly led by Mark Seymour. Within BPC's scope of work, they established high execution standards in each discipline. Innovations like drone-based volume tracking, laser-cut templates for cast-in items, and custom-designed threaded bar pedestals for bolt set installation set this project apart. BPC also collaborated with other contractors, sharing tools and methods to improve outcomes across the board.

The project proudly recycled 100 percent of the concrete waste from the demolition and achieved zero lost time injuries or medical treatment injuries across 76,000 man-hours, while maintaining uninterrupted operations of the adjacent board plant. High environmental compliance scores reflect the team's commitment to sustainability.

CATEGORY

3 COMPLEX INFRASTRUCTURE, CAREFULLY DELIVERED

PROJECT: Kahika Rising Main & Diversions
CONTRACTOR: CB Civil & Drainage
CLIENT: Watercare services limited
VALUE: $18,648,690

The Kahika Rising Main and Diversions Project, delivered by CB Civil in partnership with Watercare and Beca, is a flagship example of complex infrastructure delivered with innovation, care, and community focus.

Located in Glenfield, Auckland, the project involved constructing over two kilometres of new wastewater pipeline, including a 390 HDD Shot – drilled through marine conditions and 1.5km of GRP pipe through a live arterial road.

The project also used helicopters to remove redundant pipelines from otherwise inaccessible gullies.

Faced with technical, environmental, and stakeholder challenges, CB Civil developed New Zealand's first "pipe-in-pipe" methodology for Watercare, saving over 480 tonnes of carbon and shortening the programme by two months. Works were completed in close proximity to homes, schools, and aged care facilities without a single lost time injury or environmental incident.

The project began in January 2023 with initial scope reaching practical completion in late 2024.

Throughout, CB Civil maintained a transparent, collaborative approach with the client and community, setting a new standard for safety, quality, and stakeholder engagement in civil delivery.

CATEGORY

3 AN UPGRADE FOR HOBSONVILLE WASTEWATER

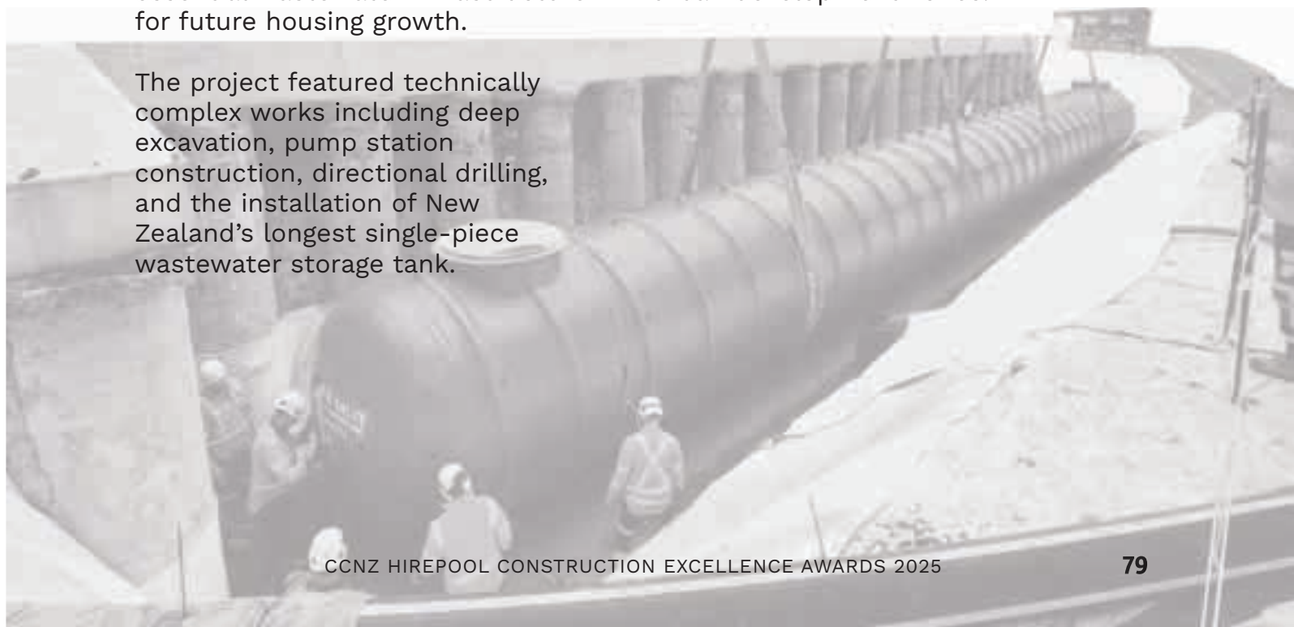
PROJECT: Hobsonville Wastewater Upgrade works PS6 - Physical works
CONTRACTOR: CB Civil & Drainage
CLIENT: Eke Panuku Development
VALUE: $5,800,000

The Hobsonville Wastewater Upgrade, located on Bomb Point Drive in Hobsonville, Auckland, is a critical infrastructure project delivered for Eke Panuku Development by CB Civil, with design by Cameron Smythe of Water Engineering Consultants.

Spanning from May 2024 to May 2025, the project supports the long-term development of the Hobsonville area by enabling essential wastewater infrastructure for future housing growth.

The project featured technically complex works including deep excavation, pump station construction, directional drilling, and the installation of New Zealand's longest single-piece wastewater storage tank.

Notable innovations included the use of a modular "Octabox" system to reduce temporary works costs and enhance safety. There was a strong environmental focus with native tree preservation, flora reuse, and a community replanting partnership with the Kaipatiki Project. Delivered to the highest standards of quality, safety, and sustainability, the Hobsonville upgrade represents a model for efficient, community-focused infrastructure delivery in urban development zones.



CATEGORY

3 A TRULY ACCESSIBLE CROSSING

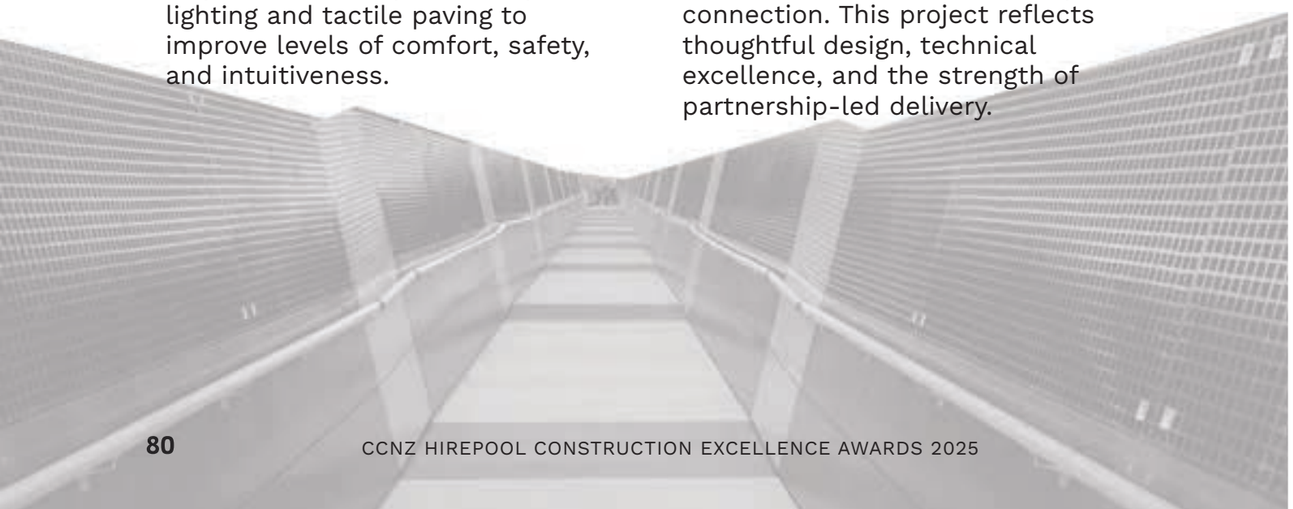
PROJECT: Homai Pedestrian Level Crossing Removal
CONTRACTOR: Downer
CLIENT: Auckland Transport (AT)
VALUE: $6,086,233

Downer delivered a critical accessibility upgrade to the pedestrian crossing at Homai Station, improving safety levels in preparation for the City Rail Link opening. Uniquely, the new bridge was designed and constructed in close consultation with the Blind and Low Vision Education Network New Zealand (BLENNZ), whose campus is adjacent to the railway corridor.

To meet the needs of visually impaired users, accessibility was increased by incorporating high-contrast colours, gentle slopes, wider footpaths, bespoke lighting and tactile paving to improve levels of comfort, safety, and intuitiveness.

A key achievement was completing the project within a highly constrained 10-week window across two well-planned instances of ‘Block of Line’. This required innovative planning, resource scheduling, construction methodologies, critical risk management and contingency strategies to meet tight deadlines.

Applying advanced digital engineering tools, the Downer team overcame the complexities of the live rail environment. We provided seamless collaboration between AT, Beca, KiwiRail, Auckland One Rail, and BLENNZ, ensuring a safer, more inclusive and accessible transport connection. This project reflects thoughtful design, technical excellence, and the strength of partnership-led delivery.



CATEGORY

3 DELIVERING A RUNWAY BACKSTOP WITH ‘WOW FACTOR’

PROJECT: Queenstown Airport Engineered Materials Arresting System (EMAS) Project
CONTRACTOR: Downer
CLIENT: Queenstown Airport Corporation
VALUE: $6,259,968

Downer successfully delivered the Queenstown International Airport EMAS Project, the first installation of an Engineered Materials Arresting System (EMAS) in Australasia. EMAS is an innovative aviation safety system designed to decelerate aircraft in the event of a runway overrun using specially designed cellular concrete blocks that crush under pressure to bring aircraft to a controlled stop.

The $6.2m project was undertaken within a live-airport environment and delivered exclusively at night to ensure zero disruption to daily operations. A total of 4,870 precast blocks were imported from the United States and installed over a tightly programmed period.

Delivered in collaboration with international EMAS manufacturer Runway Safe and design consultant Beca, the project required meticulous planning, coordination, and risk management to meet strict safety and operational standards.

Completed ahead of schedule and without incident, this milestone project significantly enhances runway safety and positions Queenstown International Airport at the forefront of aviation innovation in Aotearoa New Zealand.

