

Utes and Bunds: Working in New Zealand

Executive Summary

Civil construction is the same, but different, in New Zealand. Some terms and methods which vary from American civil construction follow.

Give me a little bit about New Zealand?

New Zealand is a country with about 5,000,000 people in it. This is roughly the population of Alabama in the United States, or British Columbia in Canada. It has two main islands, the North Island and the South Island, separated by the Cook Strait. It's at the south end of Australia, out to the East about 1,200 miles [QR]



Construction Vocabulary

Some of their heavy/civil construction vocabulary and definition follow:

New Zealand	United States
Ute	Pickup truck
Bund	Small mound of earth (like a diversion mound for erosion control)
Fleet, cartage	Trucking or Hauling
Roading	Roadway/subgrade construction
Digger	Excavator
Moxy	Articulated dumptruck or offroader
Shield	Trench box or trench shield
Water cart	Water truck
Tender	Bid
Meters and tonnes	Feet and tons
Labourer	Laborer
Kerb and channel	Curb and gutter

New Zealand	United States
Soakpit	Infiltration pond

We also talked about bonding which does appear to exist, but it far less common than in America.

My Story

This little excerpt was provided by my recent interaction with a contractor client. I'll be speaking with them again next month and perhaps there'll be a part 2!

Work Safe!

