

Appendix 3

Riparian Revegetation: Riparian revegetation is undertaken to replace riparian vegetation lost through erosion, clearing and grazing.

The riparian zone is the area of land that adjoin river banks, floodplains, lake foreshores and wetland fringes.

Benefits include:

- Assisting channel stability and reducing rates of erosion.
- Improving aquatic and terrestrial ecology values of a waterway.
- Improving the social and economic values of a waterway.

Revegetation works are typically complimented by stock exclusion (or controlled grazing) and weed management works.

Healthy riparian zones are essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems and economic productivity along rivers. The banks of many of the rivers flowing through the fertile floodplains of lowland Tasmania have been cleared and replaced with pasture or willow. This has been detrimental to the health and ecology of the state's river systems.



Riparian revegetation before and after establishment

Management Issues:

- Riparian land is often highly productive making it vulnerable to overuse.
- Loss of vegetation through stock trampling and grazing, leaving bare banks that are more vulnerable to erosion.
- Weeds will compete with native species for light and nutrients, often growing faster than their native counterparts.
- Large woody debris is a term used to describe river snags. De-snagging rivers leads to loss of habitat and increases flow rate which results in channel erosion.

General guidelines :

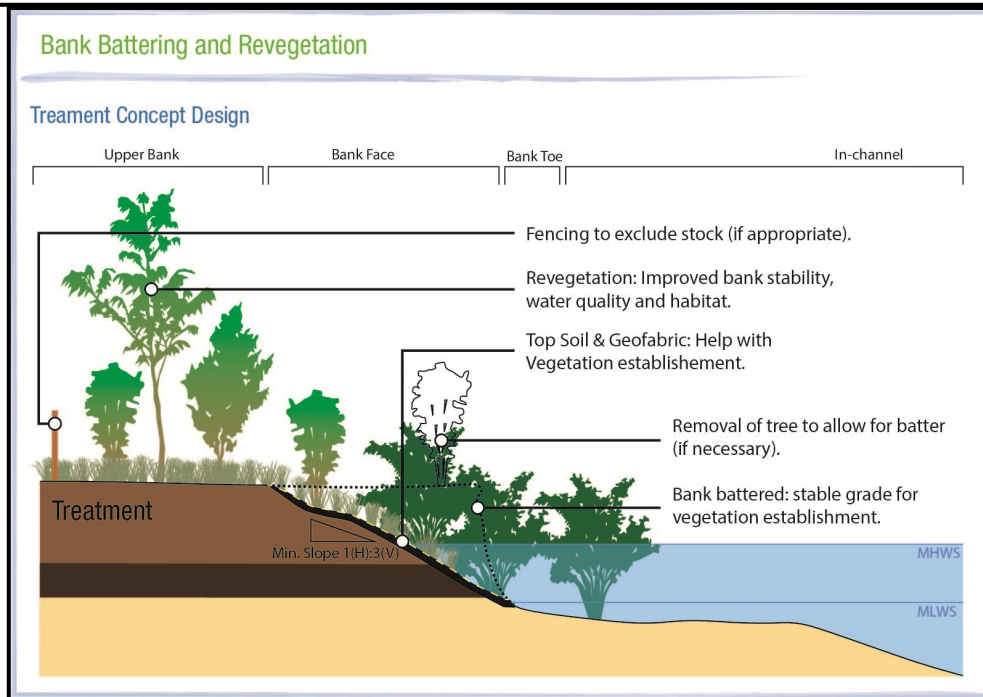
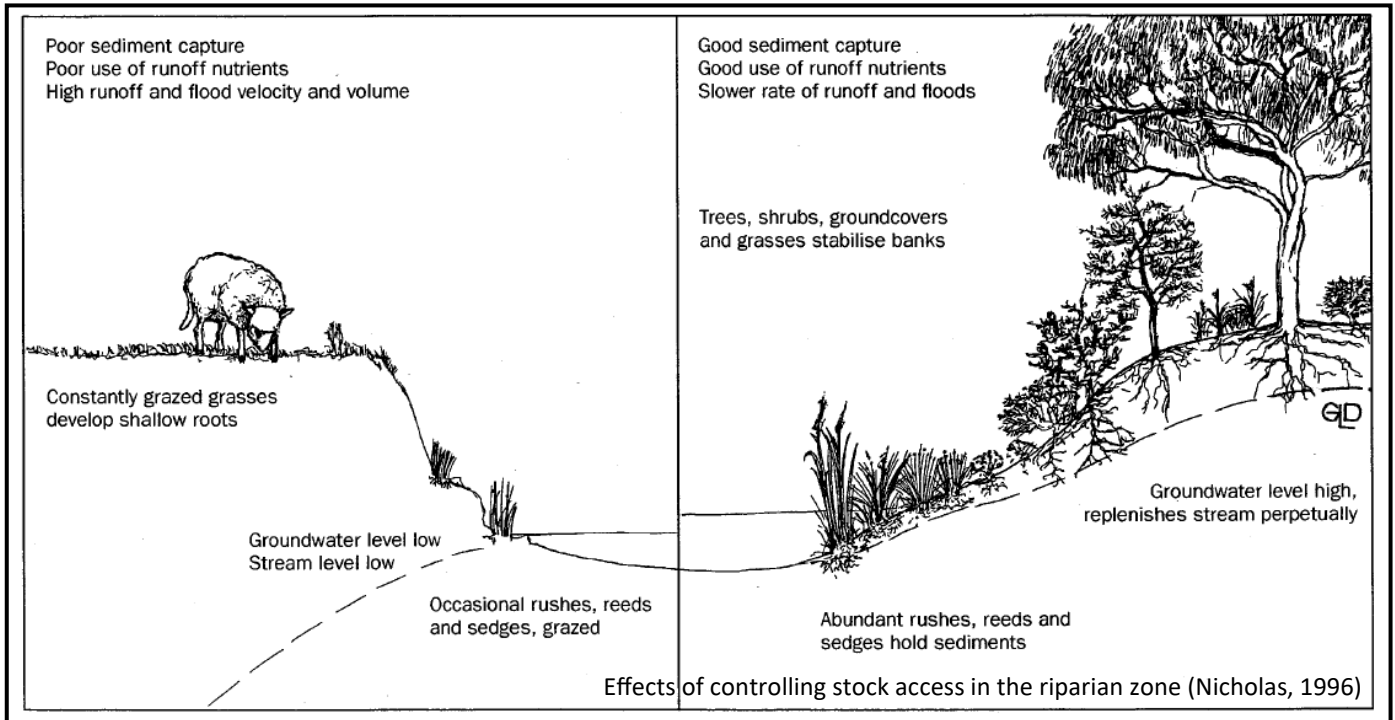
- Establishing and retaining a healthy native riparian vegetation represents the most cost effective long term solution to riverbank erosion
- Fencing is an obvious necessity for the exclusion of livestock from areas of vegetation establishment.