CATEGORY

3 NEW WHARF ENHANCES KEY CONSERVATION SITE

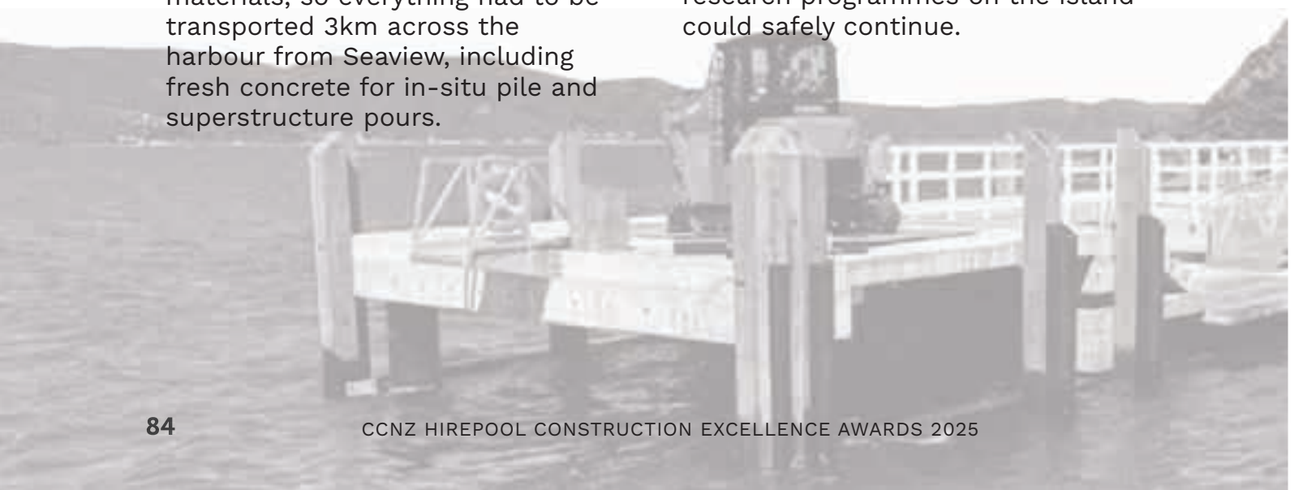
PROJECT: Matiu Somes Island Wharf Replacement
CONTRACTOR: Brian Perry Civil
CLIENT: Department of Conservation
VALUE: $5,300,000

Brian Perry Civil (BPC)'s skilled and dedicated team overcame the many challenges of working on a predator-free island to construct a new wharf for the Department of Conservation (DOC) on Matiu Somes Island in Wellington harbour, on budget and ahead of schedule.

Excellent planning and communications with suppliers, stakeholders, and subcontractors was needed because of the logistical challenges in getting plant, equipment, and materials to the site with the added complexity of biosecurity screenings. The site had virtually no laydown area for materials, so everything had to be transported 3km across the harbour from Seaview, including fresh concrete for in-situ pile and superstructure pours.

The team developed a comprehensive planning approach and innovative techniques to ensure the successful completion of the works, despite the harsh weather conditions.

BPC worked collaboratively with DOC rangers to ensure the works were delivered without any harm to the many threatened birds, reptiles, invertebrates, and plants on the island. The team implemented special measures to protect the largest colony of Kororā (Little Blue Penguin) in New Zealand and worked through their breeding season without any incident. The team also ensured scientific and historical research programmes on the island could safely continue.



CATEGORY

3 VISIONARY APPROACH FOR COASTAL LANDFILL

PROJECT: Project Reclaim
CONTRACTOR: Fulton Hogan
CLIENT: Waitaki District Council
VALUE: $10,408,268

NIWA studies show North Otago's coastline is retreating at up to 1m annually due to increasing storms and rising sea levels, which risks exposing the increasingly vulnerable coastal Hampden landfill and two uncontrolled fill areas.

Project Reclaim addressed an urgent environmental challenge. After extensive consultation, it became clear that continued onsite containment was no longer viable.

Fulton Hogan, along with WM NZ (formerly Waste Management NZ), Tonkin & Taylor, Morrison Low and GDC Consulting enabled Waitaki District Council (WDC) to address this issue with a creative all-in-one solution that simultaneously solved a problem at the Council's nearby Palmerston landfill site.

The solution was to transfer the waste from the coastal sites to the Palmerston landfill, remediate the historic waste through a lime stabilisation process (to prevent leaching of lead and zinc), recycle the steel from the sites, while modernising the Palmerston site with the construction of a new lined disposal cell for the delivery of the waste, along with closure and capping of the historic operational cell.

The approach is a solution which could be applied, or adapted, for others among the 100-plus landfill sites around the country that are at risk due to the effects of climate change.

CATEGORY

3 LEADING THE WAY FOR URBAN WATER UPGRADES

PROJECT: Taranaki St Wastewater Rising Main Upgrade
CONTRACTOR: G P Friel
CLIENT: Wellington Water
VALUE: $15,700,000

GP Friel is a family-owned business, operating in the Wellington region since 1999. It leads the market in delivering complex underground infrastructure solutions and its people are highly skilled at installations by a variety of trenched and trenchless methods.

The Taranaki St Rising Main Upgrade was a critical gateway project for Wellington Water that has built resilience into Wellington CBD's rising main network, catered for growth of the city, and enabled renewal projects on the remainder of the existing network.

As an early contractor involvement partner, GP Friel was able to work collaboratively with Wellington Water and GHD throughout the project.

It managed complex construction activities and a variety of risks to deliver a high-quality product in a safe manner.

GP Friel also engaged with key stakeholders such as Wellington City Council and the trustees of Te Aro Pā to enable delivery of the work efficiently in a busy CBD environment and in an area of archaeological and cultural significance.

The project showcased some new and existing trenchless technologies. In particular, the introduction of a Guided Auger Bore as an alternative method resulted in impressive programme savings and environmental benefits.

CATEGORY

3 STRENGTHENING TAURANGA'S SEA CONNECTION

PROJECT: Seawall and Shared Pathway
CONTRACTOR: HEB Construction
CLIENT: Tauranga City Council
VALUE: $5,307,874

HEB Construction delivered the Seawall and Shared Pathway project between November 2023 and November 2024, as part of Tauranga City Council's Tauranga Moana Waterfront Plan. The new public space includes a lush green space for events and community relaxation, a shared pathway, half basketball court, playground, and strengthened seawall that supports development of rocky shore aquatic life.

The new 175m-long seawall includes precast concrete Living Seawall Pods, often referred to as Seapods, which provide homes for aquatic life and create a thriving rocky shore ecosystem at the edge of the city.

The project was delivered to a strict deadline with designs and specifications still being developed as the construction phase began.

HEB worked openly and collaboratively with designers WSP and Landlab to confirm the designs, while value engineering the works and optimising the construction methodologies. At all times, the teams focused on doing what they could to make the project a success – addressing what mattered to the client and not getting caught up in 'the small stuff.'

On-time and on-budget delivery of a high-spec and high-quality public space and seawall – with flourishing aquatic life – is testament to HEB's positive approach to problem-solving.

CATEGORY

3 REINSTATING WESTPORT'S SHIPPING CONNECTIONS

PROJECT: Westport Wharf Repair
CONTRACTOR: HEB Construction
CLIENT: Buller District Council
VALUE: $5,390,000

The Westport Wharf Repair project reinstated two berths at Westport Harbour, after they were damaged in the 2021 and 2022 Buller River floods.

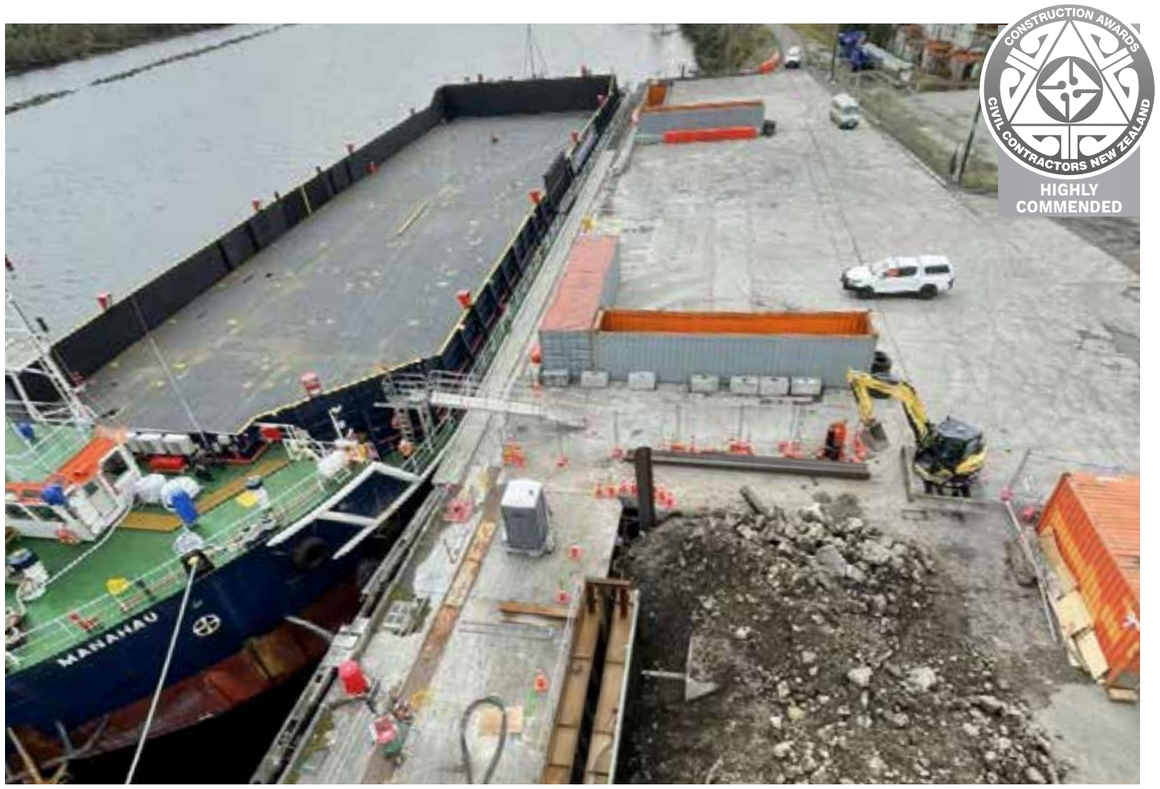
The project was designed by W2 and delivered by HEB Construction, for Buller District Council, between July 2024 and March 2025. In a constrained site and near live harbour operations, the works restored essential infrastructure that supports Westport's industry and community resilience.

Bringing Tier 1 standards and processes to the remote West coast, HEB partnered with local subcontractors and suppliers, to reduce procurement costs and timeframes, and support regional economic growth.

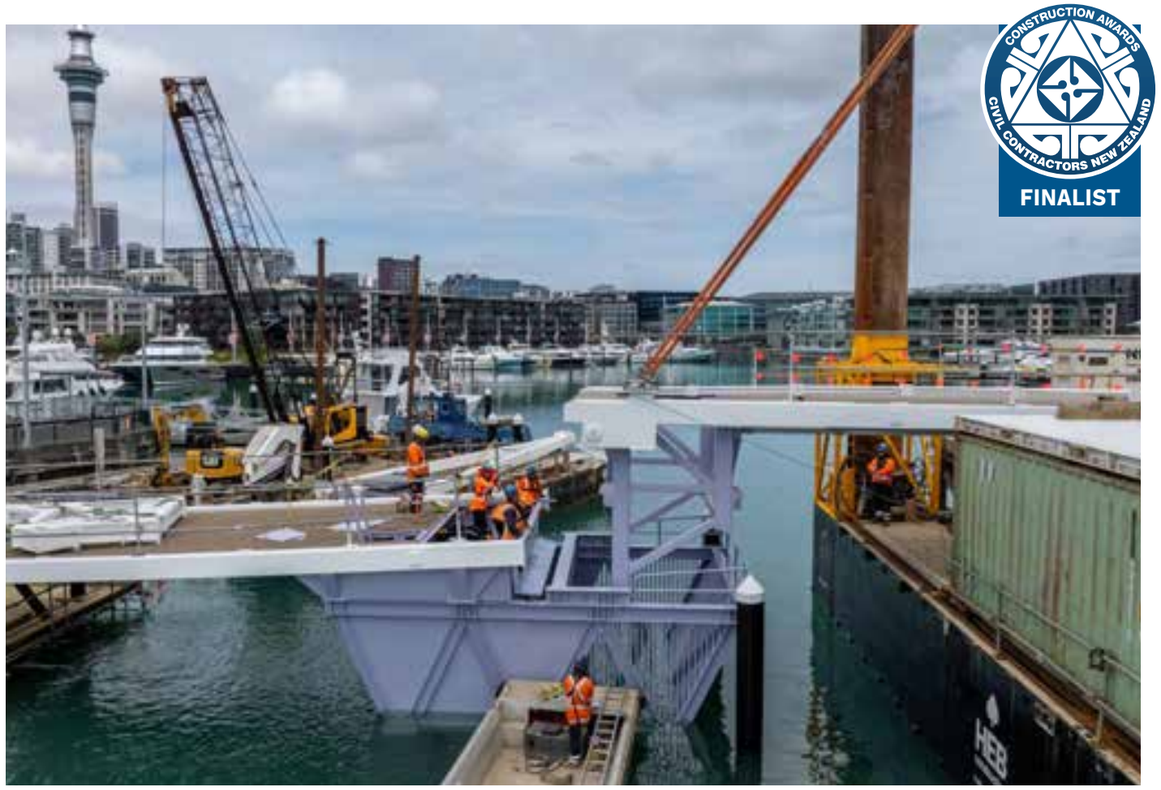
The project offered opportunities for growth in the team and the industry, supporting local businesses, and educating and inspiring the next generation of construction professionals.

