

Vegetation and Habitat Health - Erosion

ACTIVITY

Bank Stability and Erosion Sheet

Physical changes such as roads and housing within a catchment area increase the amount of runoff entering the waterways because less rainfall can be infiltrated or absorbed into the soil. This increased runoff contributes to the problems of stream bank erosion and **eutrophication** of waterways, having a devastating effect on water quality.

Do the assessment along approximately 40 metres of the bank on both sides.

RATING	% BARE SOIL
1	80 - 100%
2	40 - 80%
3	10 - 40%
4	0 - 10%
Record the Rating	

1. Bare Soil Estimate – combining both sides of the water body, estimate the amount of bare soil as a percentage of the total area. These are areas not covered by plants such as roads, cuttings, erosion or clearings.

2. Bank Erosion – estimate the amount of erosion on the bank.

RATING	AMOUNT OF EROSION
1	extensive erosion
2	some erosion evident
3	very occasional and very localised erosion
4	no sign of any bank erosion
Record the Rating	

3. Slumping or Bank Movement – estimate the rate of bank movement. Check for cracks in the bank that are roughly parallel to the stream.

RATING	EXTENT OF SLUMPING AND MOVEMENT
1	severe bank failure with extensive cracking and fall-ins
2	moderate bank collapse
3	slight movement on the banks
4	no movement
Record the Rating	

4. Overall Rating – average the above ratings and record an overall rating on the **Habitat Assessment Sheet**.

4 Excellent

3 Good

2 Fair

1 Poor