

Contaminated Land Remediation

WHO WE ARE

GWE Consulting Engineers is a multidisciplinary team specialising in environmental, geotechnical, civil infrastructure, stormwater, wastewater and drinking water engineering, with an established and expanding capability in Contaminated Land and Groundwater Remediation. We work closely with architects, project managers, planners, surveyors, owners and developers to provide clients with innovative thinking and technical resources to design and deliver successful projects. Our services cover the full project lifecycle – from early investigations through to remediation design, field verification, validation reporting and final certification for consent.

Our delivery is grounded in our LIFT values: we Listen to understand the site context, stakeholders and consent constraints; Innovate to identify practical, cost-effective remediation pathways; Follow Through with rigorous documentation, sampling and verification; and Team Up with clients, and specialist partners to keep projects moving and outcomes defensible.

Our brand promise is clear: when others stall, we solve, bringing calm, clarity and rigour to complex sites and challenging consenting pathways. We do the hard work, so your project doesn't get harder.



Coastal Heavy Metal Remediation

WHAT WE DO

GWE has built a reputable track record in contaminated land remediation, with accredited engineers and scientists.



Environmental Due Diligence

We deliver the following:

- Preliminary and Detailed Site Investigations
- Remediation Action Plans
- Site Management Plans
- Site Validation and Certification
- Professional Evidence for Consent Hearings and Environmental Court

We work across residential, commercial, industrial and community infrastructure projects throughout New Zealand. When needed, we collaborate with trusted specialist partners to ensure clients receive the highest standard of expertise.

VALUE DELIVERED

- Investigation and reporting that supports consenting and development decisions
- Practical remediation design matching the development and environmentally sustainable outcomes
- Cost-aware delivery, often avoiding landfill disposal through in-situ remediation and management
- Integrated remediation and development engineering input across geotechnics, civil and infrastructure requirements
- Effective risk management via site management plans where remediation is not required
- Rigorous validation and certification to satisfy consent conditions
- Experienced professional evidence for Council processes, hearings and Environmental Court

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OUR SERVICES

Preliminary and Detailed Site Investigations

We develop a thorough understanding of site history and contamination using Ministry for the Environment guidance. This includes reviewing historical land uses, conducting site inspections, and undertaking targeted soil and groundwater sampling. Our team has deep knowledge of the National Environmental Standards and council requirements, helping clients understand risks to human and environmental health, how these risks influence development options, and what is required to achieve compliance early in the process.

Remediation Action Plans

Where significant contaminant linkages exist, we design targeted and sustainable remediation solutions tailored to the site and development. We often avoid costly landfill disposal by applying appropriate in-situ remediation and management approaches that reduce environmental impact and improve project efficiency. With GWE's multidisciplinary engineering capability, our remediation design integrates seamlessly with geotechnical considerations, civil infrastructure requirements, and construction sequencing to support smooth project delivery.

Site Management Plans

Remediation is not always necessary. In many cases, risk can be effectively managed through well-designed site management protocols that provide safe, practical pathways for development to proceed. GWE frequently secures consents using management plans, particularly for sites with marginal contaminant exceedances being developed for residential or mixed-use purposes where appropriate receiving environments exist. Our plans give councils confidence and give clients clarity on how to meet conditions without unnecessary remediation costs.

Site Validation and Certification

Effective remedial design should be closely monitored and certified by a qualified professional. GWE is regularly involved with contaminated land and groundwater remediation projects with strict clean up goals and validation criteria. Site verification is commonly undertaken by visual walkover surveys and laboratory sample analysis. Our competent engineers can provide the advice to achieve validation with minimal variation and re-working. We can summarise our findings into a validation certifying report which is required to satisfy Council consent conditions.

Professional Evidence

Frequently, Resource Consent hearings or Environmental Court witness evidence is required to achieve Consent. The experience and qualifications that GWE senior staff hold enables us to represent our Clients and stakeholders in a legal setting. Our experience includes detailed responses to Council queries, Resource Consent hearing and Environmental Court attendance.

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RELEVANT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Opua Boat Yard Remediation

A historic boat yard designated for redevelopment was found to be contaminated with widespread Copper and Lead and localised hydrocarbons. GWE provided detailed remediation advice and validation and achieved the remediation goals in a single earthworks phase. The project is under strict remediation protocols following an Environmental Court hearing.

Commercial Units, Ponsonby

Investigation of deep hydrocarbon contamination from a historic onsite tank. Address corrosive effects on concrete, off-site disposal and contaminated land requirements for the development.

Krispie Kreme, Auckland

Preliminary and Detailed Site Investigation reporting of site with a highly variable industrial background revealed the potential for significant contaminant linkages.

Rural Subdivision, Coatesville

GWE provided a detailed site investigation and report for a proposed subdivision with a history of horticulture and livestock spraying. A detailed regulatory assessment enabled GWE to mitigate the Contaminated Land requirements for the Client as we were able to determine that contaminants were below natural background threshold limits for the geological setting.

Site Management Plans for Multi-Unit Developments

Remedial design and long-term management of contaminated soils to minimise the requirements on the developer.

Retirement Villages, New Zealand

Contaminated land investigation and remediation design to enable Resource Consent.

Asbestos Remediation, Kerikeri

Detailed contaminated land investigation and remediation design for residential and commercial development. Included validation of remediation to strict clean-up goals.

Olympic Stadium, London

Detailed geotechnical investigation and design of ground remediation for hydrocarbon impacted soils and water.

Karaka Sports Park, Pukekohe

Development of a multisport clubhouse and changing room for the proposed redevelopment and expansion of the sports park.

KEY PEOPLE

Gareth Williams, Director

Gareth is a process engineer overseeing multidisciplinary compliance programmes. Gareth has commercial oversight of all our projects and actively engages in client relationship management.

Colin Jowett, Technical Director

Colin has over 10 years of professional experience as an environmental scientist, leading GWE's environmental compliance and monitoring capabilities.