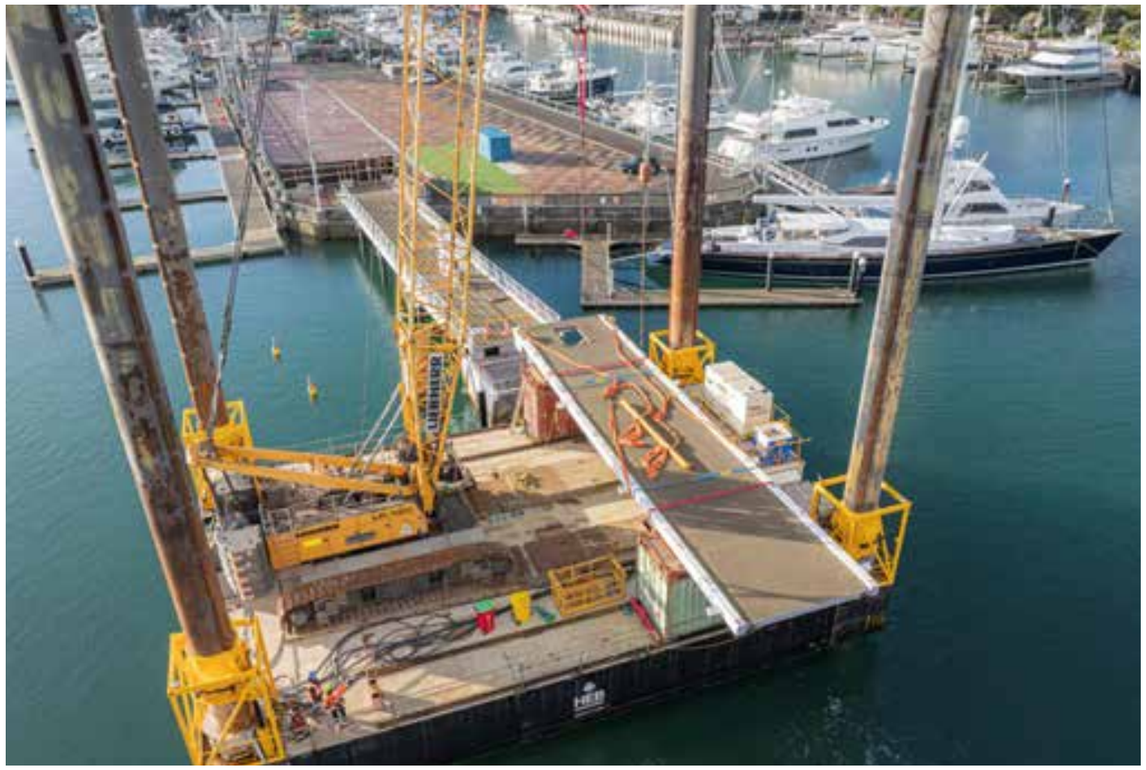
This project's success is grounded in collaborative, solutions-focused relationships, and a willingness to innovate and refine designs. Through smart sequencing and innovative piling procurement and methodologies, HEB addressed various challenges, while adhering to the project's strict programme and budget constraints.

Despite severe weather events, aging existing infrastructure, and added scope, HEB collaborated with all project stakeholders to save Buller District Council $405,000 before even starting, and delivered works over a month ahead of schedule and under the delivery budget.



CONSTRUCTION AWARDS
CIVIL CONTRACTORS NEW ZEALAND
HIGHLY COMMENDED





CATEGORY

3 MAJOR REFURBISH FOR AN INNER-CITY ICON

PROJECT: Wynyard Crossing Bridge Coating Remediation
CONTRACTOR: HEB Construction
CLIENT: Eke Panuku Development Auckland
VALUE: $8,190,545

In July 2024, Eke Panuku Development Auckland and their project management and engineering consultants RCP contracted HEB Construction to deliver the Wynyard Crossing Bridge Coating Remediation.

The temporary double bascule bridge, built for the 2011 Rugby World Cup, and linking Auckland Downtown with Wynyard Quarter and waterfront was failing. No-one predicted the pressure, complexity, ingenuity, agility, and precision required to achieve completion.

On lifting the first balustrade, the actual degradation dictated a new approach. Without detailed drawings, every component was uninstalled, restored, and reinstalled within millimeter tolerances and tight windows, to the original deadline of 13 December 2024 for SailGP.

The environmental risk and proximity of hotels, apartments, businesses, and the busy marina made achieving this in situ impossible.

A jack up barge with crane carried the parts to Wynyard Wharf and completely self-contained temporary canopies for blasting and painting. Additional challenges included loading restrictions on the barge and the near-100-year wharf structure, winter storm conditions, and strict temperature, and humidity specifications for the paint system to meet warranty.

The upgrade of the mechanical, electrical and hydraulic systems was also added to the scope. The team and subcontractors worked day and night to achieve the fixed December deadline on time.

CATEGORY

3 POWERING VANUATU UP, TO STAND THE TEST OF TIME

PROJECT: Brenwe Hydro Power Project
CONTRACTOR: MAP Projects
CLIENT: Vanuatu Project Management Unit
VALUE: $7,553,004

A long history of building and refurbishing Hydroelectricity schemes in New Zealand and Samoa saw MAP Projects engaged alongside construction partner Vortex Group (M&E) by the Vanuatu Project Management Unit in January 2020 to undertake the Brenwe Small Hydro Power Plant Project, which facilitates reticulated electricity to 15 villages and 100 percent renewable energy to the northern half of Malekula.

This project and 42km of Transmission Lines also delivered by MAP was completed October 2024. Funded by the Asian Development Bank and Vanuatu Government, the “run of river scheme” extracts a portion of flow from the river for approximately 1km and then down the penstock to output up to 550kW through twin turbines in the powerhouse.

Key figures included an 18m wide concrete/Coanda screen weir and fish passage; 1km of large diameter buried fibreglass headrace; a concrete surge tank measuring 5m x 5m x 7.1m high and 9m high steel surge tower; a 160m penstock with an 85m head, delivered on a 40 degree slope; over 400 cubic metres of site-batched 25 megapascal concrete; and a steel frame powerhouse with concrete foundations.

MAP has produced another outstanding project that will stand the test of time and change the energy future for the people of Malekula.

CATEGORY

3 DELIVERING A NEW WETLAND TO PROTECT THE COMMUNITY

PROJECT: Morey Street Flood Detention Dams and Wetland
CONTRACTOR: MAP Projects
CLIENT: Rotorua Lakes Council
VALUE: $19,850,000

With a long history of building dams in New Zealand, MAP Projects was engaged by Rotorua Lakes Council in October 2022 to undertake the building of the Morey Street Flood Detention Dams and Wetland which facilitated urban growth to the East of Rotorua with around 2000 new houses added.

These dams, finished in December 2024, in the Upper Kaipakau Stream catchment in Rotorua, were built to reduce the potential occurrence, extent and impacts of flooding on nearby properties and roads and included the construction of a treatment wetland.

The East and West Dams, which are 700m apart, were built concurrently with MAP crews working on both dams. This involved detailed resource scheduling and allocation to ensure production efficiencies across all the phases.

Key statistics include

- Crew numbers peaked at between 35 and 40
- 330,000 cubic metres of Bulk Earthworks and 65,000 cubic metres in a peak month
- 1450 cubic metres of heavily reinforced structural concrete
- A plethora of rock protection, geogrids, erosion protection and ancillary works

This project was very challenging, but in a combined effort with the Client, Design teams and Engineer, Tonkin and Taylor, MAP Projects has produced another outstanding project that will stand the test of time and enable future development to continue in the area.

CATEGORY

3 ANSWERING THE CALL TO REPAIR A SENSITIVE SITE

PROJECT: Greville Road Stormwater Upgrade
CONTRACTOR: McConnell Dowell
CLIENT: Auckland Council Healthy Waters
VALUE: $12,000,000

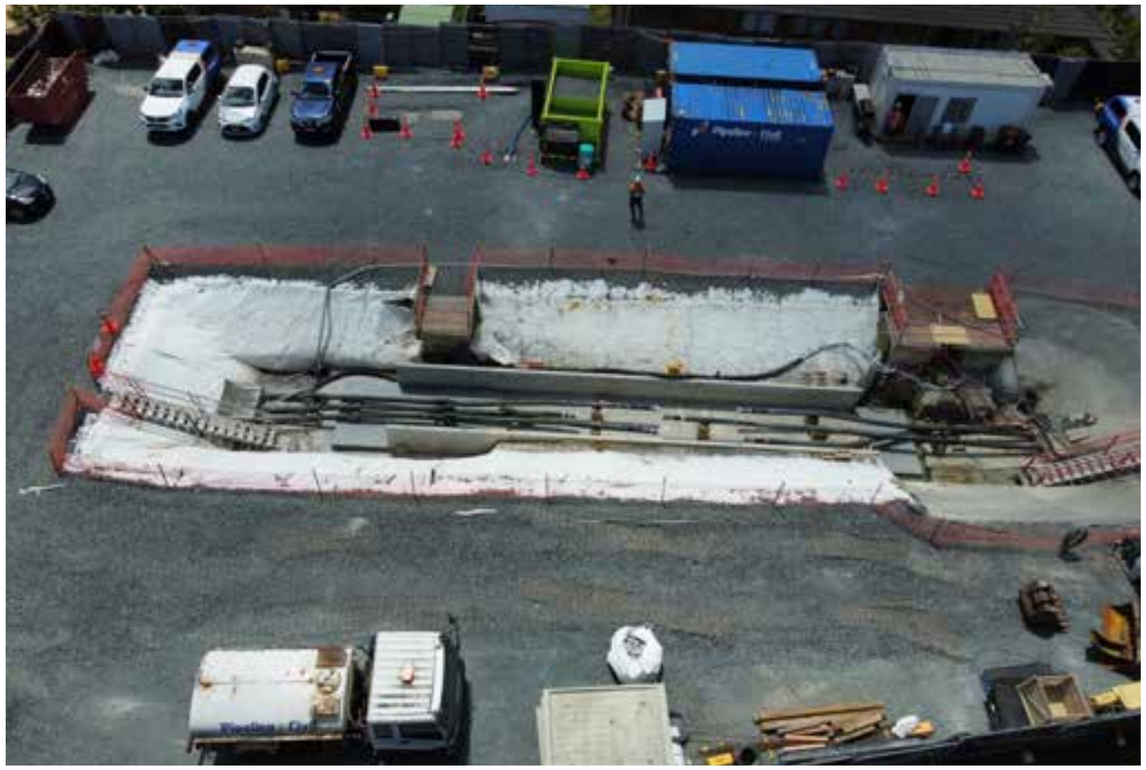
The Greville Road Emergency and Main Works project comprises a critical emergency repair of a collapsed portion of an ARMCO (corrugated steel) stormwater pipe, and subsequent main works based on a largely unknown scope, on a highly sensitive site.

