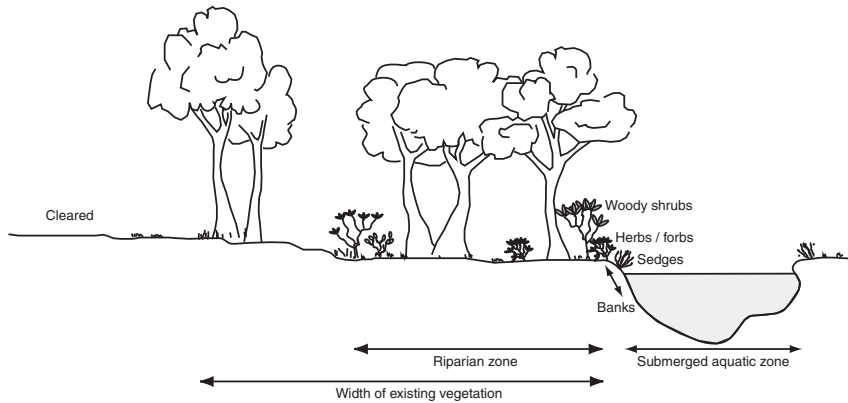


Riparian vegetation record sheet—Method 3

Date (dd/mm/yy) / / Monitor(s) _____
 Site code _____ Tributary name _____

The riparian zone is a band of vegetation along a stream or river that is directly linked to the stream. Riparian vegetation is dependent on the extra moisture provided by the water body, and provides leaf and branch litter to the stream. The riparian zone selected for assessment should be relatively homogenous and representative of the area. Highly disturbed riparian zones may be very thin and patchy.



1. Bank vegetation

Complete the following measurements for each bank.

Left bank	Measurement	Right bank
	Width of existing vegetation (m)	
	Percent bare of vegetation	
	Number of canopy gaps (> 5 m)	

2. Vegetation cover

Estimate the overall percentage of cover for each vegetation class, plus the amount of that cover consisting of introduced plant species. Assess the left and right banks independently.

Cover type	Left bank		Right bank		Visual guide
	% total cover	% introduced cover	% total cover	% introduced cover	
Trees > 30 m					1-10%
Trees 10-30 m					20-30%
Woody shrubs > 2 m					40-50%
Woody shrubs < 2 m					70-80%
Vines					90%+
Rushes and sedges					
Herbs and forbs					
Grasses					
Tree ferns					
Ferns and bracken					
Mosses					
Palms					
Freshwater wetland					
Total introduced cover (%)					

Note: % introduced cover is a percentage of the % total cover

Riparian vegetation record sheet—Method 3 page 2

3. Native regeneration

Mark one box for each bank that best describes the state of native vegetation regeneration at your site. Assess the left and right banks independently.

Left bank			Native vegetation regeneration score	Right bank		
None	Minor	Major		None	Minor	Major

4. Riparian species relative abundance

Assess the relative abundance of the listed plant species using the 0 to 5 rating. Examine each bank independently.

Plant species	Left bank	Right bank
Local native plants		
Wattles (<i>Acacia</i> spp.)		
Gums (<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp.)		
Rainforest species		
She-oak (<i>Casuarina</i> spp.)		
Paperbark (<i>Melaleuca</i> spp.)		
Bottlebursh (<i>Calistemon</i> spp.)		
Native pine (<i>Callitris</i> spp.)		
Figs (<i>Ficus</i> spp.)		
Lilly pilly (<i>Waterhousea</i> spp.)		
<i>Grevillea</i> spp.		
<i>Brachychiton</i> spp.		
Black bean		
Mat rush (<i>Lomandra</i> spp.)		
Introduced plants		
Camphor laurel (<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>)		
Chinese elm (<i>Celtis</i> spp.)		
Introduced pine		
<i>Lantana</i> spp.		
Privets (<i>Ligistrum</i> spp.)		
Madeira vine		
Cat's claw creeper		
Introduced grass		
Thistle		
Willow (<i>Salix</i> spp.)		
Mulberry (<i>Morus</i> spp.)		
Pepper tree		
Noogoora burr (<i>Xantium pungens</i>)		
Castor oil plant (<i>Ricinus communis</i> spp.)		
Mexican poppy (<i>Argemone ochroleuca</i>)		

The 0 to 5 rating scale

5 = major, dominant; 81–100%
 4 = common, abundant; 61–80%
 3 = regular, frequent; 41–60%
 2 = little, occasional; 21–40%
 1 = present, rare; 1–20%
 0 = absent

Visual guide to distribution ratings

The visual guide shows five boxes representing different abundance levels. Box 5 is filled with a dense, overlapping pattern of plant symbols. Box 4 has a moderate density of symbols. Box 3 has a sparse distribution of symbols. Box 2 has only a few symbols scattered across the box. Box 1 has a single symbol in the corner. Box 0 is empty.

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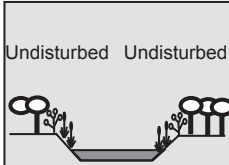
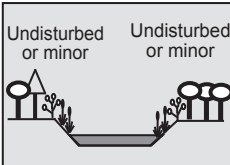
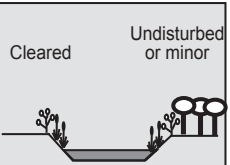
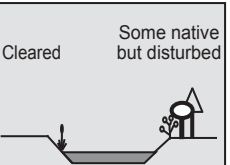
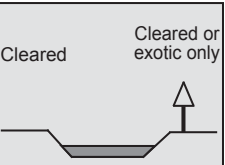
Note: The species list should change in accordance with your project objectives—what plants are important for your program—and can include both native and introduced species.

5. Riparian zone disturbance index

This score is derived using complex formulas and should be calculated off-site. Copy the results to this sheet.

Riparian vegetation disturbance index:

Note: Use the diagrams below to assist you to interpret your results by comparing them with your site.

Excellent	Good	Moderate	Poor	Very poor
 <p>Undisturbed Undisturbed</p>	 <p>Undisturbed or minor Undisturbed or minor</p>	 <p>Cleared Undisturbed or minor</p>	 <p>Cleared Some native but disturbed</p>	 <p>Cleared Cleared or exotic only</p>
<p>Native vegetation on both sides of the stream in an undisturbed state. Introduced plants are rare or insignificant. Representative of natural vegetation in excellent condition. Riparian zone width > 40 m.</p>	<p>Native vegetation on both sides of the stream in generally good condition with few introduced plants present. Any disturbance is minor. Riparian zone width < 40 m but still wide.</p>	<p>Both sides moderately disturbed by stock or through intrusion of introduced plants, or one side cleared and other side undisturbed native vegetation, or narrow width of native plants on both sides.</p>	<p>One bank cleared and other side moderate disturbance through intrusion of introduced plants or stock, or narrow riparian widths dominated by introduced plants.</p>	<p>Riparian vegetation is absent or severely reduced. Vegetation present is extremely disturbed—i.e. dominated by introduced plants. Native plants are rare or completely absent.</p>