

CASE STUDY

KOOLAN ISLAND HELICOPTER MESHING CAMPAIGN

✉ info@vertechgroup.com.au

🌐 www.vertech.com.au



VERTECH

INTRODUCTION

Rock face stabilisation is vital to ensuring safety in areas where personnel and equipment operate. Traditionally, cranes have been used to deploy stabilising mesh, but access limitations and time constraints posed challenges. This case study highlights an innovative solution adopted by Vertech to improve efficiency and safety in meshing operations.

PROCESS

Drawing on lessons from previous campaigns, Vertech's team introduced the use of helicopters to place mesh rolls more swiftly and in locations unreachable by cranes. Each 300kg roll was accurately positioned with the aid of experienced pilots and detailed pre-planning, including flight path mapping and mesh drop points. The helicopter's downdraft also helped clear dust from the rock face, improving surface conditions before installation.

Rope access teams worked in tandem with aerial operations, particularly on higher or more complex surfaces, combining strengths for safe and effective mesh deployment. Two key campaigns, HEC 12 and HEC 13, involved the placement of over 100 mesh rolls each within just three days.

OUTCOME

The integration of helicopter deployment into Vertech's rock stabilisation process marked a step-change in both safety and productivity. The campaigns at Koolan's central pit were delivered without injury or incident, despite the complexity and scale of the works. By rethinking traditional access methods and embracing aerial solutions, Vertech set a new benchmark for remote stabilisation projects, reinforcing its reputation for innovation and operational excellence.

