

THE IMPORTANCE OF WETLANDS

- **What is a wetland?**

Existing wetlands can be identified as those areas on the farm that are last to drain, remain boggy longest and typically grow wetland vegetation species, including tea tree, sedges and rushes.

They can be tidal and include Saltmarsh and mangroves, they can be brackish or freshwater.

Wetlands support a range of wildlife including frogs, insects, waterbirds, prawns and fish. A mat of exotic pasture species such as Para Grass can also cover wetland areas.

- **Why are these areas so important?**

Wetlands can add value to a property in terms of productivity , catchment health and the natural environment.

They can slow down floodwaters thus reducing erosion; help remove nutrients and pollutants from water reducing the risk of algal blooms and poor water quality downstream; provide opportunistic grazing and cropping.

Wetlands are bordered by riparian zones and support a wide range of plants and animals that contribute to water quality in the Richmond River



Best Management Practice for Wetlands

Checklist	Yes	No	Solution
Can wetlands be integrated into my farming management	✓		Refer to “Managing stock in wetland grazing”, and “Stock and waterways—a managers guide” for information and advice.
Can stock access the wetland?	✓		Investigate the possibility of fencing out stock from the wetland. This will benefit overall waterway health.
Can wetlands have seasonal grazing?	✓		Refer to “Managing stock in wetland grazing” for advice on managing stock seasonally within a wetland.
Should the wetland be fenced	✓		The water quality and plant species in the wetland will benefit if the impacts from stock are reduced.
Is the wetland important to local birdlife?	✓		Observe bird activity in your wetland areas. Excluding stock when waterbirds may be nesting or migratory birds temporarily inhabit the wetland is beneficial to the entire wetland ecosystem. Refer to enclosed information about waterbirds and wetlands

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

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