

Best Scoping/Operation of a Site Investigation

Thank you! We are truly honoured to receive this award.

Firstly, a big thank you to ALGA for organising these awards and for all the incredible work that ALGA does for the contaminated land industry in Australia and New Zealand.

For those of you who haven't heard of the Wallis Lake Project Team before, which I guess is just about all of you, The Team comprises five small businesses who worked together to bring about the successful investigation and remediation of a significant diesel fuel spill on the foreshore immediately adjacent to Wallis Lake in the Mid North Coast of New South Wales.

The five members of The Team are:

- Suzie McEnallay from the Wallis Lake Fisherman's Co-operative – our client, who was extremely proactive throughout the investigation process;
- Dr David Tully from Contaminated Land Solutions – who is our technical director for the project;
- Justin Kerr of Kerr Environmental – who managed the remediation works and together with David developed the scoping of the investigation part of the project;
- Nick Pannell from Geochem Technologies – who managed the operation of the site investigation; and finally, myself,
- Andrew Hills of Regional Geotechnical Solutions who co-ordinated the project.

David, Justin and Nick are all sole directors and sole employees of their own businesses based in South Australia. Regional Geotechnical Solutions is a larger operation, but still relatively modest, with offices in Wingham, Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales.

A key challenge for the project was to meet regulatory requirements, delineate the diesel plume beneath the foreshore and mitigate potential pollution risks to a near pristine estuary system in a short timeframe, without impacting the operations of the fishermen or other members of the local community.

We met this challenge by scoping and implementing an investigation based around a Geoprobe® rig with a combined Optical Image Profiler and Hydraulic Profiling Tool, which to my knowledge, was the first use of this investigation equipment in Australia.

This enabled us to make decisions on the design of the remediation works for immediate implementation. Justin and Nick were then able to construct containment walls through injection of a slurry containing oxygen releasing amendment using Nick's Geoprobe® rig and mitigate risks to the marine environment without delay.

Finally, as I was kind of in the thick of things with the fires in New South Wales this week and nearly didn't make it here this evening, I like to give a big shout out to the Rural Fire Service and all the other emergency services that put themselves in danger to fight bush fires, and I like to ask you all to give them your support whenever and however you can. Thank you!