

## 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 by all, and supported and preserved as far as practical.

That Aotearoa New Zealand's operating, regulatory and planning structure includes a viable, collaborative, and robust system to enable the economic and environmental opportunities for soil to be realised. In this system:

- soil maintains its highest value use,
- infrastructure and development projects are designed to minimise soil disturbance, and
- if soil needs to be disturbed, it is managed in accordance with a soil management hierarchy (\*yet to be developed).

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