

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

STREAM BANK ZONE

What is the stream bank zone ?

The stream bank zone is the area adjoining a waterway including the vegetation on both the banks up to 40 metres from the waterway channel.

Why do we need to manage it ?

- to maintain good water quality
- to prevent erosion
- to maintain aquatic habitat
- to provide a wildlife corridor

What can I do ?

There are a number of things you can do to improve the sustainability and health of the stream bank. As a first step, the stream bank zone should be managed to allow controlled access of stock and to assist regeneration and weed control.

- willow control
- weed control
- revegetation, and
- structural works.

Facts sheets on each of these activities is attached.

Some general principles :

- don't build structures on, or close to a stream bank,
- leave a buffer zone
- don't remove trees, shrubs or grasses from the stream bank (unless noxious weeds)
- only allow stock watering points on gently sloping banks, and ensure erosion control measures are in place, eg paved ramp etc.
- don't allow excessive build-up of debris in the stream which can divert the stream flow
- access ramps to the stream should only be built on the inside of bends
- never excavate a stream without getting advice and permission !

!!! Remember: any works undertaken on a stream, creek or river may require a permit or permission from one or more agencies - ask for advice !!!

Who can help ?

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