- A vegetation survey in an adjoining or nearby stream system with riparian vegetation will assist identification of the most appropriate species. Take note of where particular species occur in relation to the river (upper, mid & lower bank).
- Preferably a range of species should be used, including trees, shrubs and ground covers.
- Prior to planting seedlings, reduce weed cover as much as possible from the planting area.
- Soil preparation, the aim is to create good tilth (loose friable soil) in which to plant your seedlings.
- Newly planted seedlings may need protection from browsing or trampling from domestic or native animals
- Gently water new plants with a few litres of water over the first year of their life.

A cross section of riparian vegetation and effects of stock on vegetation is provided in Figure 1 & Figure 2.

Riparian Revegetation

Appropriate authorisation of works

Guidelines are for general advice only and do not account for site specific conditions. Works approval may be required at local, state or commonwealth government level. Advice should be sought from council or DPIWE before starting works.



Helpful References

- Nicholas, S. & Mack, P 1996, Manage Your Banks: A Practical Guide to Streamside Management Fencing and Water Supplies, The Goulbourn Valley Environmental Group, Victoria.
- Revegetation Projects, best practice guide for Tasmania, <http://www.nrmnorth.org.au/reports-and-manuals>
- Environmental Best Practice Guidelines 7. Managing Riparian Vegetation, Waterways & Wetlands Works Manual 2003, DPIWE, <http://dpiwe.tas.gov.au/conservation/flora-of-tasmania/tasmanian-vegetation-types/about-tasmanias-wetlands/wetlands-waterways-works-manual>
- A Guide to Riparian Vegetation and its Management by Sarah Munks, 1996.