Led by McConnell Dowell, the project was delivered in a highly collaborative ECI-style approach with client, Auckland Council Healthy Waters, and Alta Consulting. The work site and permanent repair works traversed the Rosedale Closed Landfill, requiring significant work-arounds to safely navigate buried assets, managing the landfill's leachate and methane discharges; an exemplar project of technical expertise, collaboration and sustainability.

In spite of the project's urgent nature and need to 'get it done', the team didn't compromise its focus on safety, cost, programme or sustainability. The resulting outcome is the safe, timely and sustainable delivery of NZ's largest diameter low-carbon pipe. Supplier Hynds played a key role in the project, supplying 92 low carbon pipes for a solution that avoided approximately 62 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions – a 16 percent reduction in the standard pipe range.

Innovative temporary works designed and constructed for the emergency works also supported the main works contract – concurrently value engineered during the Emergency Works phase in the style of an early contractor involvement project.

FINALIST



CATEGORY

3 ONE JOINT AT A TIME, WITH PRECISION

PROJECT: Brownhill to Pakuranga B Cable Joint Replacement
CONTRACTOR: Pipeline & Civil
CLIENT: Northpower
VALUE: $5,585,703

Brownhill to Pakuranga B Cable Joint Replacement marks a pivotal milestone in Transpower's multi-year programme to replace 45 critical joints along a 10.5km 220 kilovolt underground cable between Brownhill and Pakuranga substations.

Designed by Niko Engineering and delivered in collaboration with Northpower, Pipeline & Civil led the enabling civil works for three key joint bays—JB5/6, JB6/7, and JB13/14 – within live traffic environments in Whitford, Auckland.

This high-risk, high-precision project involved complex demolition around disconnected high-voltage cables, 24/7 groundwater management using custom-built clarifiers, sheet piling and open-cut excavations, and detailed reinstatement, all while maintaining two operational traffic lanes and strict environmental compliance.

Handheld demolition methods protected cable sheaths from damage, while vibration, dust, and spill controls were proactively implemented.

Local subcontractors, recycled materials, and direct community support, such as ATAP65 donations to neighbouring stakeholders, reflected a strong social conscience. Delivered by 28 February 2025 (a full month ahead of schedule and at 85 percent of the Target Outturn Cost) the works set a high-performance benchmark for future stages of this nationwide upgrade. Civil excellence executed early, under budget, and without compromise: securing New Zealand's energy future, one joint at a time.

CATEGORY

3 CRITICAL WATER MAINS WITH MINIMAL DISRUPTION

PROJECT: Eastern Busway Hunua 2 and Howick Watermain 1B & 2
CONTRACTOR: Pipeline & Civil
CLIENT: Eastern Busway Alliance
VALUE: $6,757,598

In the heart of East Auckland's busiest corridors, Pipeline & Civil tackled one of the region's toughest infrastructure challenges – the Eastern Busway Hunua 2 and Howick Watermain 1B & 2 project, showcasing construction excellence at its highest level.

Delivered for the Eastern Busway Alliance, the works involved lowering two critical bulk water pipelines beneath Tī Rākau Drive and Pakūranga Road, within live traffic corridors and under high-risk 220 kilovolt overhead power lines.

Faced with extreme site constraints, congested utilities, and tight programme windows, Pipeline & Civil innovated with custom trench shielding, staging panels supporting live traffic, and pioneering the use of battery-operated concrete saws in confined tie-ins, setting a new industry benchmark for health and safety.

The project achieved 100 percent on-time delivery of all critical connections, with no service disruptions and full operational continuity. Close collaboration with the Eastern Busway Alliance, Watercare, and Saint Kentigern College ensured stakeholder and community needs were prioritised throughout.

Completed between February 2024 and April 2025, this project exemplifies leadership in planning, risk management, environmental care, and technical execution. It demonstrates the expertise, innovation, and resilience that Pipeline & Civil and the Eastern Busway Alliance bring to New Zealand's most complex infrastructure challenges.

CATEGORY

3 PROTECTING AUCKLAND'S BEACHES FROM OVERFLOW

PROJECT: Mairangi Bay Pump Station
CONTRACTOR: Pipeline & Civil
CLIENT: Watercare Services Ltd
VALUE: $18,551,598

Pipeline & Civil proudly presents the Mairangi Bay Pump Station — a transformative piece of critical infrastructure delivered for Watercare between April 2021 and February 2024. Located on Auckland's North Shore, the $22.5 million facility replaces a 60-year-old pump station that frequently overflowed into the sea – up to 10 times a year.

With a capacity of 625 litres per second and 230,000 litres of integrated wet weather storage, the new fully automated pump station now protects one of the region's most iconic beaches from wastewater discharges during wet weather. Built within a tightly constrained beachfront site, the project overcame pandemic-era material shortages, 53 days of crane shutdowns due to high winds, and a single-sided access point.

Delivered in partnership with Harrison Grierson (design) and Andy O'Sullivan (temporary works), the pump station features a 12m-deep shaft, resilient submersible pumps, dual power supply, and odour control, all encased in an architecturally designed building that blends into its surroundings.

The result? A community-supported, environmentally responsible asset that turns the page on past challenges and sets a new benchmark for urban infrastructure delivery.

CATEGORY

4 NEW PIPE BRIDGE, ON A STABLE FOOTING

PROJECT: Kaitoke Flume Pipe Bridge Replacement
CONTRACTOR: Brian Perry Civil
CLIENT: Wellington Water
VALUE: $33,000,000

Brian Perry Civil's team overcame enormous challenges to deliver the Kaitoke Pipe Bridge project for Wellington Water in a remote site ahead of schedule, within budget, and without any injuries or environmental incidents.

Site access was via three narrow single lane bridges with maximum weight limits of only 55 tonnes, making it difficult to bring in large cranes and piling rigs.

An early contractor involvement phase resulted in the design of an efficient and lightweight 52m long Network Arch Bridge, managing the weight constraints and avoiding the need for piers in the river channel.

Innovative solutions included erecting New Zealand's largest capacity tower crane on the side of a cliff, in the middle of the Kaitoke Regional Park.

To save six weeks on the critical path of the programme, the steelwork for the bridge was constructed in a laydown area, then moved down to the tower crane on a jinker truck, then lifted into position 12m above Te Awa Kairangi (the Hutt River).

A strong site team was built during the two-and-a-half year project, all taking great pride and care in both their work and the environment. The finished project safeguards the region's supply of drinking water in the event of a large earthquake.

CATEGORY

4 STRATEGIC WATER DEVELOPMENT FOR NEW SUBURB

PROJECT: Peacocke Strategic Wastewater Transfer Station
CONTRACTOR: Brian Perry Civil
CLIENT: Hamilton City Council
VALUE: $21,600,000

The Peacocke Strategic Wastewater Transfer Station in Hamilton is the largest wastewater pump station ever built in the city. Delivered for Hamilton City Council by Brian Perry Civil (in partnership with Beca).

This $21m infrastructure is a key enabler of Hamilton's southern growth, with capacity to service up to 20,000 residents and a design life of 100 years. The project forms a critical part of the city's Structural Plan, supporting the development of a new urban area the size of Cambridge. The project started in December 2021 and reached Practical Completion in August 2024.

Despite significant challenges including contaminated ground, Covid-19 pandemic disruptions, Cyclone Gabrielle and other weather, and tight integration with existing networks, the team delivered a robust, future-proofed asset.

Innovations included robust construction methodology, and the redesign of the buffer tank foundation, which halved concrete use, reducing carbon footprint and supporting sustainability goals.

Described as "a legacy project", the site also offers an opportunity for locals to learn about three waters infrastructure. This was a complex, multidisciplinary project – delivered through smart planning, engineering excellence, and strong collaboration between client, consultants, and contractors.

CATEGORY

4 COME FLY WITH ME...

PROJECT: Whenuapai Air Base Hardstand and Taxiway Replacement
CONTRACTOR: Brian Perry Civil
CLIENT: New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF)
VALUE: $25,000,000

The 15-month Hardstand and Taxiway Replacement project at Whenuapai Air Base faced numerous challenges but achieved significant success. The Brian Perry Civil (BPC) team inherited a project with budget and schedule deficits, yet navigated unforeseen ground conditions, stringent stakeholder requirements, and critical deadlines to deliver the project within margin and ahead of schedule. This was accomplished with minimal operational disturbances in a military airfield environment.

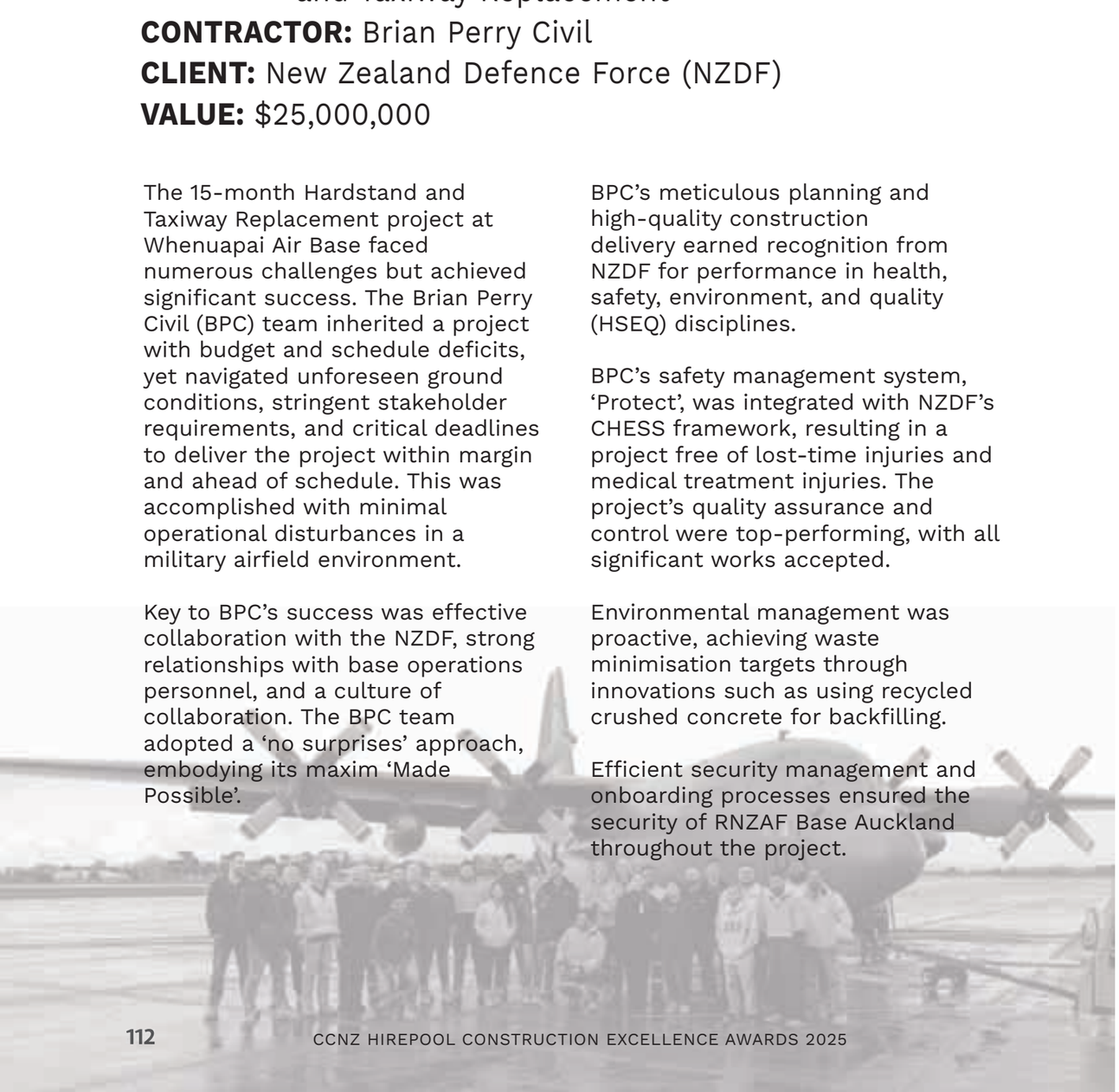
Key to BPC's success was effective collaboration with the NZDF, strong relationships with base operations personnel, and a culture of collaboration. The BPC team adopted a 'no surprises' approach, embodying its maxim 'Made Possible'.

