

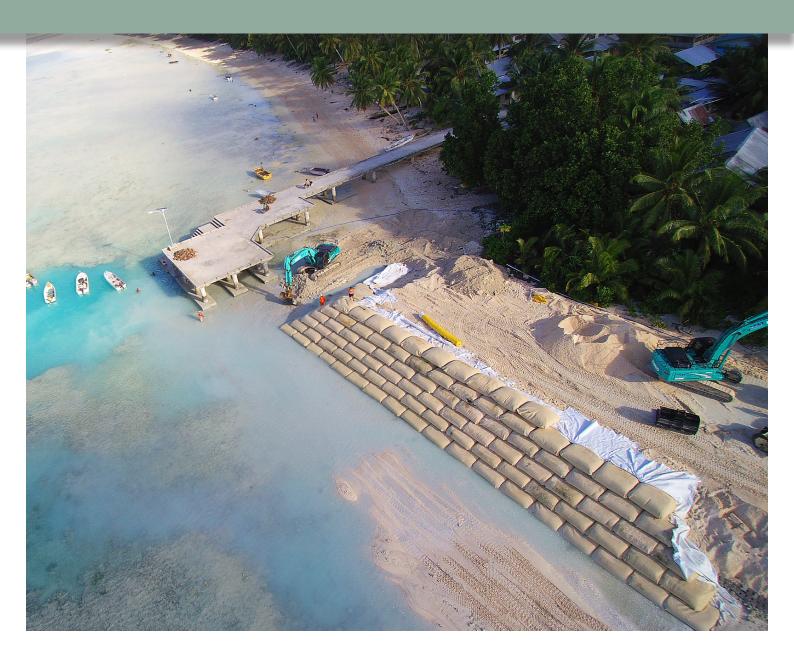
# OUR BUSINESS 2024/25

# **GEOFABRICS**<sup>®</sup> Sustainable solutions





# WORKING WITH CLIENTS TO DEVELOP THE RIGHT SOLUTION FOR EACH INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT



### Who are Geofabrics?

Geofabrics<sup>®</sup> is in the business of building key infrastructure across Australasia and beyond. We are focused on developing new and innovative products and providing our customers with world's best solutions to complete civil projects.

In 2021 we acquired Plascorp<sup>®</sup> to become one of the largest private companies in Australian manufacturing.

### Geofabrics

We have been in the business of geosynthetic engineering for over 40 years. Geosynthetic engineering is the use of synthetic materials in civil engineering projects to achieve more cost effective, environmentally sound and safer construction outcomes.

We manufacture and distribute geosynthetic products throughout Australia, New Zealand, and other international markets. We operate in various sectors with expertise in infrastructure including roads, rail, mining, coastal, waste, sports and recreation, renewables, water, defence, aviation and ports.

Our product innovations include Bidim Green geotextiles and Megaflo Green socked slotted drain pipes, both made utilising recycled plastic material and Sorbseal hybrid geosynthetic clay liners with activated carbon for the containment of environmental contaminants.

### Plascorp

Plascorp has been in the industry for over 50 years and is one of Australia's leading privately owned manufacturers of construction and industrial products including PVC pipe, mine ventilation, steel reinforcement, ducting and hose.

With local manufacturing plants in Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland, Plascorp and Geofabrics share common business philosophies and history.

Plascorp has a strong presence in the commercial, residential and industrial markets which provides opportunities for Geofabrics to grow in these sectors.

### Infrastructure market

We are in an era of unprecedented infrastructure spending with governments in Australasia set to spend over \$100 billion on public infrastructure, roads and rail plus the mining industry contributing another \$34 billion.

### Local manufacturing

Geofabrics are the only geosynthetic manufacturer in Australia. We employ more than 100 manufacturing staff and return more than \$10 million per annum into the regional communities in which we operate.

Apart from providing a more reliable supply chain, shorter lead times and more flexibility, local manufacturing allows us to have more control over decisions that affect the environment. Local content, sustainability and creating local jobs are key pillars driving the Geofabrics business.

Three key products, Megaflo Green socked slotted drain pipe, Elcorock geosynthetic sand containers and Filterwrap Green non-woven geotextiles now carry the recognised Australian Made logo to inform customers they are locally produced, supporting local jobs.

