

REFERENCE PROJECT

Geotechnical (Rockfall Protection)

Location: Cobb Dam Power Station, Takaka
Date: October, 2013
Client: Trustpower Ltd
Consultant: Riley Consultants

Cobb Hydroelectric Power Station was commissioned in 1944 and sits in a remote and mountainous area of the upper South Island. It has a 580m water head (highest in New Zealand) and generates 32MW of power from only 7.25 cumecs.

Trustpower Ltd, Transpower and Riley Consultants requested Abseil Access to install active and passive rock face netting with rock anchors throughout to mitigate the potential rock fall hazard to the switchyard. The works had to fit into a tight shutdown period of just 3 weeks.

The installation involved over 100 rock bolts up to 6m deep. Williams Bar was used for the anchor rods, 25mm-32mm diameter. Suitability testing to 370kN was carried on sample anchors. Maccaferri High Energy Absorption (HEA Panel) with a HR30 system was used to actively constrain the 700m² rock face.

The 8 man team completed the works safely within the schedule and without any damage to the switchyard or transformers.