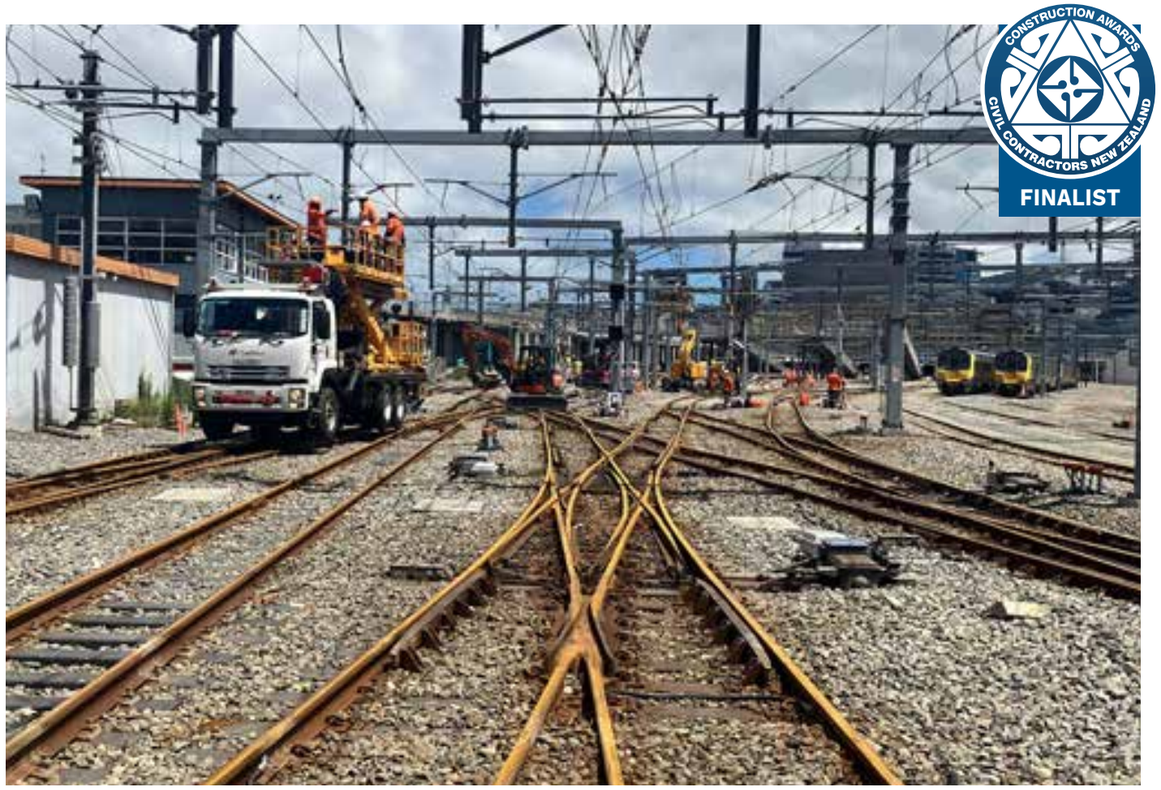
BPC's meticulous planning and high-quality construction delivery earned recognition from NZDF for performance in health, safety, environment, and quality (HSEQ) disciplines.

BPC's safety management system, 'Protect', was integrated with NZDF's CHESS framework, resulting in a project free of lost-time injuries and medical treatment injuries. The project's quality assurance and control were top-performing, with all significant works accepted.

Environmental management was proactive, achieving waste minimisation targets through innovations such as using recycled crushed concrete for backfilling.

Efficient security management and onboarding processes ensured the security of RNZAF Base Auckland throughout the project.





CATEGORY

4 GETTING WELLINGTON STATION BACK ON TRACK

PROJECT: Wellington Railway Station Re-Signalling Project (WMUP 6A)
CONTRACTOR: Downer
CLIENT: KiwiRail
VALUE: $46,353,692

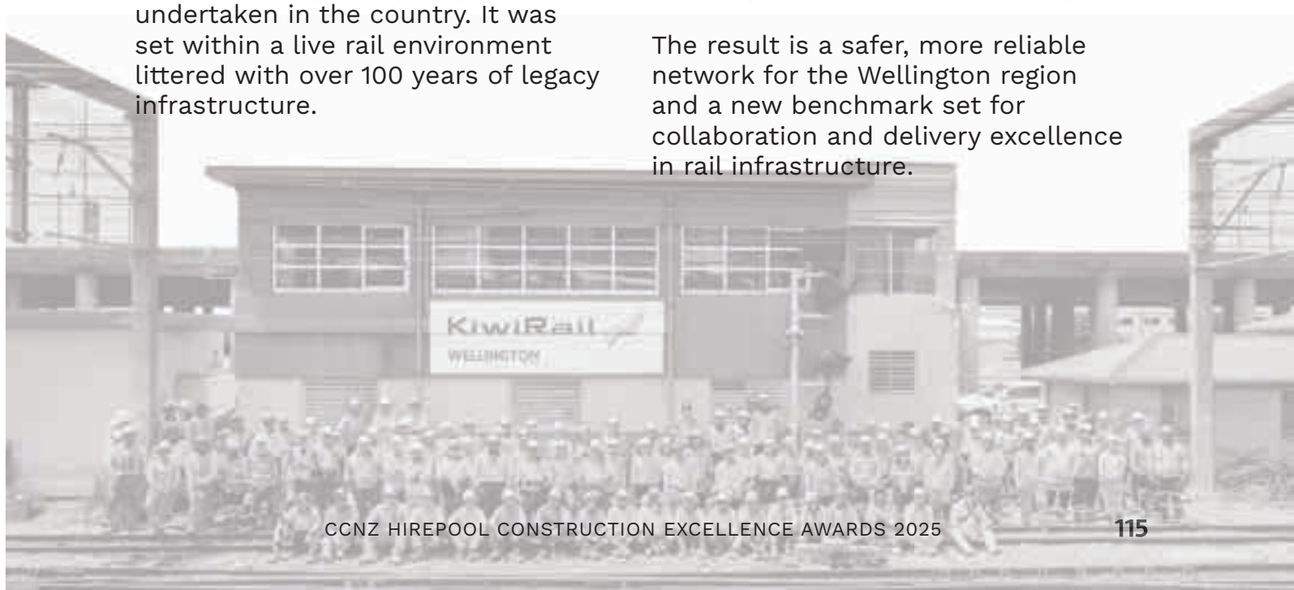
The Wellington Station Re-signalling Project (WMUP 6A) represents a generational upgrade to one of New Zealand's most critical rail hubs. Replacing an 89-year-old mechanical system with a modern computer-based signals interlocking system, the project unlocked future network capacity while preserving the station's heritage status.

Delivered by Downer in partnership with KiwiRail, this was the most complex re-signalling project ever undertaken in the country. It was set within a live rail environment littered with over 100 years of legacy infrastructure.

Six kilometres of underground ducting were installed, as well as 10 new turnouts, new OHLE, and new signalling foundations and signal assets. Over 400,000 work hours were coordinated with no serious incidents.

A digital-first approach, including 4D modelling, GIS asset tracking, and fully digitised QA, enabled real-time coordination across multiple disciplines. Despite a delayed start, the team met every key milestone, finishing on time and under budget.

The result is a safer, more reliable network for the Wellington region and a new benchmark set for collaboration and delivery excellence in rail infrastructure.



CATEGORY

4 RESILIENT UPGRADE FOR WELLINGTON'S WATER TREATMENT

PROJECT: Te Mārua Water Treatment Plant Optimisiation
CONTRACTOR: Fulton Hogan
CLIENT: Wellington Water
VALUE: $51,000,000

A case study of leadership – |technical, operational and people – the Te Mārua Water Treatment Plant was significantly upgraded and a new dissolved air flotation system installed in just nine months, avoiding the risk of water restrictions in the region.

Streamlining traditional processes for new asset procurement and integration, water treatment plant operators were closely involved in the design's review and sign-off and in regular go / no-go meetings and workshops ahead of asset commissioning. This ensured shared responsibility and teamwork and prepared the team for the future operation of the plant.

Multiple test runs ascertained the condition of assets so critical tie-ins could be made without issue. This also enabled existing asset renewals and to identify servicing needs that may have otherwise not been identified under business-as-usual.

The scheduling of programmed asset tie-ins gave the network operations team visibility of all upcoming works at the Water Treatment Plant, allowing them to adjust other network maintenance / shutdowns as needed.

Integration of several safety systems between Wellington Water and Fulton Hogan, including a comprehensive lock-out tag-out procedure, ensured the safety of people at all times. And all of this within 30m of a major earthquake fault line, necessitating additional planning and design around a one-in-2500-year earthquake.

CATEGORY

4 DREDGING UP SUCCESS FOR ŌPŌTIKI HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT: Ōpōtiki Harbour Development
CONTRACTOR: HEB Construction
CLIENT: MBIE - Kānoa
VALUE: $97,000,000

The Ōpōtiki Harbour Development is one of New Zealand's largest non-roading infrastructure projects in decades, and the country's first major river training works in over a century.

Designed and delivered by HEB Construction and Tonkin + Taylor between 2016 and 2024, the project involved stabilising the Waioeka River entrance, to ensure safe, reliable maritime access. Key works included building twin 450m breakwaters with 12,000 precast Hanbar units, dredging a 1km channel, diverting the river, closing its natural mouth, and constructing a new wharf.

Ground improvement through dynamic compaction and the installation of 1,400 sheet piles one metre wide were essential to ensure seismic resilience.

Backed by the Provincial Growth Fund, the NZ Upgrade Programme, and Bay of Plenty Regional Council, this was the largest investment managed by Kānoa (MBIE) at that time, supported by Beca. The project forms part of a broader strategy to unlock economic potential in the region, supporting offshore mussel farming, new aquaculture ventures, and related marine industries.

The development enhances the social, cultural, and economic well-being of Ōpōtiki and the wider Eastern Bay of Plenty.

HEB Construction worked closely with local iwi Whakatōhea and government stakeholders, fostering local partnerships and ensuring lasting benefits.

CATEGORY

4 A NEW HUB FOR SOUTHERN TRAINS

PROJECT: Waltham Mechanical Hub Remediation
CONTRACTOR: HEB Construction
CLIENT: KiwiRail
VALUE: $20,000,000

The Waltham Mechanical Hub Remediation redeveloped KiwiRail's existing Waltham yard and adjacent property in Christchurch into a state-of-the-art facility for South Island locomotive, passenger carriage, and wagon maintenance.