We have been the recipient of various State and Federal Government grants and funding to increase manufacturing of innovative and sustainable products such as Bidim Green, Sorbseal and Megaflo Green.



acquired Plascorp

# 

**370** employees Geofabrics 230 Plascorp 140

Over 6000 customers throughout Oceania





# GEOFABRICS<sup>®</sup> ACADEMY









years of reliable supply

# What does Geofabrics provide?

Our success is based on strong partnerships with clients to solve their engineering problems. Our vision is to be a solution provider, to supply products that demonstrate cost savings, superior technical performance, safer operations and better environmental outcomes.

### **Technical leadership**

### **GEOFABRICS GRID LABORATORY**

We supply world-class technical leadership and engineering support through our innovation, research, industry education, design and independent testing services.

Our GRID (Geosynthetic Research, Innovation and Development) laboratory is a specialist facility that works with clients to develop the right geosynthetic solution for each project.

Based in south east Queensland, the laboratory houses a selection of key geosynthetic-specific test equipment. Testing is aimed at solving the real-world problems that designers, contractors and asset owners find on their site, to ensure the right solution is adopted.

- Analysis is performed according to Australian and international test methods
- Comprehensive test reports are generated, including results, photos, graphs, test conditions and details of the apparatus used
- Research is supported by industry leading suppliers in both laboratory and field trials across America, Europe and Asia

### SECTOR SPECIFIC EXPERIENCE

With experts in each sector, our comprehensive design advice can include stability analysis, typical sections and standard details. We can also assist with product specifications and installation guidelines for tenders.

Our engineers provide our clients with specification reviews, design suggestions and certified designs for geosynthetic applications that are more cost effective and technically superior.

### **INNOVATION AND EDUCATION**

We provide technical and practical education to engineers about the use of geosynthetics in a range of infrastructure projects.

Our team conducts real-world, technical seminars for engineers and contractors to earn CPD hours through our Geofabrics Academy<sup>™</sup>. We also run in-house workshops for our clients and undertake lectures at Universities around Australia and in New Zealand.

We are proud to support the next generation of engineers through sponsorship of PhD candidates.

### **Quality and traceability**

Geofabrics manufactures in compliance with the Australian and International Quality Standards and are ISO 9001 assured. We operate two QA laboratories in Australia – Albury is NATA accredited, Ormeau GRID is GAI LAP accredited and products are tested frequently and transparently.

### Site installation

Geofabrics has the largest regional footprint of any geosynthetic supplier in Australasia. We have sales branches nationally, so we can deliver product where and when you need it and provide local expertise to support your project.

Product installation is critical to project success and local representation can ensure correct procedures and minimal delays.

### **Contractual capacity**

Supply of materials in a timely manner is critical for any project. Australian manufacture allows greater flexibility to adapt and change both the product quantities and scheduling in order to accommodate the clients' requirements during the contract period.





GEOFABRICS LAUNCHED

1987

BIDIM LAUNCHED



AWARDED AUSTRADE AUSTRALIAN EXPORT AWARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS FOR ELCOROCK

# 2018

2020

**RECYCLED MATERIAL INTRODUCED TO BIDIM GREEN** IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VISY



**RECOGNISED IN AFR'S MOST INNOVATIVE COMPANY LIST FOR MANUFACTURING & CONSUMER GOODS FOR BIDIM GREEN** 



AWARDED AFR'S #1 MOST INNOVATIVE COMPANY FOR **MANUFACTURING & CONSUMER** GOODS FOR SORBSEAL

HIGHLY COMMENDED IN IFS CHANGE FOR GOOD AWARDS FOR BIDIM GREEN



GEOFABRICS ACADEMY LAUNCHED



**AUSTRALIAN MADE** FOR MEGAFLO GREEN, ELCOROCK & FILTERWRAP

### **PLASCORP**

GEOFABRICS ACQUIRED PLASCORP

2021

2022



**40 MILLION RECYCLED BOTTLES USED IN** MANUFACTURING

Social Traders BUYER FOR GOOD

**JOINED SOCIAL TRADERS TO** HELP PROMOTE EQUITABLE & SOCIAL PROCUREMENT



**70 MILLION RECYCLED BOTTLES USED IN** MANUFACTURING



SOLAR PV AGREEMENTS IN PLACE AT ALBURY & ORMEAU

SCOPE 182 **BASELINE EMISSION** ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED



2050 NET ZERO

40% 2025

2030

0% REDUCTION



# DEVELOPING PRODUCTS AND SERVICES THAT HAVE POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

### **Sustainability**

We work to protect, contain and secure the physical environment using smart geotextile and geosynthetic products. We help our clients mitigate environmental risk through world leading research and innovative product development.

