

# Waterway Definitions

<b>Aquatic</b>	something that is living or growing in the water
<b>Aquifer</b>	an underground layer of permeable rock, sediment (usually sand or gravel), or soil that stores water. The pore spaces in aquifers are filled with water and are interconnected, so that water flows through them.
<b>Benthic</b>	'bottom dwelling' (such as the bottom of a watercourse or water body)
<b>Biological indicator</b>	species which can be used by observers to determine how various conditions in an environment have changed over time.
<b>Channelisation</b>	to modify or alter a natural water course
<b>Chemical properties</b>	the properties that describe a material's ability to withstand attack by solvents, water or other external agents
<b>Condensation</b>	when a gas or vapour changes to its liquid form. When water vapour cools in the atmosphere, it condenses into tiny drops of water, which form clouds.
<b>Conductivity</b>	the ability or power to conduct heat, electricity or sound
<b>Contour lines</b>	lines on a map that join points of equal height or elevation
<b>Cyclic</b>	recurring in cycles
<b>Dissolved oxygen</b>	is the amount of oxygen dissolved in water, expressed as mg/L
<b>Ecosystem</b>	a community of organisms interacting with each other and with their environment
<b>Effluent</b>	liquid discharged as waste, for instance from a factory or sewage works
<b>Environmental weed</b>	naturalised non-indigenous plant species, outside the agricultural or garden context, which adversely affects the survival or regeneration of indigenous species in natural or partly natural vegetation communities.
<b>Erosion</b>	the wearing away of the surface of the earth by water, wind, ice or waves (natural erosion). This can be accelerated by human activities (accelerated erosion).
<b>Eutrophication</b>	having waters rich in mineral and organic nutrients that promote a proliferation of plant life, especially algae, which reduces the dissolved oxygen content and often causes the extinction of other organisms.
<b>Evaporation</b>	the change of a liquid (such as water) into a vapour by heat
<b>Exotic</b>	from another part of the world
<b>Flow rate</b>	the amount of fluid (such as water) that flows in a given time
<b>Flow regime</b>	the natural variation in the flow of a water course
<b>Impervious</b>	not allowing the penetration of water into or through the surface
<b>Infiltration</b>	the slow passage of a liquid (water) through soil and into an underground aquifer
<b>Herbicide</b>	a chemical used to kill plants and weeds
<b>Indicator</b>	a device, mechanism or organism used to point out changes
<b>Macroinvertebrates</b>	an animal without a backbone usually in a nymph or larval stage
<b>Meander</b>	to follow a winding and turning course
<b>Native</b>	an animal or plant that originated in a particular place or region, also known as 'indigenous'

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<b>Nitrogen</b>	a colourless, odourless, gaseous element that forms approximately 80% of earth's atmosphere. Also found in animal and plant tissues and is used in fertilisers.
<b>Nutrient</b>	a substance that provides nourishment for growth or metabolism. Plants absorb nutrients mainly from the soil in the form of minerals and other inorganic compounds, and animals obtain nutrients from ingested foods.
<b>Organic material</b>	derived from living organisms (plants and animals)
<b>Pesticide</b>	chemicals used to kill plant or animal pests
<b>pH</b>	is the measure of how acidic, or alkaline a solution is. Measured on a scale of 0 to 14, neutral solutions (such as pure water) have a pH of 7, acidic solutions have a pH value below 7, and alkaline solutions above 7.
<b>Phosphorous</b>	is a highly reactive, poisonous, non-metallic element occurring naturally in inorganic phosphate rocks. Phosphorous compounds are widely used in matches, pesticides, toothpaste and detergents.
<b>Physical properties</b>	any aspect of an object or substance that can be measured or perceived without changing its identity.
<b>Point source pollution</b>	a single point of pollutant discharge, such as effluent from a sewage treatment plant or an industrial wastewater treatment plant
<b>Precipitation</b>	a form of water, such as rain, snow, or sleet, that condenses from the atmosphere, becomes too heavy to remain suspended, and falls to the Earth's surface.
<b>Rain event</b>	the period of time of which rain falls continuously e.g. a shower or a storm
<b>Rehabilitation</b>	to restore something to its former condition
<b>Residue</b>	what is left over after something has been removed
<b>Riparian</b>	belonging to or living along side a water course, lake or swamp
<b>Riparian vegetation</b>	plant communities existing along the riparian corridor
<b>Run-off</b>	the flow of water across the land
<b>Sedimentation</b>	the depositing of sediments (soil, rock, organic material), generally by water
<b>Topographic map</b>	a map that shows the ground surface features of a particular location, usually by contour lines
<b>Transpiration</b>	water entering the air through the pores of trees and plants
<b>Turbidity</b>	muddiness created by stirring up sediment or having foreign particles suspended (in water)
<b>Vulnerable</b>	highly sensitive, likely to be hurt, injured or destroyed
<b>Watertable</b>	the upper surface of an aquifer. Water tables rise and fall with seasonal moisture, water absorption by vegetation, and the withdrawal of groundwater from wells, among other factors.
<b>Waterway health</b>	determined through a range of quantitative and qualitative assessments such as water quality, riparian vegetation condition, surrounding land use, channel modification, and level and diversity of invertebrate and vertebrate life, in both freshwater and estuarine systems