

# BANK EROSION AND BANK STABILISATION

## **What causes bank erosion ?**

*Although it is a natural process for a river bank to slowly erode and change, there are impacts on a waterway that can trigger accelerated rates of erosion affecting bank stability. Bank erosion can lead to streams widening and shallowing with a loss of valuable farming land, riverbank and navigable waterways.*

*For example: - clearing of vegetation, livestock access to waterways, increased wave action due to recreational boats, concentrated areas of runoff, poorly managed vehicle tracks as well as high velocity flows of flood water. .*

## **Why is erosion considered a problem?**

*Eroding soil and associated nutrients are the most important and widespread causes of reduced water quality which impacts overall river system health. Also valuable land, pastures and stock can be lost and other industries such as fisheries affected.*

## **What can be done about it?**

*In cases of extensive and serious erosion, engineered works may be required. These works can be further stabilised with appropriate native vegetation management. Fencing stock, revegetating banks and maintaining river snags can all assist in preventing further erosion.*

*For all works adjacent to a river or stream, a permit is generally required under the Water Act from NSW Office of Water. Contact NOW prior to the commencement of any works and preferably during the planning of any works.*



**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 Bank Erosion and Bank Stabilisation

Checklist	Yes	No	Solution
<p><b>What is causing erosion problems on the property?</b></p> <p><b>Assess and prioritise areas of erosion.</b></p>	✓		<p>Make a plan of action beginning with preventative measures (eg fencing stock)</p> <p>Read through attached information for ideas on erosion control methods.</p> <p>Regulations may apply to earthworks undertaken on a riverbank. Contact local NSW Fisheries representative 0266 261 269 before commencing any work.</p>
<p><b>Stock access, creek crossings, drains and areas of concentrated runoff all can contribute to erosion.</b></p>	✓		<p>Read through attached information about fencing stock, constructing fish friendly permanent crossings, improving drainage and areas of concentrated runoff, as well as other erosion management information.</p>
<p><b>Should your banks be revegetated?</b></p>	✓		<p>Refer to "Revegetating streams in the Richmond Catchment". For native plant species advice.</p>

## Where to find help.

### 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 I  
in the Richmond Catchment"

"Stock and waterways—a managers  
guide"

Lwa.gov.au/files/products/river-  
landscapes/pr061132/pr061132.pdf

**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**