

GEOTECHNICAL INPUT DECISION CHART FOR STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

Structural engineers are sometimes criticised for acting outside the bounds of their competence when undertaking geotechnical work. The flowchart below is designed to help engineers, building consent authorities (BCAs) and others understand when input from a specialised geotechnical engineer is likely to be required. The tool should provide a good indicator and contribute to clearer communication and expectations between engineers, clients and BCAs.

This document is only an indication of when additional information or expertise may be required. There will always be exceptions to general guidance, and you should use your professional judgement in every case to determine the appropriate skills and expertise required for the job.

The chart will vary slightly from region to region due to the different topographies and soil conditions throughout New Zealand. To use the chart, if the answer to the question is no, continue to the next question. If the answer is yes, input from a Chartered Professional Engineer (Geotechnical) or Professional Engineering Geologist is recommended.

