



Waihi Cornish Pumphouse Relocation Project

Project	Waihi Cornish Pumphouse Relocation Project
Client	Newmont Waihi Gold Ltd
Contractor	R B Steel Ltd
Location	Waihi, Corromandel, New Zealand
Date	May - September 2006
Brief	To complete concrete cutting activities required to free the pumphouse building from its foundations and complete cuts to ground beams for removal

The historic 103 year old Waihi Cornish Pumphouse was endangered due to ground subsidence and needed relocation to ensure its survival. A plan was developed to move the building approximately 250m to the east of its original position. Newmont Waihi Gold enlisted R B Steel to undertake the relocation project. R B Steel approached Lowery to undertake the significant task of cutting the building free of its foundations.

The scope of work Lowery undertook included,

- Cut and removal of foundation benches
- Cut tunnels in foundations to enable construction of tunnel beams
- Core drilling of pumphouse for installation of Macalloy bars
- Cut insitu ground beams with 40mm steel reinforcing bars, to enable removal off site

A methodology, cutting plan and timeline was developed, relying on the use of wall saws and wire saws to complete the cutting activities. In summary, cuts were made in stages to enable the construction of new tunnel foundations which would support the pumphouse during its move to its new location. The methodology required the building to be resupported on new tunnels beams, cut clear from its foundations and be made ready for relocation. The cutting of the foundations was completed with the use of wall saws and wire saws, totaling 266m² of cutting.

R B Steel began the process of relocating the pumphouse, sliding the pumphouse over insitu ground beams with the use of large jacks. As the pumphouse passed over the 250m length of ground beams, cutting of the ground beams commenced to enable removal of the beams off site. The cutting was completed using wire saws, totaling 144m² of cutting.

After three months on the move, the Waihi community celebrated the successful relocation of the pumphouse on 8 November with a ribbon cutting ceremony, signaling the successful completion of the project.