A 1 in 150 year storm hit Northland in late March 2007, with the resulting heavy rain causing a very large slip on Russell Rd, taking out both lanes over a section of some 40 metres. Being a popular Northland holiday and tourist destination as well as servicing local residents, the design and construction team were faced with a short time frame to get the road reopened to the public.

Opus Consultants with input from Fulton Hogan and technical assistance from Geofabrics New Zealand Ltd (formerly Maccaferri NZ Ltd) (for the reinforced soil slope) came up with a combination tie back piling system at the base of the slip with a Tensar RE geogrid reinforced slope. The slope height was up to 12m. This design combination proved very effective in relation to cost, speed of construction and a long term solution.

A significant team worked on the slip repair to rebuild the slope and replace the missing section of carriageway. A combination of hydro seeding and Biomac matting were used to green up the front face of the slope. bidim® A44 was used on top of the slope under the new carriageway pavement construction.