Designed by WSP and with civil work delivered by HEB Construction, alongside building work from Calder Stewart, this new hub now serves as the primary maintenance location for KiwiRail's South Island fleet.

Works were delivered between September 2021 and December 2024, based on a Project Charter, which established a culture of openness and collaboration that continued from design right through to completion.

Despite the restrictions of a constrained and contaminated site, rail operations nearby, and interfacing with other contractors, HEB proactively sought to reduce costs, reuse materials, and limit carbon dioxide emissions.

A complex project delivered to an excellent standard through collaboration, communication, and a common goal, the Waltham Mechanical Hub now plays a vital role in supporting the long-term resilience and efficiency of KiwiRail's operations.

FINALIST

CATEGORY

4 PORTS OF AUCKLAND OUTFALL GETS THE WORKS

PROJECT: Ports of Auckland Outfall Upgrade
CONTRACTOR: McConnell Dowell
CLIENT: Auckland Council Healthy Waters Flood Resilience
VALUE: $39,000,000

Auckland City Council, Healthy Waters Flood Resilience, McConnell Dowell and GHD developed a creative combination of tunnelling and an inverted siphon (the first of its size constructed in the southern hemisphere) to deliver the Ports of Auckland Outfall Upgrade project.

In 2014, Healthy Waters awarded an early contractor involvement contract to McConnell Dowell to build a new outfall downtown. The pipeline needed to cross Quay Street and Port of Auckland land to reach the Waitematā Harbour. Once the new pipeline was built the stormwater flow would be diverted and the ageing 300m box culvert assessed and repaired.

Close collaboration between McConnell Dowell, the client and designer GHD, inspired the innovative, inverted siphon and deep tunnel alignment proposed.

This configuration overcame difficult ground conditions, minimised disruption to stakeholders, and cleverly avoided the major risks.

The construction contract was awarded December 2018, and mobilisation began February 2022. Work was completed 15 days ahead of the programme in November 2024, on budget, without any lost time injuries.

The project is a great example of how existing designs and methods can be applied in new ways to build infrastructure in busy, urban environments with minimal disruption.

CATEGORY

5 BUILDING A NEW HIGHWAY, TOGETHER

PROJECT: Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway
CONTRACTOR: Te Ahu a Turanga Alliance
CLIENT: New Zealand Transport Agency – Waka Kotahi (NZTA)
VALUE: $824,000,000

Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway delivers a safe, efficient and resilient highway, replacing a section of SH3 through the Manawatū Gorge, which was permanently closed in 2017 due to ongoing slips. Built for NZTA by Te Ahu a Turanga Alliance – comprising NZTA, Fulton Hogan, HEB Construction, Aurecon, WSP and five iwi partners – this impressive 4-lane, 12km road traverses the foothills of the Ruahine Ranges and the Te Āpiti windfarm. The contract was awarded in October 2019, and construction began in January 2021.

The project presented significant challenges for contractors, including moving about 6.5 million cubic metres of earth over challenging terrain, and building the southern hemisphere's widest balanced cantilever bridge over the Manawatū River.

Te Ahu a Turanga was notable for being the first major infrastructure project to include iwi as full project partners across all levels, including governance, management and operations.

Despite the disruptions caused by Covid shutdowns and adverse weather events, the project was delivered ahead of the contracted completion date in June 2025.

CATEGORY 5

13 BILLION REASONS TO CELEBRATE

PROJECT: Waimea Community Dam
CONTRACTOR: Fulton Hogan Taylors Contracting Joint Venture
CLIENT: Waimea Irrigators & Tasman District Council
VALUE: $211,000,000

Waimea Community Dam is New Zealand's single biggest climate change mitigation construction project yet. In a remote, environmentally sensitive area, the dam carries more than the load of 13 billion litres of water. It shoulders responsibility for a region's future prosperity and for improving water quality and the environment.

Few civil construction projects in New Zealand have needed innovation at such scale, involving a new generation of techniques and technologies developed over 30 years since the last large dam was completed in New Zealand.

The design and construction teams and clients, Waimea Irrigators and Tasman District Council, faced – and addressed – multiple challenges in bringing this dream to reality with courage, far-sightedness, community esprit-de-corps, innovation and adaptability.

From testing geology to two one-in-100 year floods, the best of international experience and New Zealand can-do was the bedrock on which the dam was built, and its benefits will reverberate well beyond the Lee River Valley for decades to come.

In the words of Waimea Irrigators Chairman David Wright: "It was a credit to the expertise and perseverance of all those involved over five challenging years of construction."

And without a single lost-time injury in the 1.7 million hours worked.

CATEGORY

5 BRIDGING A RIVER AND CULTURE TO CONNECT A SUBURB

PROJECT: Peacocke Waikato River Bridge & Strategic Services
CONTRACTOR: HEB Construction
CLIENT: Hamilton City Council
VALUE: $167,000,000

Te Ara Pekapeka – Peacocke Waikato River Bridge & Strategic Services sets a new standard for infrastructure that delivers enduring community value. Designed by BBO and delivered by HEB Construction for Hamilton City Council, it blends cultural expression and environmental care into design and delivery excellence.

Te Ara Pekapeka is a 180m-long, four-lane bridge spanning the Waikato River, connecting Hamilton to the new Peacocke residential area. Designed in partnership with mana whenua, Māori narratives are woven into the bridge's form, from flax-inspired piers to hand-carved design elements.

The project also includes roads, utilities, water infrastructure, and active transport paths.

Environmental restoration and sustainability are embedded throughout. Naturalised wetlands and outfalls protect waterways, provide habitats for native species, and offer inviting spaces for people to relax and reconnect with nature.

Delivered between September 2020 and August 2024, and built by Waikato locals, for Waikato people, the project honours identity and strengthens community. It opens access to the Waikato River, supports accessible transport infrastructure, and facilitates future growth.

HEB's careful and considerate delivery demonstrates that this project is about much more than construction. It's about improving lives and connecting communities and reflects what's possible when infrastructure is shaped by culture and collaboration.

CATEGORY

5 ENHANCING WASTEWATER SERVICES

PROJECT: Warkworth to Snells (W2S) Transfer Pipeline and Pump Station
CONTRACTOR: McConnell Dowell
CLIENT: Watercare
VALUE: $110,904,997

The Warkworth to Snells Transfer Pipeline and Pump Station project is a component of Watercare's Warkworth Wastewater Scheme, to enhance wastewater services for the Warkworth area and reduce overflows and discharges into the Mahurangi River.

This project involves the construction of a Pump Station at Lucy Moore Memorial Park in Warkworth, and a five-kilometre-long pipeline to transfer wastewater to the new Snells Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant.

McConnell Dowell Constructors delivered the project for Watercare and Delve Underground provided the design consultancy services.

The key components include:
- A new pump station with 290 litres per second capacity and 828,000 litres of storage;
- A dual rising main approximately 1.4 km long;
- A gravity sewer extending about 3.6 km.

The pipeline was installed using the trenchless microtunnelling technique known as Direct Pipe. This method employs a tunnel boring machine to install the pipeline with minimal surface disturbance. The Pump Station was constructed using a caisson method, selected for the distinctive benefits it offers to the location and overall project delivery.

Construction of the pump station commenced in September 2021 and was completed in June 2023; construction of the pipeline began in October 2022 and was completed in February 2025.

CATEGORY

6 GUIDED BY A VISION TO CONNECT

PROJECT: Auckland System Management Alliance
CONTRACTOR: Auckland System Management Alliance
CLIENT: New Zealand Transport Agency – Waka Kotahi (NZTA)
VALUE: $447,000,000

The Auckland System Management (ASM) network supports the social and economic activity of the greater Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and north Waikato regions. This section of the state highway network has the highest criticality rating of any road network in Aotearoa New Zealand.

ASM is an alliance between and NZTA, Fulton Hogan and HEB Construction, which maintains and operates the Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and north Waikato state highway network and is dedicated to improving stakeholder experiences.

We're proud to have completed five years of our nine-year contract. Combining two physical works providers together with NZTA provided greater depth and a wider sharing of maintenance of the busiest network in New Zealand.

ASM is committed to achieving excellence in asset management while striving to continuously improve our planning, controls, environmental management and sustainability initiatives, and our relationships with our stakeholders, including mana whenua and NZTA.

We are guided by our vision to connect our communities and make every day better, and our commitment to continuous improvement is underpinned by our values and objectives. Our vision, values and objectives define who we are as an organisation and drive how we operate and maintain the network.

CATEGORY

6 A NEW MODEL FOR SUCCESS

PROJECT: Connect Hamilton Collaborative Corridor Agreement
CONTRACTOR: Downer
CLIENT: Hamilton City Council
VALUE: $50,000,000

Connect Hamilton is a bold, future-focused collaboration between HCC and Downer, backed by input from the Council's infrastructure and asset management teams. Spanning 2023 to 2033, this agreement is transforming how corridor maintenance, renewals, and asset management are delivered citywide.

At its core, Connect Hamilton is a new model for success, built on genuine partnership, shared vision, and co-located teams working side by side.

This innovative contract reimagines traditional delivery models through a genuinely collaborative approach, with co-located Council and Downer teams working together under a shared charter and vision.

In just its first year, Connect Hamilton has already delivered tangible innovation, improved data clarity, and a targeted 'Dig Once' strategy for more efficient works coordination. These early successes are already being shared nationally and will help to shape the sector for best practice across the country.

The Connect Hamilton partnership is driven by a commitment to customer outcomes, sustainability, continuous improvement, and social impact.

Connect Hamilton is more than a contract; it's a blueprint for the future of infrastructure delivery. Strong leadership, robust governance structures, optimised systems, and a commitment to skills development and broader social outcomes underpin the team's success.

CATEGORY

6 FORWARD-THINKING, SAFETY-FIRST APPROACH

PROJECT: North Canterbury Network Outcomes Contract
CONTRACTOR: Downer
CLIENT: New Zealand Transport Agency – Waka Kotahi (NZTA)
VALUE: $50,000,000

The North Canterbury Network Outcomes Contract (NOC), delivered by Downer in partnership with WSP, Isaac Construction, GSL, and Ventia, is a flagship asset maintenance and management contract for NZTA. Commencing in 2017, and now extended to 2026, it covers 948 km of diverse roading infrastructure across urban, alpine, and coastal environments.

This project demonstrates exceptional delivery in the face of adversity, from restoring access following the Kaikōura earthquakes in 2017 to maintain freight and resilience, through to managing alpine passes during extreme winters, and critical urban connections.

Downer's leadership in applying the NZGTTM risk-based traffic management through feasibility trials, environmental initiatives like BioBind and pollution booms, and digital innovations such as Dashpivot all showcase a forward-thinking, safety-first approach.

With nearly 1 million lane metres of renewals completed combined with consistently receiving 'outstanding' client ratings, the North Canterbury NOC reflects best class performance, innovation, and community-focused delivery.

