Living on the waterways in the Richmond Catchment

A resource kit for riparian landholders

This Education Kit provides information on best practice riparian management relevant to the Lower Richmond catchment. The kit contains information on industry best practice, stream bank management, weed profiles, weed control; species lists for planting, revegetation techniques and erosion control and riverbank stability.

The information has been sourced from a range of existing publications.

The benefits of sound riparian management include reduced stock losses, shelterbelt effects, shading to improve water quality, habitat creation, stabilisation of riverbanks and improved fisheries values.

Richmond River County Council (RRCC) identified a need to improve water quality within the Richmond River. Ongoing programs of restoration and rehabilitation works within the riparian zones of the river are assisting in addressing this need.

To provide focus for riparian restoration a Geographic Information System (GIS) assessment was undertaken to categorise the riparian zone in terms of restoration priority.

The next stage of the project was the preparation of a survey to establish the view, values and needs of landowners with riparian land.

The final stage of the project was to prepare an education kit for riparian landowners.

The Study Area was determined to be within a 5 kilometre buffer around 12 existing management zones (Management Zones of the Lower Richmond Catchment) (**Figure 1**).

This project focused on water quality and bank stabilisation. Vegetation in good condition was considered a lower priority for restoration as the stream banks were generally in good condition. Nevertheless, the principles of expanding and protecting existing good vegetation were considered to be of high importance. Larger areas of vegetation are easier to maintain as there are less edge effects, but riparian vegetation often comprises linear strips along streambanks.

The key aim was to identify areas of stream bank that were currently eroding or at risk of erosion (outer bends on erodible soils) where there would be greatest likelihood of successful revegetation by connecting and extending areas of existing good vegetation.
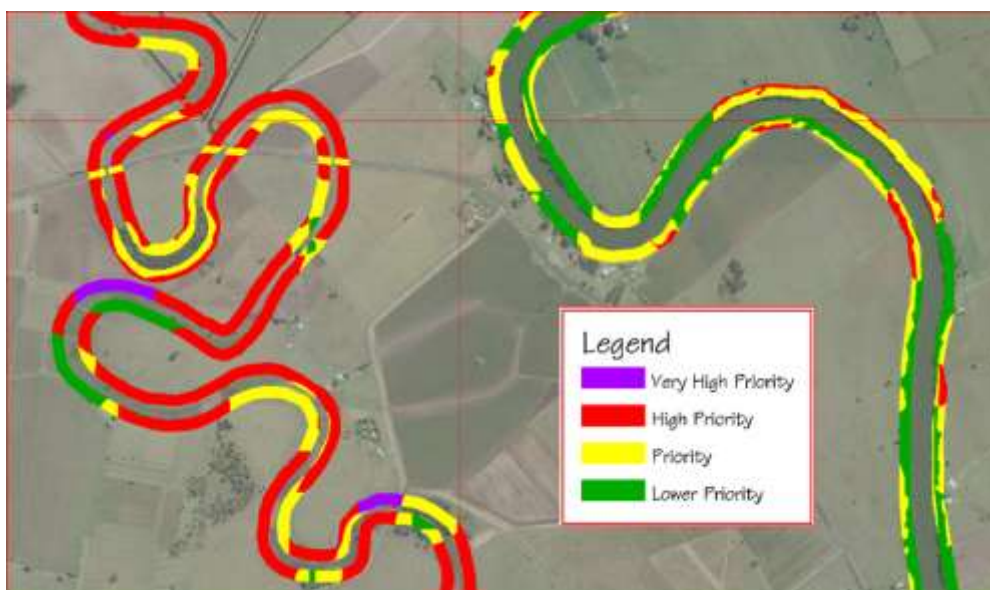
Mapping Example at 1:15000 scale.