Providing a use and a market for recycled material is integral to developing a circular economy. By incorporating recycled material into products such as Bidim Green, Tracktex Green, Sealmac Green, Enduraseal Green and Megaflo Green, Geofabrics is helping to reduce waste to landfill and plastic waste into waterways.

We are providing more sustainable products for infrastructure businesses to incorporate into their projects, reducing their own impact on the environment.

#### **Further reducing environmental impact**

When used in infrastructure projects, geotextiles have the added benefit of reducing energy use and carbon emissions as they are lighter and less energy intensive to produce than traditional construction materials such as steel and cement. The use of geotextiles can also reduce the need to transport and use high quantities of quarried materials and aggregates while achieving the same result.

Contaminated sites and landfills which may contain contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) can be contained and sealed using a hybrid clay liner such as Sorbseal. This protects the surrounding environment and waterways from dangerous contaminants that don't break down.

Geotextiles can also be used to prevent erosion to coastal shorelines caused by extreme weather events such as heatwaves, cyclones and floods. The increase in intensity and frequency of these events is being influenced by climate change.

Geosynthetics are also used to promote revegetation and surface protection against wind and water in the rehabilitation of mining sites.

While we are utilising recycled material in manufacturing, we are also implementing changes to reduce our own impact. We have installed solar systems and LED lights across the business, improved the energy efficiency of production and reduced waste.

Geofabrics is a proud member of the Infrastructure Sustainability Council (ISC) and is dedicated to reducing our impact on the environment.





## **Our sustainable manufacturing practices**

In 2022, we benchmarked energy and water consumption, carbon and waste generation in our local manufacturing facilities in Victoria and Queensland.

We have identified and begun implementing cost effective opportunities to reduce our environmental impact whilst increasing productivity and reducing our costs.

We are demonstrating to stakeholders, staff, customers, investors, and the supply chain that we are committed to:



CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN CARBON-FRIENDLY MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT





350+ LOCAL JOBS Future-proofing the business

Creating a positive brand reputation

Adding value through sustainability

Reducing carbon emissions

Goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 2050 CARBON NEUTRAL

Albury manufacturing emission reduction targets identified **419% 13% SCOPE 1 SCOPE 1 SCOPE 2 EMISSIONS** F21/22 **F21/22** 

