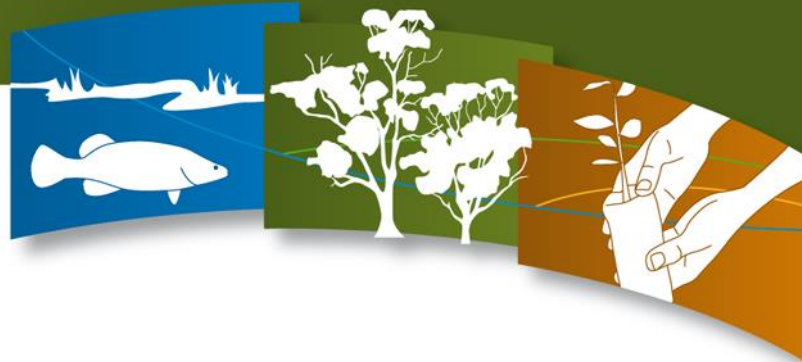


Works on Waterway Guidelines

Tree Planting



Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People

Introduction

The retention and establishment of native vegetation along streams and waterways is important and is to be encouraged to:

- Protect and stabilise the stream banks from erosion.
- Provide habitat for native fauna.
- Provide wildlife corridors to link areas of remnant vegetation.
- Provide wind breaks and shelter for stock.
- Provide aesthetic value for the community.
- Ensure continuity of native vegetation when the current mature vegetation begins to decline.

Potential Waterway Impacts

Potential impacts include:

- Planting of non-indigenous plants may become a future management problem.
- Non-indigenous plants can take over completely from native vegetation resulting in loss of biodiversity.
- Potential to make it harder to control weeds.
- Perceived increase in fire risk.

Assessment Criteria

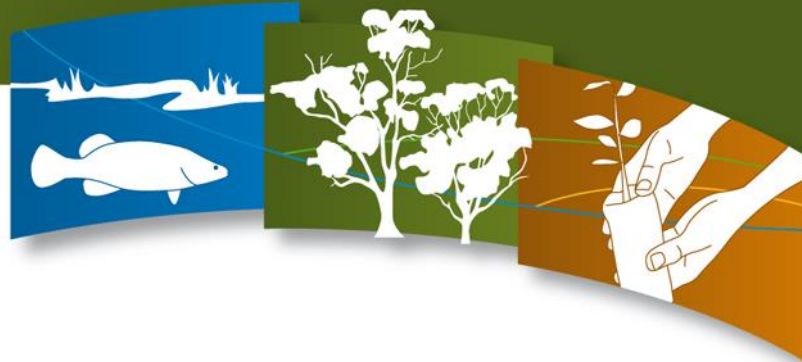
Indigenous Plants

The applicant should specify the type, source and density of plants. The preferred plants are those that are native and indigenous to the locality (refer to the appropriate Environmental Vegetation Class), especially those raised from local seed stock. These plants are preferred as they are adapted to the local environment and will restore and enhance the biodiversity value of the area.

A common feature of stream landscapes is the lack of understorey plants. Where there is a good cover of trees, the emphasis should be directed to improving the understorey plantings, including sedge species and native grasses, whilst not overlooking the regeneration of overstorey species.

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The planting of non-indigenous plants would not be acceptable.

Establishment Techniques

The applicant is to specify the planting techniques to be used. Natural regeneration alone may be feasible after the exclusion of stock and should always be considered.

Vegetation can be established from seeds or seedlings. Broadcast seeding or direct drilling is cheaper than planting seedlings. However, there is less control over the extent and density of germination and survival of germinants is less certain than seedlings.

Whichever technique is used, it is important to ensure adequate and appropriate site preparation and post establishment maintenance. Best practice includes:

- Post hole borers or water jets to dig planting holes. When using this technique, the operation needs to be followed up with a crow bar or similar to roughen the sides of the planting holes to ensure that the seedlings do not become root bound within the planting hole. Please note ripping is not permitted within 200 m of a designated waterway.
- Weed control with knock down herbicide to minimise weed competition.
- Weed control mats and tree guards.
- Fencing to exclude stock and / or rabbits. For seedlings, this may mean either the erection of guards around individual seedlings or fencing of the re-establishment area. For broadcast seed sites it means the latter. Stock should be excluded until seedlings well established and a controlled grazing regime should not hinder any natural regeneration.
- Application of starter fertiliser to ensure fast early growth to assist with survival from weed competition should be considered.
- Ensuring adequate moisture conditions. In the absence of adequate rainfall, it may be necessary to provide supplementary moisture by watering, especially through the first summer after establishment. If this becomes necessary, watering should be infrequent but heavy to ensure adequate establishment of the root systems at depth. This will assist with both root vigour and drought survival.
- An on-going management plan to control weeds and grazing.