

REFERENCE PROJECT

Geotechnical – Drill and Blast

Location: Bluff Road, Coromandel Peninsular
Date: January 2016
Client: Thames Coromandel District Council
Consultant: Opus International

Bluff Road is a vital link between the village of Rings Beach and the township of Matarangi and was closed following several recent failures from the cliff face directly adjacent the road. Abseil Access were awarded the contract to carry out:

- Rock blasting works to remove the rock overhang and to be programmed to achieve the rock grading required for the rip rap in a newly constructed retaining supporting the road below the cliff face.
- Placement of rockfall mesh system across the cliff face.
- Sorting of blast debris into suitable rock for rip rap.
- Rock scaling works and vegetation trimming at other locations along the road

A-frame drill rigs drilled 80 blast holes up to 3m deep in a close grid pattern. Explosives were initiated in a sequence to optimise fragmentation, reduce ground vibration and keep overbreak to a minimum. The blast design kept the muckpile contained on the road directly beneath the overhang. Altogether 270m³ of rock was removed to leave an 85 degree final face. Further material was scaled from the face using hand tools and air bags.

Abseil Access were responsible for clearing and disposing of the blast debris, management of public safety, environmental management and firing the high explosives.

Value of the contract was \$198k. The work was completed within the allocated time and under budget.