It stands as a benchmark in sustainable, responsive, and technically excellent asset management across New Zealand's transport network.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

CATEGORY

6 A PARTNERSHIP BORNE OF ADVERSITY

PROJECT: Hastings District Council Three Waters Maintenance contract
CONTRACTOR: Fulton Hogan
CLIENT: Hastings District Council
VALUE: $9,206,250 (annual average)

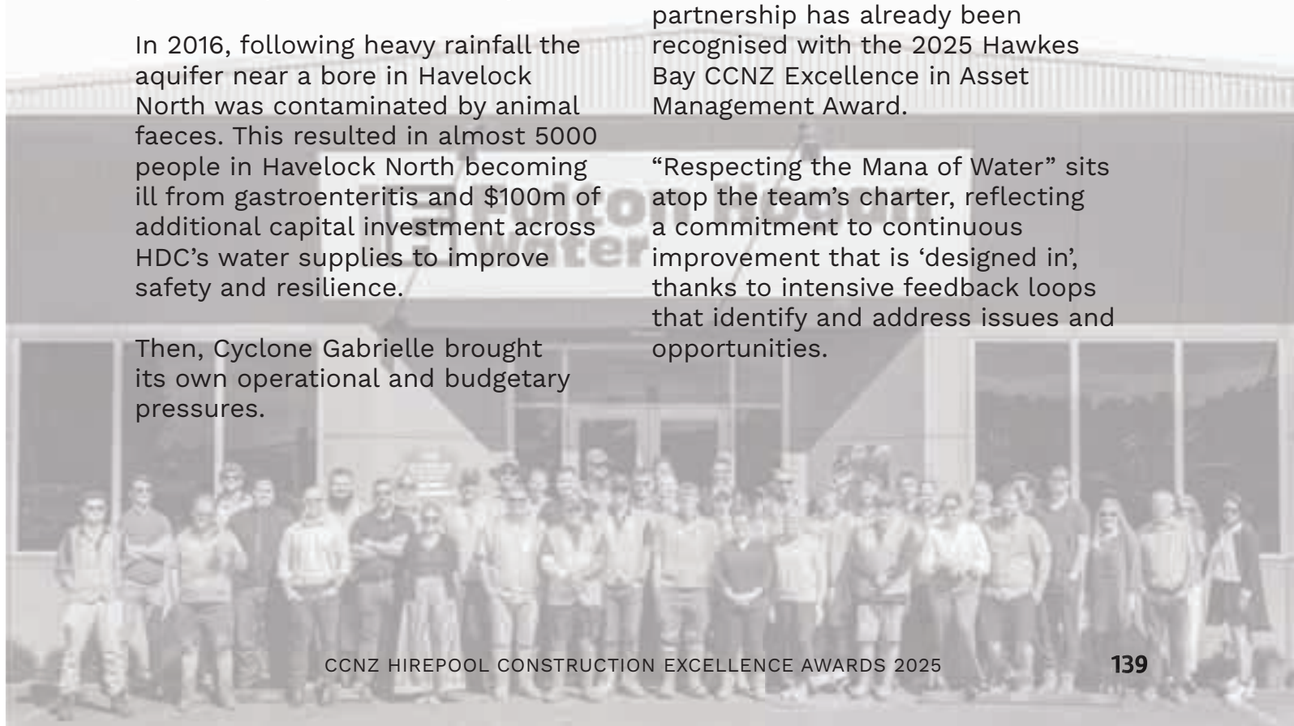
Hastings District Council (HDC) and Fulton Hogan's three Waters Maintenance team have a special partnership. It is one designed and built on collaboration to provide many valuable moments of truth; moments to learn from, to celebrate and to grow. It's also a partnership borne of adversity.

In 2016, following heavy rainfall the aquifer near a bore in Havelock North was contaminated by animal faeces. This resulted in almost 5000 people in Havelock North becoming ill from gastroenteritis and $100m of additional capital investment across HDC's water supplies to improve safety and resilience.

Then, Cyclone Gabrielle brought its own operational and budgetary pressures.

Out of these adversities has come opportunity. HDC and Fulton Hogan have committed to each other – and to the community – to develop the best practice in contractor-client collaboration, built on a deep commitment to keeping the community safe and finding the best use of finite resources. The partnership has already been recognised with the 2025 Hawkes Bay CCNZ Excellence in Asset Management Award.

"Respecting the Mana of Water" sits atop the team's charter, reflecting a commitment to continuous improvement that is 'designed in', thanks to intensive feedback loops that identify and address issues and opportunities.



CCNZ Z PEOPLE AWARDS 2025

PREMIUM TIMBER & METAL LAYERED AWARDS

Crafted from sustainably sourced hardwood & brushed stainless steel

PERSONAL IMPROVEMENT AWARD

WINNER • Linda Lapwood

COMPANY: Downer

Linda has been with Downer for over five years and brings over two decades of experience in the civil construction industry. She has applied her thought leadership at Downer across numerous roles such as Performance and Permit Coordinator, Temporary Traffic Manager (TTM) Delivery Manager, TTM Capability Manager, and her current role as Critical Risk Trainer.

In her rise through the ranks, Linda has redefined what leadership looks like – empathetic, inclusive, and relentlessly focused on lifting others.

Her ability to turn strategy into action has improved audit results, reduced overdue training by per cent, and helped more than 350 staff build capability through relevant, engaging, real-world training.

She is a mentor to emerging leaders and a changemaker whose frameworks reshape how people learn, lead, and stay safe. Linda is driven by purpose, grounded in service, and committed to leaving the industry stronger than she found it.

HIGHLY COMMENDED • Baydon Chappell

COMPANY: MAP Projects

Baydon Chappell has been employed with MAP Projects since March 2010, bringing 15 years of consistent contribution and leadership to the business.

He entered the civil construction industry in the most authentic way — on the shovel. Without fast tracks, he learned on the worksite, earning his stripes through hands-on experience and a willingness to take on any task. From there, he developed practical fluency in machinery operation and a natural ability to lead crews with clarity and calmness.

Today, Baydon manages high-profile infrastructure projects across Aotearoa and the Pacific, drawing on his lived experience to lead from the front. Looking ahead, he aspires to take on ownership responsibilities within the business, with the long-term goal of becoming a shareholder.

His motivation isn't status — it's contribution. He sees leadership as a way to elevate others, build sustainable teams, and leave a legacy of excellence in civil construction.

FINALIST • Dylan King
COMPANY: MAP Projects

Dylan has been employed with MAP Projects since March 2012, marking 13 years of dedicated service, rising from a trainee Operator to Project Manager. He began his journey with just a few hours operating an excavator under his belt. MAP was building a hydropower project in the Hawke's Bay hills, and he wandered and asked for a job.

From the start he had an affinity for excavator work. From there he moved on to geothermal generation works, wastewater upgrades and a detention dam in Northland. Dylan was promoted to Supervisor and worked on large earthworks projects and a hydropower new build and refurbishment in Samoa, running crews of local staff.

Back in New Zealand, Dylan was Site Supervisor on an irrigation dam, and Earthworks Project Manager on a $19M build of two detention dams and wetlands in Rotorua, which has just finished in late 2024. He really stepped up in this role.

FINALIST • Joseph Hare
COMPANY: McConnell Dowell Constructors

Joe Hare was born in Wales. He came to New Zealand in 2013, boarding a flight the day after submitting his paper for his MSc.

He started as Site Engineer at the Timaru Wastewater Treatment Plant in 2013, and in less than a decade, has climbed the ranks to Project Manager on various projects in the South Island.

Joe is currently Project Manager and Contractor's Representative for the Shotover Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade, overseeing all matters on site day-to-day.

He acted as Project Engineer in Stage One of the earlier Shotover Project in Queenstown, and showing the commitment and progress he's made.

FINALIST • Nacanieli Namata
COMPANY: Isaac Construction

Nacanieli (Naci) has 2 years' experience at Isaac Construction, having joined as a labourer in April 2023. Upon moving to New Zealand from Fiji, Naci started at Hazeldine Construction as a construction labourer for eight years where he focussed on concrete and form work before joining Isaac Construction.

Naci is progressing in his training and qualification plan to work towards becoming a Project Engineer with Isaac Construction in Christchurch.

EMERGING LEADER AWARD

WINNER • Josh Wilkinson
COMPANY: Fulton Hogan

Josh was inspired by "one too many episodes of Megastructures on TV and messing around building stuff on the farm". He enrolled in a Bachelor of Engineering degree at the University of Auckland in 2013.
It didn't take long for him to jump into the workforce. He applied for the Fulton Hogan internship programme in his first year.

Josh worked throughout his degree, doing everything from asphalt and stabilising to general civil. He was adamant he needed to get his hands dirty, and was awarded a Fulton Hogan Scholarship.

During his final year as a student (at only 20 years of age), Josh's competence saw him lead a project - the Hamilton Roller Skating Club High Speed Skate Track project.

Completed in just four weeks, the project won Category 1 of the 2016 CCNZ Waikato Awards. Now a Contracts Manager, he is the only person in Fulton Hogan's 91-year history to be appointed to a Department Manager position upon graduating.

HIGHLY COMMENDED • Darcy Gallagher
COMPANY: Fulton Hogan

After completing a business management degree majoring in agribusiness, Darcy took a different path, and embraced a cadetship in Fulton Hogan in 2019. Loving construction, she quickly began studying towards her DipEng (Civil), whilst working full-time, graduating in 2023!

Studying part-time, Darcy has worked 3+years as a fully functional site engineer, operating well above her station - going above and beyond what's expected from a Graduate Engineer.

So much so, she was promoted from Site engineer to Project Engineer in 2024 on the Tākitimu North Link project, overseeing construction of the Minden Gully bridge - a large multi-span steel bridge, leading a team of site engineers, foreman and operators.

This has identified her as the ideal candidate to step into a bigger role as Senior project Engineer for the 15th Avenue onramp, to continue her leadership and engineering progression and continue her upward trajectory.

FINALIST • Jackson Edwards
COMPANY: Brian Perry Civil

Jackson Edwards is a Health, Safety and Environment Advisor at Brian Perry Civil. Since joining in 2022, Jackson has been a key figure on the Seaview Wharf upgrade in Wellington.

This critical infrastructure site facilitates the import of fuel for the lower North Island, and must remain operational throughout construction – a challenge Jackson has navigated with professionalism and precision. This is Jackson's first role in the construction industry. He previously worked for Surf Life Saving New Zealand in a safety-focused leadership role as a Regional Lifesaving Manager. From the outset, Jackson stood out for his positive attitude, leadership skills and ability to translate marine safety experience into construction. In just 2.5 years, Jackson has made a remarkable impact in advancing safety practices on-site and through confident leadership, ability to unite teams, and calm, solutions-focused approach under pressure.

FINALIST • Jake Jackson-Grammer
COMPANY: Isaac Construction

Jake Jackson-Grammer is a Plant Supervisor for Isaac Construction's flagship Marini Asphalt Plant.

He leads night shift operations, overseeing one of the country's most technically advanced asphalt production setups. Jake graduated from Otago Polytechnic in 2018 (Level 6 Engineering) before joining Isaac Construction.

In just five years, he has led the transformation of Isaac's plant operations from traditional batch production to a next-generation, high-output system, increasing output from 60–80 tonnes per shift to over 200 tonnes. "Jake is a huge asset to the Isaac Group, and we have no doubt that he will keep progressing and become a leader within the industry." - Jeff Collins, General Manager, Industries, Isaac Construction

FINALIST • Toby Laidlow
COMPANY: MAP Projects

Toby Laidlow has been employed with MAP Projects since May 2021, and has grown from graduate engineer into an emerging leader and Project Manager who influences team culture, drives technical outcomes and models a people-first approach to leadership.

He entered with a strong academic foundation and a natural curiosity — but early exposure to a large-scale dairy infrastructure project sparked a passion for solving real-world problems. Toby brings MAP the ability to work alongside project crews, literally tying reinforcing steel or troweling concrete to clearly demonstrate specifications and drawings in the real world.

