

# Case Study

Project: **Agnes Water Beach Stairs**  
 Location: **Agnes Water, Central Queensland, Australia**  
 Consultant: **Miriam Vale Shire Council**  
 Date: **September 2007**



## ELCOROCK®

Agnes Water is located 115kms north of Bundaberg in Queensland. Miriam Vale Shire Council (MVSC) had issues with major erosion of the sand dunes along the coastline with multiple tracks being made through the dunes to access the beaches. Along with Greencorp, MVSC's Parks Manager set up a beach management plan. Their plan was to control pedestrian traffic along and through the beach and dunes. Part of their issue was the steep slope down the dune onto the beach.

MVSC approached Geofabrics to design a beach step that would allow easy beach access, approx. 1:1.5 and typically 15m long. The design criteria was an Australian Standard step design, approx. 1800mm in wide, 180mm in height and a step tread width of 300mm. After some trials, Geofabrics suggestion was a UV stable ELCOROCK® container measuring 900mm by 1200mm. The design featured 2 containers per step with total of 20 steps. It was decided due to the "rounded" lip on the containers edge, to place a hand rail in the centre of the walkway, this would keep pedestrians away from the lip.

A trial was set up in August 2007 to ascertain if the container would be suitable and meet the design standard required by MVSC. The trial was reasonably successful with some minor changes made to the containers design. Works started in mid September 2007 and took approximately 2 days to complete, MVSC laying 20 steps (2 bags/step). The Shire's workforce had no previous experience using these containers, so the works were slow going. Work was expected to take approx. 1day. A survey was taken of the site by MVSC as part of their site monitoring.



*ELCOROCK® containers during construction*

ELCOROCK® provided the client with the very good solution - a safe, user friendly system for beach access.

During a recent coastal conference in Bundaberg, a field trip was undertaken to the Agnes Water foreshore, most attendees noted similar views, that the ideology and methodology was good.

MVSC, together with Central Queensland University are continuing to monitor the foreshores over the next 3 years.



*Construction almost complete*



*Project complete*

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