

Resilient infrastructure for the South Island

We have proudly been part of the fabric of New Zealand since 1933 – delivering long-term value, resilient infrastructure, regional prosperity, and the partnerships that help Aotearoa New Zealand thrive for generations to come.

Across the South Island, Downer's work is defined by resilience – infrastructure that can stand up to the toughest environments and continue delivering for the people who rely on it.

For example, we've maintained the Milford Road corridor for more than 17 years, through our partnership with the New Zealand Transport Agency in the Milford Road Alliance. It is a vital route supporting tourism, freight, and emergency response in one of the country's most remote areas. Our maintenance of the Homer Tunnel, and critical resilience upgrades such as the Homer Tunnel Portal Extension Project help keep this iconic journey safe and open year-round.

We also deliver essential services across the island, including upgrading water treatment systems in partnership with the Tasman District Council, where we operate and maintain over 1,200 km of three waters networks across five urban centres and surrounding rural communities.

In partnership with councils, iwi, and government agencies, we're focused on outcomes that matter – infrastructure that supports the South Island's environment, economy, and people. Whether it's restoring services after a storm, investing in local water infrastructure, or supporting local readiness, we're here for the long haul.

Our footprint across the South Island is supported by strong local teams and a network of delivery partners enabling communities to thrive through reliable services, local employment, and infrastructure that lasts.

Learn more about
Downer in the
South Island



Key contracts and projects Downer delivers in the South Island

Coastal Otago IDM

Downer has maintained the NZTA's Coastal Otago state highway network for 15 years. The recently renewed contract spans approximately 770 kms of state highway and includes SH1 through Oamaru and Dunedin to the boundary with Southland.

Tasman District three waters

For more than 20 years, Downer has operated and maintained Tasman's three waters infrastructure, serving approximately 58,000 people across five urban centres.

Transport Tasman Alliance

Downer is a founding partner of the Transport Tasman Alliance, a collaborative, boundary-to-boundary road maintenance and renewal programme serving the entire Tasman District. Now into its second term, the Alliance has delivered smarter, faster outcomes across the region from road reconstruction and resurfacing to culvert renewals and safety upgrades.

Tait Systems NZ

As a panel member, Downer is building a secure digital land mobile radio communications network

across New Zealand. The contract is worth \$16 million over a two-year period and will involve building a radio network that enhances communication capabilities for emergency services and ensures clear and uninterrupted communication, even in remote or challenging environments.

Ministry of Education Property Portfolio

Downer delivers nationwide facilities maintenance and property services, supporting a large and geographically diverse portfolio of education-related properties across New Zealand. Our services include reactive, planned and scheduled maintenance, health and safety leadership, compliance assurance, and end-to-end supply-chain coordination.

Christchurch Court Theatre

In 2025 Hawkins delivered the Court Theatre in the heart of Christchurch's Performing Arts Precinct, a major milestone in the city's cultural regeneration. The purpose-built facility features a 375-seat main auditorium, 130-seat studio theatre, rehearsal spaces, workshops, and vibrant public areas.

Queenstown Airport

Downer delivered two pioneering upgrades, setting new standards for safety and sustainability in aviation infrastructure. We resurfaced the aircraft parking area using TonerPave™ – a sustainable asphalt mix that reduces emissions, was used to resurface the aircraft parking area using and reused over 1.5 million glass bottles and 330,000 toner cartridges. In 2025, to enhance runway safety, we also installed Australasia's first Engineered Materials Arrestor System (EMAS): a cellular concrete bed designed to squawafely stop overrunning aircraft.

Kā Huanui a Tāhuna Transport Alliance, Queenstown

Downer is a key delivery partner in Kā Huanui a Tāhuna, the Queenstown Transport Alliance delivering a coordinated programme of upgrades across one of New Zealand's fastest growing regions. From revitalising the town centre to improving arterial roads and building safer cycling networks, the alliance is transforming how people move around Tāhuna.

Reliable access on one of New Zealand's most demanding roads

Keeping a vital tourism and transport link safe and accessible, Downer and the NZTA form the Milford Alliance, the Milford Road Alliance supports around 900,000 journeys to Milford Sound each year.

Spanning 120km through the UNESCO Heritage Area Fiordland National Park, this nationally important route faces pressure from slips, avalanches and heavy snowfall, requiring fast, expert response to keep it operational year-round.

Formed in 2016, the Milford Road Alliance brings together deep technical capability and local knowledge to manage this complex corridor. Advanced monitoring systems, including weather stations, CCTV and traffic controls, work alongside engineered solutions such as rockfall barriers and reinforced slopes to reduce risk and maintain access.

Operating in a remote and high-risk environment, teams deliver around-the-clock response to keep road users moving safely.

In 2023, the Alliance received the International Road Federation Global Road Achievement Award for Programme Management, highlighting the consistent delivery approach that keeps this critical infrastructure resilient.



Downer in the South Island

Te whakaahei hapori momoho Enabling communities to thrive

We are a leading provider of integrated services across New Zealand and Australia, delivering and maintaining essential infrastructure that enables communities to thrive.

Our work in New Zealand

190
locations

>8,000
employees

\$200,000
donated to grassroots causes every year

\$62.1M
spend with Amotai-registered businesses



L - R: Downer provides emergency recovery services for critical infrastructure after weather events, operates and maintains the Tasman District three waters infrastructure, and through Hawkins delivered the Christchurch Court

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