Ormeau manufacturing emission reduction targets identified

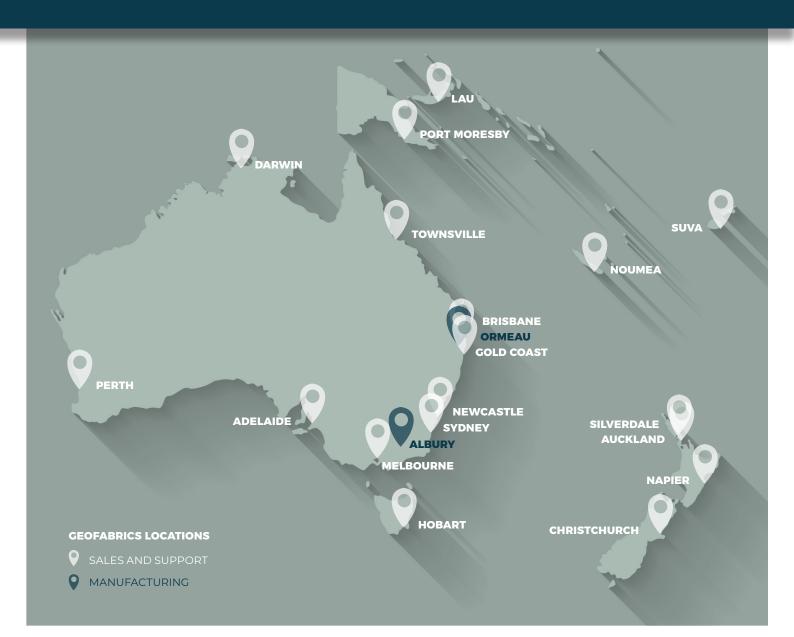


▼9% SCOPE 2 EMISSIONS F21/22





# OUR COMMITMENT TO WORLD-CLASS QUALITY PROVIDES OUR CLIENTS WITH CONFIDENCE



# **Unmatched expertise and support**

We draw from our years of experience to tailor design and provide geosynthetic solutions to best meet our client's performance and economic requirements. Our superior technical support includes early stage testing to validate product selection; design and construction suggestions; certified designs if required, as well as installation systems to increase safety and productivity during installation.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT	<ul> <li>Superior technical support, including design and construction recommendations, construction and installation systems</li> <li>National team of qualified engineers</li> <li>Laboratory and in-situ testing and evaluation of products</li> </ul>
AUSTRALIAN-MADE PRODUCTS	<ul> <li>Proud Australian manufacturer with plants in Albury and Ormeau</li> <li>Megaflo<sup>®</sup> Green socked drain pipes, Elcorock<sup>®</sup> geosynthetic sand containers and Filterwrap<sup>®</sup> Green geotextiles carry the recognised Australian Made logo</li> <li>Actively give preference to Australian suppliers</li> </ul>
LOCAL DISTRIBUTION	<ul> <li>Sales branches throughout Australia with warehouses in capital cities</li> <li>Ensures prompt supply from local stock holdings</li> </ul>
PRODUCT RANGE	<ul> <li>Complete geotextile and geosynthetic range across various sectors including infrastructure, mining, coastal, defence, slopes and walls, waste and water</li> </ul>
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT	<ul> <li>Committed to sustainability and seeking innovative ways that reduce carbon emissions</li> <li>Increase year-on-year of locally-sourced recycled material used in products and packaging</li> </ul>
QUALITY AND REPUTATION	<ul> <li>Australian leader in geosynthetics and geotextiles</li> <li>Reputation for supplying world-class products and technical support</li> <li>ISO 9001 accredited management systems in manufacturing</li> </ul>
INNOVATION AND EDUCATION	<ul> <li>Numerous R&amp;D projects with customers and local Universities</li> <li>Committed to educating the industry about the use of geosynthetics by conducting Geofabrics Academy sessions, in-house workshops and lectures at Universities</li> </ul>
SUPPORT TOOLS	<ul> <li>Wide range of support tools, ranging from design software to installation equipment and literature</li> </ul>
CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY	<ul> <li>Member of Social Traders, an organisation that leads the change for social enterprise procurement to create a more inclusive and equitable Australia</li> <li>Compliant with the Australian Modern Slavery Policy with regular supplier audits</li> </ul>
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION	<ul> <li>Recognised in the Australian Financial Review's Most Innovative Company in 2020 with Bidim Green and 2021 with Sorbseal</li> <li>Winner of the 2018 AusTrade Export Awards for Environmental Solutions in recognition of our Elcorock coastal protection system</li> </ul>
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS AND ACCREDITATIONS	• ISC (Sustainability) • APCO (Sustainability) • Sustainability Victoria • Engineers Australia • WMRR • ACIGS • AGS • Water New Zealand • Austmine • GAILAP • NATA • ISO9001



### Local people

Local manufacturing means we can employ more Australians. We are building a more sustainable workplace that is safe, rewarding and diverse.

Across the business, we are striving to continuously improve our workplaces, support our staff and ensure the safety of our team and customers.

### **Our People**

Our company values centre around having the power to change the game. We will show empathy and act with humility, honesty, transparency and integrity.

- We are committed to ensuring our recruiting practices reflect the diverse community
- Our AccessEAP Employee Assistance Program is focused on helping employees enhance their overall wellbeing
- All employees complete a Mental Health and Wellbeing course
- Significant increase in the reporting of Near Miss Incidents and Hazards demonstrating our commitment to safety
- All employees have access to on-line training modules to keep up-to-date
- Reward and Recognition Program recognises employees for going above and beyond
- Group Service Awards recognise and award employees for years of service

### **Our Community**

Business plays an important role in all communities and participating within the community and supporting services and charities is critical for a thriving society.

