

Roading Project Brings Kiwi Contractor Back Across the Ditch

With investment now secured on a number of major infrastructure projects throughout New Zealand, the flow of our skilled labour across to Australia finally seems to be slowing. Shane Brownell of Brownell Earthmoving is just one of the many contractors being tempted home after a number of years operating successfully across the ditch.

Established in 2004, Brownell Earthmoving moved to Australia in 2011 quickly building a strong reputation in roading, rail and bulk earthworks projects. However, plans of staying longer changed recently when the opportunity to work on the Kapiti Expressway Project came up.

“I was in contact with Goodman Contractors Ltd and was asked to join the team as a sub-contractor on the McKays to Peka Peka section of Wellington’s Kapiti Expressway,” explains owner/operator Shane Brownell.

The \$630-million project will result in a four-lane expressway through Paraparaumu and Waikanae, including a new bridge over the Waikanae River. Expected to take up to four years to complete, the new route will improve safety, reduce congestion and provide more reliable journey times through the Kapiti Coast.

Another important aspect to Brownell’s decision was his ability to continue to use the same equipment and attachments as he was using in Australia.

“Using good quality, reliable equipment is important being an owner/operator because you don’t want any downtime,” says Brownell. “I use Doherty buckets because the shape allows for easy filling and the Hardox steel keeps wear and tear to a minimum.”

Brownell Earthmoving also has a high focus on safety and insists on Doherty’s Snaplock+ Tilt for its double-locking safety feature. “The new safety legislation in New Zealand and Australia has been an excellent step forward for us all, but I also prefer this tilt because of its solid construction and design integrity. It has a good range of tilt which allows you to cut a half to one batter at full tilt.”

Other notes:

Doherty Couplers & Attachments is one of the few manufacturers globally to offer quick couplers fully-compliant to Australian standard AS4772-208, including the updated WorkCover NSW policies. The main feature of their Snaplock+ is its Dual Pin Locking (DPL) system ensuring attachments remain securely engaged on both pins in the event of loss of engagement force.