

# Why Revegetate Waterways?

A well vegetated creek line can have many benefits such as improving water quality, increasing plant and animal diversity, improving livestock condition, stabilising banks, controlling erosion, and providing habitat for native wildlife with the added potential of increasing property value.

The land adjoining waterways, gullies and dips, around lakes and on river floodplains is also known as riparian land. Natural riparian vegetation helps to stabilise banks, shade streams, reduce evaporation, provide food and habitat for wildlife, and most importantly, act as a buffer for water run-off within catchments.

It is important to plant species that are native to our local waterways because they:

- maintain biodiversity
- provide suitable habitat and food for native wildlife, and
- have the right root structure to support bank soil

## WHERE DO I PLANT?

Three distinct zones generally make up the types of vegetation you will see along waterways. Planting the right species in the right zones ensures greater planting success.

The three zones include the Lower bank, Mid bank, and Upper bank.

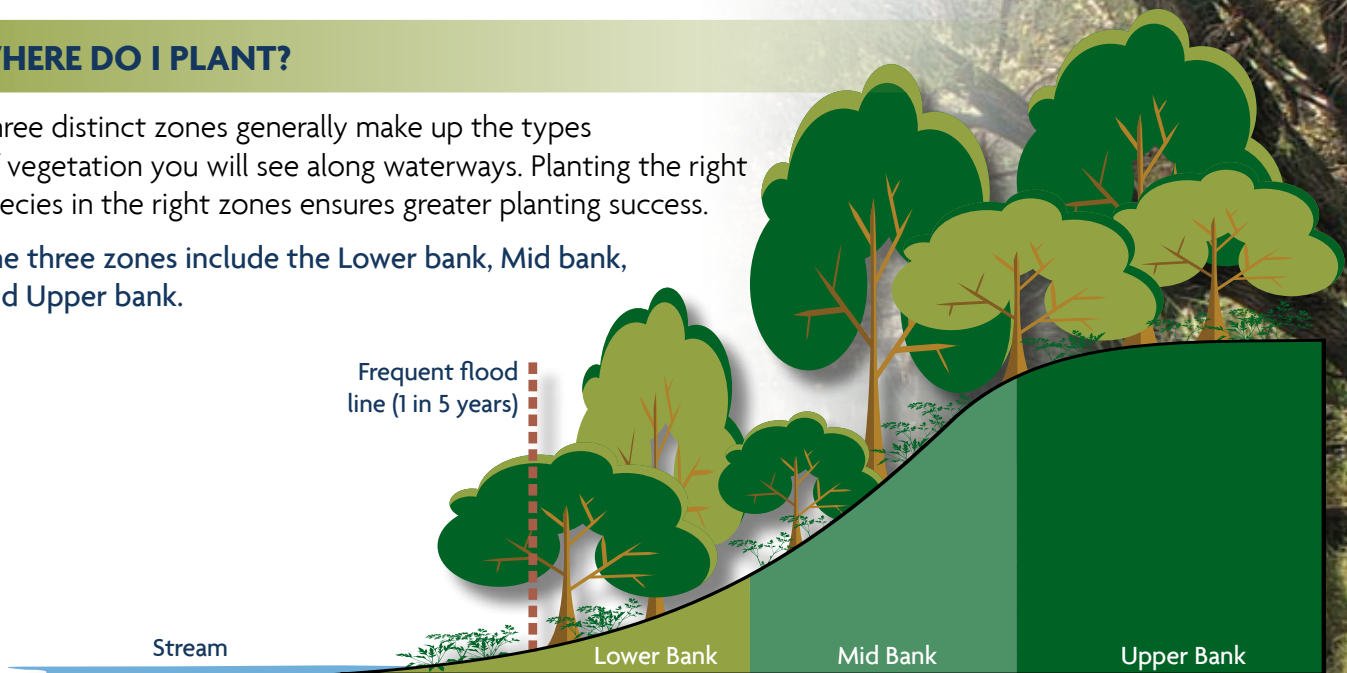


Diagram adapted from DNR River Facts R31, 1998

### Lower Bank (Toe):

Dense plantings of mat rushes and sedges with matted root systems and flexible branches help protect the bank from undercutting and scouring. Larger trees and shrubs, such as Weeping bottlebrush (*Callistemon viminalis*), provide shade and habitat for aquatic organisms.

### Mid Bank:

Planting with a diverse mix of fast growing native grasses, mat rushes, shrubs and trees will bind bank soils and reduce the velocities of water as it flows over the bank.

### Upper Bank:

Hardy trees and shrubs with deep root systems provide structure to the bank and bind soils. Inter-planting with ground covers and native grasses prevents soil being lost while filtering nutrients and pollutants from surface run-off before entering the waterway.