

CASE STUDY

MOKOHINAU LIGHTHOUSE

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INTRODUCTION

Set on the remote Burgess (Pokohinau) Island, 70km off Auckland's coast, the Mokohinau Lighthouse presented a challenging yet rewarding environment for restoration. From 25 March to 26 April 2024, Abseil Access worked under the consultancy of Abseil Access for the client, completing a full repaint and corrosion repair of the historic structure. The project required careful logistics and environmental management to protect the island's unique ecosystem while restoring the lighthouse's cast iron and stone construction.

PROCESS

The scope of work involved transporting all equipment and materials to the island by helicopter, followed by a full water blast clean of the lighthouse structure. Spot repairs were carried out on hundreds of corrosion sites, which were power-tool cleaned to ST3 or spot blasted to Sa 2½ standard before applying a four-coat epoxy system. Additional works included timber window repairs, sealing of astragal window joints, and application of a full urethane topcoat, bringing the total coating system to seven layers on repaired areas. Internal stonework and external sections of the adjoining accommodation building were also repainted. All preparation and coating procedures were conducted in accordance with AS/NZS 2312.1:2014 – PUR6 Industrial Coating Standards.

OUTCOME

A four-person Abseil Access team lived on the island for the project's duration, utilizing rope access techniques to reach all surfaces of the lighthouse safely and efficiently. Despite the remote setting and logistical constraints, the project was completed on time and to the required industrial and environmental standards. The final result restored the lighthouse's structural integrity and aesthetic appeal, extending its service life and preserving one of New Zealand's iconic maritime landmarks.

