

Case Study

Project: **Towra Lagoon Protection**
 Location: **Botany Bay, NSW, Australia**
 Client: **National Parks & Wildlife**
 Contractor: **National Parks & Wildlife**
 Consultant: **WBM Oceanics**
 Date: **July 2000**



ELCOROCK®

Changing wave patterns within Botany Bay threatened the Towra Lagoon, a wetland recognised by the international RAMSAR treaty and once a fresh water supply for Captain James Cook's Endeavour.

Unusually high tides and storms ravaged the Towra Peninsular in 1999 washing away a community built sand bag wall allowing seawater to break through into the lagoon and fill it with sand. In order to return this natural treasure to its former glory, the National Parks & Wildlife service proposed pumping the sand out of the lagoon to form a new protection berm.

In order to provide more reliable protection for the lagoon the NPWS recognised they needed a more substantial structure than the 20kg bags laid previously. However they did not want major earthworks in this environmentally sensitive area and opted for larger 500kg ELCOROCK® containers, which could be placed using a small eight-ton excavator that would limit the damage to the existing flora.

The berm consisted of a sand core encapsulated in ELCOMAX® 600R geotextile covered with an ELCOROCK® armour layer. The local NPWS staff carried out construction of the berm and although the wall was overtopped before it reached full height, which disrupted the works, actual placement of the ELCOROCK® containers went smoothly.



ELCOROCK® containers filled, waiting for placement

A total of 1200m² of ELCOMAX® 600R and 1300 500kg ELCOROCK® containers were used in this project.



Completed berm

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