### **Social Traders**

We are members of Social Traders, an organisation that leads the charge for social procurement and social enterprise procurement. Social Traders help to create employment and training opportunities for marginalised people and donate over half their profits to charity. We are proud to support an Australian organisation that promotes equitable and social procurement.

Geofabrics provides a level of preference to suppliers that demonstrate social responsibility. Through our membership with Social Traders we are seeking to promote supply chains that drive positive social impact.

#### **Mental Health**

We financially support Mental Health services with a focus on industry. We recognise mental health is a significant challenge for the future and believe business has a role to play.



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### Awards and recognition

### Australian Financial Review (AFR) Most Innovative Company

We are proud to have been recognised in the Australian Financial Review (AFR) Most Innovative Company list in 2020 with Bidim Green.

In 2021, Geofabrics ranked #1 in AFR's Most Innovative Company for Manufacturing and Consumer Goods for Sorbseal.

### AusTrade Australian Export Awards for Environmental Solutions

Geofabrics was the winner of the 2018 AusTrade Australian Export Awards (AEA) for Environmental Solutions.

The AEA is a national program that recognises Australian businesses for their export achievements and contribution to Australia's economic prosperity. Geofabrics secured the award based on the positive environmental impact our Australian made Elcorock geosynthetic sand containers has had on international coastal protection projects in Tuvalu.

The United Nations sponsored a project in Vanuatu to build a 500-metre replacement seawall out of Elcorock, following Tropical Cyclone Pam.

In New Zealand, Geofabrics was involved in a multi-million-dollar project addressing sanitation and environmental issues arising from 'borrow' pits dug on the Pacific's Funafuti Atoll during World War II. This included a significant reclamation area encapsulated by Elcorock.

Geofabrics has also won the Victorian Export Awards for Environmental Solutions for three consecutive years in 2016, 2017, and 2018.



Unlocking business for good



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We promote and encourage our customers to not only buy Australian made products and Australian products that incorporate recycled content, but also to look within their supply chains and to develop enthusiasm for Australian businesses that value social procurement responsibility.

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

In the spirit of reconciliation Geofabrics acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community.

We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

#### **Dennis Grech - CEO and Managing Director**

We are proud of our local manufacturing, our R&D innovation and our capacity to provide sustainable, Australian made products to the market.

We are committed to helping solve environmental problems and reducing the impact of climate change using geosynthetics. We have been working with communities and developing countries in coastal protection for many years.

In 2018, Geofabrics won the AusTrade Australian Export Award for Environmental Solutions for our Australian made Elcorock coastal protection system used in projects in Tuvalu and New Zealand. Now a part of the executive committee of the Australia Pacific Islands Business Council (APIBC), we reaffirm our commitment to support climate resilience in the Pacific Islands.

Across our business, we are members of Social Traders, an organisation that leads the charge for social procurement and social enterprise procurement. Social Traders help to create employment and training opportunities for marginalised people and donate over half their profits to charity. We believe business plays an important role in all communities and being socially responsible is part of that.

We are integrating sustainability into all aspects of the business and are working to reduce our carbon footprint. We have undertaken emission assessments giving us scope 1 and 2 baselines and a carbon opportunities list. Our emissions reduction roadmap and capital project list has been formalised based on these carbon opportunities.

The future looks bright for the business with a number of projects on the go as we strive to reach carbon neutrality.



Geofabrics is the only geotextile manufacturer in Australia, with plants in Albury and Ormeau. We pride ourselves on providing unrivalled service to our customers. We can recommend the best geosynthetic product to achieve the objectives of your project and ensure it's available when you need it.

Over 40 years of experience allows our technical staff to provide practical support, based on local conditions. We are proud to have been recognised in the AFR Most Innovative Company list in 2020 with Bidim Green and 2021 with Sorbseal.

With a view to the future, we are committed to improving the sustainability of our business by reducing waste to landfill, lowering our carbon emissions and investing in our people.

## — FINANCIAL REVIEW BOSS — MOSTINNOVATIVE



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Sustainable solutions