Occasionally he's so hands-on he needs a reminder to be in the office, however it is this that sets the foundation for safety, quality and programme success. His ambition is to progress into senior engineering leadership. He is particularly focused on multidisciplinary teams, bridging the gap between technical and practical.

CCNZ CONNEXIS CIVIL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT AWARDS 2025

PREMIUM TIMBER & METAL LAYERED AWARDS

Crafted from sustainably sourced hardwood & brushed stainless steel

CATEGORY 1

TURNOVER UP TO $10M PER ANNUM

WINNER • J&R Contracting

J&R Contracting's commitment to excellence goes beyond delivering quality infrastructure—we are deeply invested in the people who make it possible. Our training and development initiatives are designed not only to upskill our workforce but to uplift the wider Waikato community by fostering local talent and leadership.

Through our strategic partnership with Connexis, we've created a seamless pipeline for professional growth. Every member of our leadership team and our younger staff are actively engaged in structured training programmes that are tailored to meet both industry standards and individual career aspirations.

This ensures our team is equipped with the latest skills, knowledge, and confidence to thrive in a competitive environment.

The hands-on involvement of our local Connexis representative has been instrumental in aligning our training outcomes with real-world demands. This collaboration has resulted in measurable improvements in staff capability, retention, and morale—while also contributing to the broader goal of regional development

TURNOVER UP TO $10 MILLION PER ANNUM

FINALIST • Civtec

Civtec fosters a culture of learning and development among its employees, making continuous improvement and learning a core part of our learning culture.

In recent years, we have advanced our organisational learning through various technical and leadership programs tailored to our workforce's needs and industry demands. Employees have participated in comprehensive training in civil works, telecommunications, and water management, aimed at imparting essential knowledge and understanding of the complexities within these fields. In partnership with Connexis, we offered formal training courses supplemented by dedicated coaches and mentors who provided personalised support, sharing practical knowledge and real-world applications. We also implemented online compliance and health, and safety training aligned with unit standards, ensuring our employees are skilled and knowledgeable about safety protocols.

FINALIST • JT Contractors

JT Contractors proudly launched Tihei Tūranga, Tihei Tangata (Uplifting Gisborne, Uplifting People) a transformative in-house training initiative that blends civil construction education with cultural identity. Grounded in the belief that books are knowledge, and knowledge is power, Tihei Tūranga supports NZQA Level 4–6 qualifications across civil disciplines including Contract Management, Traffic Management, Earthworks, and Pipe Installation & Maintenance.

What sets Tihei apart is its cultural foundation. Through Mau Rākau (traditional Māori martial arts) delivered by Tūranga Tangata, the programme strengthens identity, discipline, and mana for tāne and wāhine. JT Contractors also delivers NZQA Level 1–3 training and operates a Gateway Programme connecting high school students with pathways into the infrastructure industry. In collaboration with three other local companies, it aims to support 63 tauira to achieve qualifications by 2028.

FINALIST • Odlum Group

Odlum Group sees training and development of staff as a key sector of running its family-owned business.

Achieving qualifications is an important form of motivation, encouraging everyone to aim higher. It brings a lot of job satisfaction.

This is the first year that has shown evidence of the successful implementation of a new graduate program that started three years ago.

Students from local Colleges have been taken on via the gateway programme, and after two years working through this programme the first full time staff member has been taken on, continuing their education by enrolment in a Connexis Level 4 Pipeline and Construction Maintenance qualification.

CATEGORY 2

TURNOVER BETWEEN $10M AND $100M PER ANNUM

WINNER • Waiotahi Contractors

At Waiotahi, our people are at the heart of everything we do. As part of our strategic plan, we've made a strong commitment to investing in our people and building a culture that supports growth, learning, and long-term careers in civil construction.

Over the past eight months, we've placed a major focus on staff training and development. Currently, nearly 20% of our workforce are studying toward formal civil construction qualifications – with around 40% of those learners training through Connexis. We're proud to back our people with opportunities to grow both personally and professionally.

To support this, we've developed a visual Career Progression Roadmap – a clear visual guide showing the pathway from labourer through to project manager, including average industry pay rates to inspire our team to take the next step. Once someone completes a qualification, they're encouraged to move up to the next stage with the support of our People and Capability Manager.

We believe training boosts morale, builds confidence, and gives our people the recognition and credentials they deserve. It's not just about the work – it's about creating real career journeys that make our people proud to be part of the Waiotahi whanau.

FINALIST • ICB Civil Construction

ICB dedicates paid time each month to catch up with trainees, providing one-on-one support. This open line of communication ensures trainees don't feel alone in the process and stay motivated throughout their learning journey.

Thanks to this, employees are more aware of workplace hazards, understand project requirements, and feel more confident in their roles. The knowledge they gain allows them to make safer decisions on site and take more ownership of their work, contributing to a stronger and more capable team overall.

ICB recognises the return on the investment put into its staff.

FINALIST • Loaders

Established in 1954, Loaders Civil is a family-owned civil construction company in Whanganui, New Zealand. With 60 dedicated staff, we deliver high-quality infrastructure while investing in the growth of our people. We believe our team is our greatest asset. Our training philosophy focuses on upskilling staff through structured learning, practical experience, and nationally recognised qualifications via Connexis Infrastructure Training. Our apprenticeship programme covers roading, drainage, and civil construction.

Apprentices receive tailored training plans, hands-on project experience, and mentorship from experienced staff. Progress is regularly assessed to ensure development goals are met. Partnering with Connexis is vital to our success.

FINALIST • Offshore Plumbing Services

OPS Plumbing and Pipeline is a family owned civil contractor with over 50 staff- training is central to how we operate and grow.

Nearly half of our team are currently enrolled in formal qualifications, with many others having successfully completed training over the past year. Two team members have become qualified Connexis Assessors, enabling us to support and verify practical learning internally. A major milestone was launching a Level 2 Infrastructure work programme in Partnership with Manukoriki Hapu Charitable Trust and Vertical Horizonz, delivered at our New OPS Training Centre. The course includes three weeks of live onsite experience and aims to transition participants into full time work.

FINALIST • Pipeline & Civil

At Pipeline & Civil, we believe that by building people, we build a better New Zealand.

As an employee-owned business, we invest significantly in training and development to ensure our team has the skills and knowledge to deliver critical infrastructure for thriving communities.

Training is embedded across all levels of our business.

Our partnerships with Connexis and other accredited providers support nationally recognized qualifications, ensuring our people have clear pathways for advancement.

CATEGORY 3

TURNOVER UP TO $10M PER ANNUM

WINNER • Downer

A strong commitment to upskilling and empowering the workforce is reshaping the face of leadership within Downer. Te Whanake Timatanga provides a pathway for Māori professionals to gain formal qualifications while honouring and embracing their cultural identity. To date, 232 qualifications have been awarded.

A standout within the programme is the innovative Bachelor of Applied Management developed in partnership with Capable NZ and Te Puni Kōkiri. Integrating kaupapa Māori principles with an Assessment of Prior Learning (APL) approach, it allows experienced kaimahi to complete a degree in just 10 months.

Participants take part in a cohort with Māori peers, Māori facilitators and assessors providing a culturally safe learning environment. The APL methodology recognises and builds on prior workplace and life skills to grow confident and competent leaders.

Participants graduate with a degree, increased confidence and enhanced connection to their culture. The APL approach enables participants to balance work and study with other community and whānau commitments.

This commitment to providing culturally safe education is increasing Māori representation in leadership and creating a more inclusive workforce in line with their diversity and inclusion goals. Ultimately the programme is creating a lasting impact both within the company and the wider community.

TURNOVER OVER $100 MILLION AND ALLIANCES

FINALIST • Brian Perry Civil

Part of the Fletcher Construction whanau, Brian Perry Civil (BPC) has re-imagined how career pathways can add value to people's advancement and career development. Using an engaging competency framework, the team has the ability to drive their own journey, supported by committed leaders and mentors.

Delivering more than technical capability, our career pathways ensure kaimahi are equipped with the tools to understand the impact of their role on key projects. Embedded in all our roles, from a newly appointed apprentice to someone in a corporate function at head office, are the values of Protect, Be Bold, Better Together, and Customer Leading.

Commitment to providing exceptional training opportunities ensures employees access nationally recognised qualifications, empowering them to move forward in their careers.

FINALIST • CLL

At CLL, our people are at the heart of everything we do. As a 100% NZ-owned and operated company with currently over 180 employees, we believe in fostering a culture of whanaungatanga—where every team member is treated like whānau. Investing in our people isn't just a strategy; it's a commitment embedded in our DNA. Through Connexis training and nationally recognised qualifications, we provide structured learning pathways for all staff. But we don't stop there—our training is tailored to the aspirations of each individual.

Whether it's English classes, driver's licenses, overseas learning experiences, or career shifts, we empower our people to grow in the direction they choose. This personalised approach results in a highly skilled, motivated workforce with an exceptionally low staff turnover. Our team stays with us because they feel valued, supported, and given opportunities to succeed. By continuously upskilling our people, we strengthen not only our business but also the wider industry, contributing to a safer and more capable civil construction workforce in New Zealand.

FINALIST • CORDE

CORDE is proud to submit for the Connexis Civil Training and Development Award, recognising our commitment to bold, sustainable growth through capability development. In the past year, we've significantly expanded our internal training to support staff across the business – from field teams to senior leaders. Key initiatives include CORDE Capable, a practical construction skills programme; an AI Adoption Programme building digital fluency; a structured Leadership Development framework; and an Internal Assessor programme strengthening in-house competency assessment. These initiatives support CORDE's strategic goals to grow through diversification, be driven by quality and data, and retain a united team with a culture of leadership. They also reflect our values of Whakawhirinaki (trust), Kaitiakitanga (guardianship), and Mahi Tahi (teamwork) by investing in people who protect, lead, and collaborate to strengthen our communities. Our training approach is practical, forward-thinking, and designed to meet the evolving needs of the civil construction and maintenance industry.

FINALIST • Fulton Hogan

Fulton Hogan Bay of Plenty prides itself on excellence in promoting diversity and fostering a supportive work environment. Through dedicated efforts and initiatives, the company has made significant strides toward ensuring a safe, inclusive, and respectful workplace for their 270 employees. Their commitment to training employees in dealing with sexual harassment and bullying is particularly commendable and forms a critical part of their broader diversity and inclusion strategy.

Fulton Hogan Bay of Plenty has demonstrated a strong commitment to diversity, actively fostering an environment where all employees feel valued and included.

The positive impacts of these initiatives are evident in the flourishing workplace culture at Fulton Hogan Bay of Plenty. Employees enjoy a supportive environment where diversity is seen as a strength and everyone is encouraged to contribute to the safe and respectful work environment.

FINALIST • Isaac Construction

At Isaac Group, our commitment to training and development is deeply embedded in our culture—we believe that building a better business starts with building our people. With around 20 per cent of our workforce currently enrolled in formal training, we're proud to see over 80 team members actively pursuing nationally recognised qualifications.

We've created an environment where learning is supported at every level. Morning study groups encourage peer support and shared success, while weekly site visits from our Learning and Development team ensure consistent progress and tailored guidance. We also offer dedicated literacy and numeracy programs to help remove barriers and support every learner's journey.

In 2024 alone, we celebrated the graduation of 33 staff members across four ceremonies—each one a testament to the hard work and determination of our people. These training efforts have led to real and measurable improvements across the board: stronger technical skills, higher quality outcomes, and a noticeable lift in health and safety performance.

At Isaac Group, we don't just train—we empower. Through our ongoing investment in education, we're growing a skilled, confident workforce ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow and drive the future of civil infrastructure in New Zealand.