

# CONSERVING AND MANAGING EXISTING NATIVE VEGETATION

## **What is the value of native vegetation on a riverbank?**

The presence of native vegetation in a riparian area is an invaluable asset to a property. Stabilising soils and reducing erosion, filtering water runoff therefore reducing nutrient and sediment from entering waterways, protection for crops, providing important habitat for wildlife (including birds and fish), are just a few of the values associated with native vegetation.

## **Get to know the native riparian vegetation on your property?**

Assessing existing vegetation is the first step in restoring the health of the native vegetation on your property. Unlike other areas of the farm, untidiness is a positive feature of native vegetation: over-mature trees, dead trees, fallen logs, river snags, bush rocks, tree hollows and a diverse understorey of saplings, bushes and groundcovers are all vital to biodiversity.

Controlling weeds, reducing the impacts of livestock on native vegetation through fencing, and planning to expand areas of native vegetation through planting and natural regeneration, are all ways of improving the health of the native riparian vegetation.

**Riparian** areas are places where land adjoins rivers and streams. They support a wide range of plants and animals that contribute to water quality in the Richmond River.





# Best Management Practice for conserving and managing existing native vegetation.

Checklist	Yes	No	Solution
Is there native riparian vegetation on the Property?	✓		Inspect the vegetation for presence of weeds. Far North Coast Weeds or Landcare to assist with species identification.
Can I get funding to conserve native vegetation?	✓		Bush regeneration and fencing are ways of conserving areas of native vegetation. Contact Landcare for information about funding availability.
Can I identify weeds amongst the native vegetation ?		✓	Refer to "Lower Bungawalbin Riparian-Restoration Project—weed guide". Also contact Far North Coast Weeds.
Can these areas of vegetation be expanded through further planting?	✓		Refer to "Revegetating streams in the Richmond Catchment" for local native species, and advice on where to plant particular species on a riverbank.

## Where to find help.

### Your local Contacts:

#### Richmond River County Council

Floodplain Project Officer

**P:** 0266 218 314 **E:** floodplain@rrcc.nsw.gov.au

#### Lismore City Council

Environmental Strategies Team

**P:** 1300 878 387

#### Office of Environment and Heritage

Coast and Estuaries Officer

**P:** 0266 270 200

#### North Coast Local Land Services

**P:** 1300 795 299 **E:** admin.northcoast@lls.nsw.gov.au

### For advice on weed management:

#### Far North Coast Weeds

**P:** 0266 233 833 **E:** fncw@fncw.nsw.gov.au

### For advice on funding options:

#### Richmond Landcare inc.

**P:** 0266 191 582 **E:** info@richmondlandcare.org

#### Northern Landcare Support Services

**P:** 02 6632 3722 **E:** info@nlss.com.au

### Further reading:

"Revegetating Streams in the Richmond Catchment", Provides detailed information on species selection and planting.

**Note: The information and best practice approaches provided in the enclosed publications are current, however some of the contact details may have changed.**

**For further information refer to the contact list provided**