

## Vision Statement

Reclaiming Our Resources: Optimising Soil Reuse in Infrastructure and Development

## The Challenge

*Every year, New Zealand loses billions of dollars through wasteful soil practices. Inefficient handling and disposal of this finite resource creates direct financial pressures for infrastructure projects and developers, while also imposing hidden costs on our environment – including unnecessary emissions from transport, depletion of landfill capacity, pressure on roading networks, and the irreversible loss of valuable soil materials. Without change, these practices will continue to constrain New Zealand's growth, infrastructure delivery, and resilience.*

## Our Vision

That soil is managed as a finite resource; its economic, physical, environmental, wellbeing and cultural attributes are understood and valued. These attributes are facilitated and preserved as far as practical.

In the NZ operating, regulatory and planning system:

- soil maintains its highest value use.
- infrastructure and development projects are designed to minimise soil disturbance.
- if soil needs to be moved, it is managed in accordance with a soil management hierarchy (*\*yet to be developed*).
- a viable and robust system that creates economic and environmental opportunities for soil is created.

*Essentially, creating a system where it is better and smarter to reuse soil than to landfill it.*