

# MANAGING LIVESTOCK IN RIPARIAN ZONES

## **The benefits of fencing livestock from waterways**

**Fencing waterways and controlling stock access is often regarded as the first stage to improving a waterway. Fencing will promote:**

- ⇒ **Bank stability by assisting in protection or recovery of native riparian vegetation.**
- ⇒ **Improved water quality through reduced input of faecal nutrients and sediments.**
- ⇒ **Improved aquatic habitat for fish and other species.**
- ⇒ **Improved stock health through clean drinking water.**
- ⇒ **Reduced stock loss from bogging and drowning.**
- ⇒ **Better control over stock and reduced mustering times.**
- ⇒ **Improved aesthetic qualities of the farm.**

## **How can livestock access drinking water?**

**There are several options for providing stock with water. They can be watered from a stream or river without undue damage to the bank if a formed access point is built at a carefully selected section of the river. A watering system can be provided within the fenced area away from the river. As each situation is different it is important to investigate all options for the right solution for your property.**

**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 Practice for managing livestock in a Riparian Zone

Checklist	Yes	No	Solution
Is bank erosion on your property caused by livestock?	✓		Observe the patterns of stock movement around your waterways. Look at ways to prevent access, providing them with water at another location. Refer to "Managing stock in and around waterways", for a ideas on a solution that will prevent further erosion.
Investigate a watering solution for stock that reduces or prevents access to waterways.	✓		Read enclosed information "Livestock management watering points and pumps".
Look at fencing behind the high bank. This riparian area can be rehabilitated with native vegetation.	✓		Mark out an area for fencing that includes and extends beyond the highest bank. Refer to "Revegetating streams in the Richmond Catchment" for advice on local native plant species. Contact Landcare for advice.
What type of fencing is required? Investigate your options. Do you need to consider floods with your fencing?	✓		There are many types of fencing, refer to enclosed publications including the DPI information "Fencing riparian zones".
Contact your neighbours and pool resources and expertise.	✓		

## 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:

"Stock and Waterways, a managers guide"

[lwa.gov.au/files/products/river-landscapes/pr061132/pr061132.pdf](http://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**