The Swan Valley wine growing area, to the east of the Western Australian city of Perth is under increasing pressure to host residential development between the increasing numbers of viticulture enterprises. The establishment of the Brookleigh Estate East wine farm fell within the ‘Caversham Transition Lot Management Plan’, which provides requirements for the buffering of agricultural activities from predicted future residential developments. Particular focus is given to the requirement to reduce the potential for spray drift of the herbicides and pesticides used on wine crops.

Research undertaken by the University of Queensland into the effectiveness of artificial wind breaks established the fundamental requirements of an acceptable fence. Parafence™ was independently assessed, by Stranegan Environmental Consultants, who concluded “The open spaces between the webs provide a porous barrier that allows air flow through the fence but at a greatly reduced net velocity due to the drag induced by the contact of the air with the web. The reduction in wind velocity from the fence also reduces the likelihood of re-entrainment of dust into the air”.

Additionally, they stated “The Parafence™ (with its 45% porosity) is expected to deliver slightly superior spray drift removal than a fence with 50% porosity as specified by the Australian Planning Commission”. The Parafence™ system was subsequently approved for use by the City of Swan.

In the first phase of work, during April 2014, 900 linear meters of 2.8m height Type 5 Parafence 400 was installed. The second stage of work, involved the installation of another 300 linear meters of fence during late 2014.