

# Contaminated Land – A Regional New Zealand Perspective

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# Who am I?

- Brodie Rowse
- Senior Environmental Scientist
- 11+ Years Experience
  - Contaminated Land Assessments
  - Managed Fills
  - Environmental Management
  - Discharge Monitoring
- Past 5 years in Te-Mataua-a-Maui (Hawke's Bay)



# What's Good?

- Great place to live and pace of life
- Not every investigation is an infill subdivision
- Still opportunities to work on large projects
- Fieldwork
- Regular interaction with clients/contractors









# Challenges?

- Career
- Knowledge
- Policy
- Economic



# Career

- Progression is paced differently
- Learning opportunities limited
- Finding the right support can be difficult
  - Especially those early in their career



First WasteMINZ Event in Hawke's Bay in 5+ years (April 2026)

Courtesy: 3R Group

# Knowledge

- Contaminated Land Advisor availability
  - Not all SQEPs are created equal
- Councils can lack in house expertise
  - Decisions/advice can vary, leading to inconsistent outcomes
- Clients don't understand or appreciate the risks
  - Human health, environmental, or economic

# Policy

- Regional Plans don't specifically cover '*Contaminated Land*', instead '*discharges to land or water*'
  - Can lead to difficulty in assessing and advising
- 'Cleanfill' and Soil Disposal
  - Plan definition of cleanfill, but not well defined in practice.
  - Can promote unsustainable practices
    - 'Dig and dump' vs. 'soil reuse'

# Economic

- Lack of facilities
  - No managed fills / landfills
  - Large haulage costs
- Remoteness
  - Distance to assess, address, or manage contaminated land a barrier
- Funding
  - Pockets not always deep enough to deal with issues identified during investigations

# Solutions

- Industry
  - Regional ALGA/WasteMINZ Presentation / Affiliated Network Events
    - Grow industry networking, council/client/contractor education
    - CPD
  - Support those who are remote to connect with others
- Policy Change
  - Consider Contaminated Land in the next round of plan review.
    - Maybe solved by the Natural Environments Bill?
  - NES – Soil Reuse?
- Economic?



## Remember:

Having the right PPE, tools, and equipment before you leave for site is important....even more so when the site is remote.

**make  
everyday  
better.**

**whakapai  
ake.**

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