

## **New data from Little Llangothlin Lagoon, New England Tablelands, eastern Australia, indicate no significant post-European erosion.**

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Paleoenvironmental reconstructions from Little Llangothlin Lagoon in northern New South Wales have been used to argue for very early European impact on the eastern Australian landscape. In particular, these studies have argued for European arrival on the New England Tablelands at about 1800 AD, causing significant erosion by 1836 AD (e.g. Gale et al., 1995; Gale and Haworth, 2002, 2005). These findings have been controversial because they suggested European occupation prior to the official settlement of the area and extremely soon after the settlement of Sydney. Cores recently dated using <sup>210</sup>Pb and radiocarbon from the lagoon (Woodward et al., 2011) challenge these interpretations. The results indicate that very little sedimentation occurred in the last 180 years and that a major erosional spike attributed previously to European disruption of the catchment considerably pre-dates any European influence. Consequently the scale of any European settlement impact at this site is much reduced.

In fact, Little Llangothlin is interesting because of the relative lack of impact from European clearance. The factors controlling this probably relate to the low topography of the surrounding landscape which has minimised erosion into the basin and the at least partially ephemeral nature of the lagoons.

### References:

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