

Waterway Terms

Aquatic	something that is living or growing in the water
Biodiversity	the number and variety of all living organisms; includes genetic diversity, species and ecosystem diversity
Catchment	an area of land enclosed by natural features such as mountains and hills, where water (generally from rainfall) is collected and drained to a common point, usually ending up in gullies, creeks, rivers or lakes, and eventually the sea
Channelisation	to modify or alter a natural water course
Contour Line	lines on a map that join points of equal height or elevation
Dispersive Soil	soils that are structurally unstable and disperse in water into basic particles - usually sand, silt and clay
Ecosystem	a community of organisms interacting with each other and with their environment
Erosion	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)
Environmental Flow	water flow, or characteristics of the flow pattern, which are either protected or created for an environmental purpose
Ephemeral	temporary or intermittent. An ephemeral stream, or wetland is one which dries up periodically
Eutrophication	a process where water bodies receive excess nutrients that stimulate excessive plant growth, especially algae. This reduces the dissolved oxygen content and often causes the loss/death of other organisms
Gully	a deep ditch or channel cut in the earth by running water after a prolonged downpour
Impervious	not allowing the penetration of water into or through the surface



Land Use	is the human modification of the natural environment into a built environment such as crops, grazing land, urban areas, mining and industry
Native	originating in this country
Nitrogen	a colourless, odourless, gaseous element that forms approximately 80% of earths atmosphere. Also found in animal and plant tissues and is used in fertilisers
Nutrients	natural elements (usually nitrogen and phosphorus) that are essential for plant and animal growth
Organic Material	material derived from living organisms (plants and animals)
Perennial	lasting throughout the year. A perennial stream or wetland, has a well defined channel with water present 90 percent of the time or more
Rehabilitation	to restore something to its former condition
Riparian	belonging to or living along side a water course, lake or swamp
Scour	a form of erosion caused by sediment being removed from stream banks particle by particle by the force of flowing water
Sedimentation	the depositing of sediments (soil, rocks, organic material), generally by water
Turbidity	a measure of the amount of suspended solids in water restricting light penetration. It indicates the degree to which visibility has been reduced by silt, algae and other material suspended in a body of water
Vegetation	all plant life in a particular area. Includes native plants and weed species
Vulnerability	highly sensitive, likely to be hurt, injured or destroyed
Waterway	a passage for water or a body of water, including perennial and ephemeral streams, rivers and other wetlands, and bays

