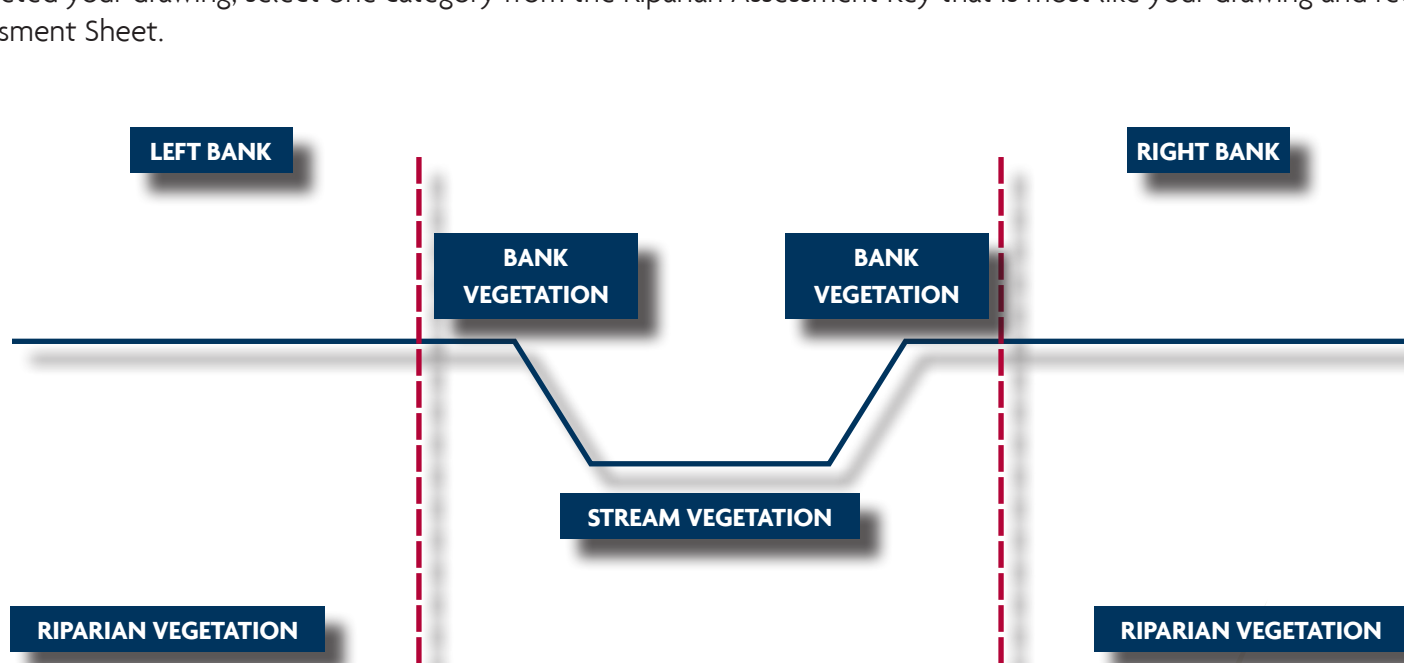


Vegetation and Habitat Health - **Vegetation**

ACTIVITY




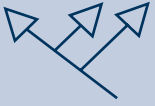


Riparian and Stream Vegetation Sheet

- Step 1 -** Use the Riparian Vegetation Key and Stream Vegetation Key to sketch a drawing that best represents your site (covering approximately 40 metres of the bank). Do one bank at a time.
- Step 2 -** Having completed your drawing, select one category from the Riparian Assessment Key that is most like your drawing and record the rating on the Habitat Assessment Sheet.



Vegetation and Habitat Health - **Vegetation**

RIPARIAN VEGETATION KEY

SYMBOL	MEANING
	Tree - more than 2m high, one stem, native to the area
	Tree - more than 2m high, one stem, exotic to the area
	Woody Shrub - less than 2m high, one or more stems, native to the area
	Woody Shrub - less than 2m high, one or more stems, exotic to the area
	Herbs and grasses - leafy, short, more than one stem
	Sedges and rushes

Common exotic plants found on waterways in Ipswich (tick if present):

- groundsel
- camphor laurel
- weeping willows
- chinese elm
- mulberry
- castor oil tree
- lantana
- balloon vine
- water hyacinth
- salvinia
- alligator weed
- dense waterweed
- mimosa
- broadleaf pepper tree
- other (please specify)



Before proceeding with the Vegetation Identification, students may need to research literature and field guides on native and exotic plants in order to distinguish between them. Activity Sheet 6, in this series looks at weeds found along waterways within Ipswich. The following web resources may be of some help.

