

Recent Trends – Limited Geotechnical Reporting for Tenders

We believe a trend has developed where the project engineer or architect commissions a limited geotechnical investigation only. The investigation may outline some preliminary design parameters, state that it is a problem site or just recommend that further investigations be undertaken. It may be useful to the extent that it identifies that piling is required. It may also classify the site and recommend further testing is required to determine the piling design parameters.

We often see this type of report at tender stage. Some engineers are conducting the preliminary investigations and are recommending that further investigations are required and putting the responsibility of conducting these onto the builder or piling contractor. That is fine and we can assist with recommending investigation parameters for further geotechnical investigations so

appropriate design parameters can be determined and probable pile founding depths estimated and consequently piling costs likely to be required.

Recommendations

However I recommend that you allow a provisional sum for the piling works and associated geotechnical reports required. Often we are asked by builders to quote for a specific pile length for costing purposes.

This practice although helpful does not assist the builder to readily quantify the probable cost for the client. It is impossible to accurately quantify the possible piling and foundation costs with only a limited geotechnical investigation. We can estimate or guess at the potential founding depth. We can also draw on local experience. But ultimately it is an educated guess.

