

5 October 2016

To whom it may concern

**RE: Bob Hick Earthmoving Limited**

I have pleasure in providing a reference for Bob Hick Earthmoving Limited (BHE).

I have worked alongside BHE on numerous projects in the Auckland region in the last 10 years in my capacity as an independent certifying geotechnical engineer. The works have included a range of ground conditions, including stability sensitive terrain, sensitive soils and soft ground, including some very large volume earthworks in these conditions. On several sites, significant, detailed remedial works such as shear keys, subsoil drainage works, reinforced earth walls and retaining walls have been required and in some cases sediment control issues were under constant scrutiny in the public domain.

For clarity I confirm that I have not acted as Engineer to the Contract on these projects and therefore cannot comment on contractual issues and did not hold overall responsibility for civil works oversight, sediment and erosion control or health and safety aspects of the works. However, I have engaged regularly as a project team member where these items have been discussed as part of regular meetings. During the last 20 years I have also worked with a wide variety of other earthworks contractors whereby I have extensive experience to draw comparisons from a geotechnical perspective.

In my experience, BHE's site managers have been experienced and efficient. They have repeatedly demonstrated an ability to progress a works programme where others would stall. They employ a number of simple but effective measures that allow them to minimise down-time following rain events and have proven themselves pro-active at problem solving to advance a works programme. They deploy a range of earthmoving equipment on each site to facilitate efficiency of works and have a good understanding and implementation of sediment control requirements.

BHE site managers are familiar with Auckland terrain and the earthmoving challenges that arise in the various geologies and are experienced in overcoming those challenges. They are also conversant with the typical remedial works requirements that arise, the ways these are detailed and appropriate construction techniques. Their foremen communicate well to minimise downtime and in my experience have always worked collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes for the project, even in difficult circumstances.

I have always been pleased to hear that BHE have been engaged to undertake the earthworks on a project we are working on.

**For and on behalf of  
CMW Geosciences (NZ) Ltd**



**Richard Knowles**

Principal Geotechnical Engineer, CPEng