Weeds Australia - www.weeds.org.au

Brisbane City Council Weed Identification Tool - www.brisbane.qld.gov.au

DPI&F CRC Weed Management - www.weedsrc.org.au

Waterplants in Australia: A Field Guide (4th edition)

Mangroves to Mountains (revised edition)

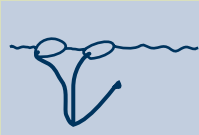
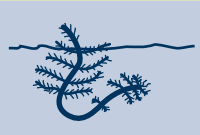

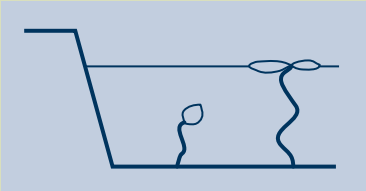
Vegetation and Habitat Health - **Vegetation**

STREAM VEGETATION KEY

Use the following symbols to identify and sketch vegetation on to your Riparian and Stream Vegetation Sheet. Use the 'Waterplants in Australia' field guide for easy reference and identification of the various plant species.


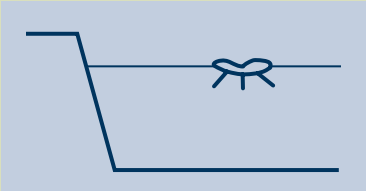
Submerged / Floating Leaf Varieties - have roots that are attached to the bottom and leaves that float on the surface and / or flower parts that emerge from the water.

EXAMPLE: waterlilies, milfoils, ribbonweed.

Identification Symbol			Drawing Symbol
			
floating attached	submerged emergent feathery	submerged not feathery	

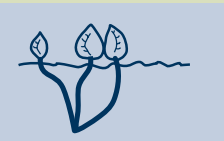


Free Floating Types - the whole plant is floating with the roots suspended in the water.

EXAMPLE: azolla, water hyacinth.

Identification Symbol	Drawing Symbol
	
free floating	

Emergent Plants - most of the plant is above water. They are usually found at the water's edge.

EXAMPLE: rushes and some grasses

Identification Symbol		Drawing Symbol
		
emergent broad leaf	emergent narrow leaf	

Use the drawing symbols to fill in the **RIPARIAN AND STREAM VEGETATION SHEET**.

Vegetation and Habitat Health - **Vegetation**

RIPARIAN ASSESSMENT KEY

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	SKETCH
<p>4</p> <p>Excellent</p>	<p>Riparian vegetation: Native vegetation present on both sides of the river with an intact canopy. Exotic species are absent or insignificant. No evidence of outside interference. Representative of natural vegetation in excellent condition.</p> <p>Bank vegetation: Native vegetation on both sides of the river in an undisturbed state. Exotic species are rare or insignificant. Representative of natural vegetation in excellent condition.</p> <p>Stream vegetation: High cover on banks, little, uncluttered appearance (<10% cover in channel). Abundant snags and logs. Abundant overhanging vegetation.</p>	<p>Very low disturbance</p> <p>undisturbed undisturbed</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Average</p>	<p>Riparian vegetation: Native vegetation present on both sides of the river. Minor presence of exotic species.</p> <p>Bank vegetation: Native vegetation on both sides of the river generally in good condition with few exotic species present. Any disturbance is minor.</p> <p>Stream vegetation: Some cover on banks, moderate cover in channel (10-25%), no 'noxious' exotics (e.g. salvinia, hyacinth). Some snags and logs. Some overhanging vegetation.</p>	<p>Low disturbance</p> <p>undisturbed or minor undisturbed</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Fair</p>	<p>Riparian vegetation: Native vegetation clearly disturbed or with a high percentage of exotic species present.</p> <p>Bank vegetation: Bank vegetation moderately disturbed by stock or through the intrusion of exotic species, though native species remain. Note: Sites with riparian vegetation in good condition (e.g. when it is fenced off) should be included in this category).</p> <p>Stream vegetation: Highly cluttered channel cover (25-50%), small amount of 'noxious' exotics. Few snags and logs. Little overhanging vegetation.</p>	<p>High disturbance</p> <p>cleared mod disturbed</p>
<p>1</p> <p>Poor</p>	<p>Riparian vegetation: Cleared land on both sides (agriculture or urban development). Plants present are virtually all exotic species.</p> <p>Bank vegetation: Some native vegetation present, but it is severely modified on both sides by grazing or human access or the intrusion of exotic species. Native species are severely reduced in numbers and cover.</p> <p>Stream vegetation: Choked channel cover (50-90%), significant proportion of exotics or terrestrial grasses. No snags and logs. No overhanging vegetation.</p>	<p>Very high disturbance</p> <p>cleared cleared</p>

STREAM VEGETATION COVER PERCENTAGE KEY



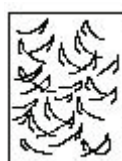
5% Cover



10% Cover



15% Cover



25% Cover



50% Cover



75% Cover



90% Cover