

Sjoerd van Ballegooy, Ph.D., Technical Director, Tonkin + Taylor Ltd, New Zealand

Sjoerd van Ballegooy is a senior geotechnical engineer and technical director at Tonkin + Taylor Ltd, a specialist geotechnical consultancy company in New Zealand. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Since September 2010, Sjoerd has been involved in leading the geotechnical response to the damage caused by the 2010 – 2016 Canterbury earthquake sequence and in 2013 received the Queen’s Service Order, Honorary Companion for his services to geotechnical science. His main roles involved overseeing the mapping of the land damage and building damage and the ground surface subsidence, helping the New Zealand Government in evaluate which land would be suitable for rebuilding and the New Zealand Earthquake Commission understand its land liabilities and identify which land is vulnerable to liquefaction and where the vulnerability has increased as a result of the physical changes caused by the earthquake sequence. Sjoerd has also architected the online geotechnical database system to manage, gather and disseminate the land damage data and geotechnical investigation data to the wider engineering community as well as lead a large ground improvement trial programme to evaluate the effectiveness of different ground improvement methods to enable the residential areas of Christchurch to be rebuilt with greater resilience to future damage using affordable solutions.

