



Sydney Catchment Authority Riparian Management Assistance Program Funding Guidelines

1. ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The riparian management assistance program operates in targeted catchments to assist landowners to protect, improve and manage waterway frontages.

The program offers funding to help landowners establish fencing, off-stream water supplies, shade for stock and native plants and to undertake minor erosion control. Completing such work helps landowners manage stock grazing without damage to creek banks and water quality. Looking after creeks, gullies or rivers is not free of cost or effort. However, evidence now shows that in the medium to long term, the benefits of riparian management clearly outweigh the costs incurred.

Controlling stock movement around waterways and riparian lands is the quickest and easiest way of improving water quality and other conditions of waterway health. There are multiple benefits of controlling stock access to waterways and riparian land. Fencing can assist stock manageability and control, often making it a one-person job for mustering and can reduce stock losses during flooding. Water quality of runoff is improved, reducing faecal contamination, and loss of nutrients.

If you are considering changing the way you manage stock, or looking at ways of improving the condition of waterways on your property, this program offers *practical assistance* in putting together a project; and *funding assistance* for a number of activities.

2. WHO CAN APPLY?

Landowners are eligible to apply for funding along waterways (gullies, streams or creeks) in the following catchments (see map on page 5):

- Upper Werriberri Creek
- Brogers Creek, Barrengarry Creek, Kangaroo River, Yarrunga
- Paddys River, Uringalla Creek, Long Swamp Creek
- Cullenbenbong Creek, Ganbenang Creek
- Coxs River (from Kanimbla Valley to Blue Mountains NP Boundary)
- Upper Nepean, Wingecarribee Reservoir, Kellys Creek, Fitzroy
- Barbers Creek, Bungonia Creek, Jerrara Creek, Bundanoon Creek

Work not eligible for funding:

- Work already underway or completed
- Work required by regulation or under offset arrangements
- Commercial plantings
- Projects where land degradation is a result of intensification or change of land-use
- Overall property planning issues that are not connected with waterway frontages

3. WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN BE FUNDED?

Where livestock is managed, funding is available for fencing of riparian areas, alternate water supplies and shade for stock, native plants to assist regeneration and revegetation and minor erosion control works.

FENCING

Funding assistance is available for gully, creek or streamside fencing that enables the control of stock access to riparian areas. Stock need not be permanently excluded. However project plans need to demonstrate a commitment to managing the timing, duration and intensity of stock access to riparian land to avoid damage to soil, groundcover and vegetation and impacts on water quality. Funding assistance for fencing can also be used for the protection of stock shade trees (see native plants below).

- \$6.50 per metre (+GST) on agreed alignments for minimum post & wire (4 strand) fencing.
- \$3.50 per metre (+GST) on agreed alignments for electric fencing in areas of repeated and high risk of flooding.

The minimum setback required from the top of the bank is an average of 10 metres depending on site (excluding shade tree protection). Fencing rates are intended as a contribution for materials.

WATER SUPPLIES & STOCK SHELTER

Where riparian areas will be fenced, and stock access controlled, assistance is available for stock water supplies and stock shelters. Funding assistance is available for design cost and materials but not construction. Funding for stock water supplies is only available where the works compensate for water access lost by fencing.

In riparian areas with existing fencing, funding of stock water supply will be considered where the work enables stock exclusion and the project represents value for long-term water quality protection.

NATIVE PLANTS

Where riparian areas will be fenced, and stock access minimised or excluded, funding assistance is available for native plants, stakes, and guards: Up to \$3 per set (+GST) for agreed riparian or stock shade areas and shelter belts.

The promotion of natural regeneration is encouraged before revegetation is considered in riparian areas. During drought periods, projects may undertake fencing in the first year and defer revegetation until conditions are suitable.

MINOR EROSION CONTROL

Funding assistance is available for minor erosion control. In general, funding is available for excluding stock with fencing, and / or revegetation, minor rock stabilisation work, and the cost of stock crossings where riparian areas have been fenced and protected.

In the case of severe or major erosion (or erosion that requires major technical planning and works) applications may be referred to the Catchment Protection Scheme.

Landowners must seek a minimum of two quotations from contractors; including one from Soil Services, Department of Lands. Funding assistance for fencing and native plants is available at the same rates applied above. A funding cap of up to \$20,000 applies.

4. FUNDING CRITERIA

Your project will be assessed and ranked against other projects by a panel that makes recommendations to the SCA Grants Committee.

The SCA Grants Committee makes the final decision on which applications and activities are recommended for funding. The applications that best align with the funding criteria will be recommended.

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. **Project benefits to water quality and riparian health.**

Project benefits are assessed by:

- Length of riparian fencing for the purpose of stock access control.
- Length of fencing for the protection of small gullies and creeks.
- The reduction or removal of grazing pressure
- Projects that integrate fencing to control stock access, with the retention, regeneration or revegetation of native vegetation.

2. **Value for money**

Value for money is assessed by:

- The best measurable on-ground results (against program objectives) for the amount of grant funding requested.
- Feasible activities that are appropriate to the site needs.
- The largest length of stream protection for the amount of grant funding requested.
- Projects that build on existing riparian work.

3. **Riparian values**

Riparian value is assessed by:

- The presence of native riparian vegetation, its significance, extent and condition and connection to other stands of vegetation.

4. **Project connectivity**

Connectivity is assessed by:

- Projects that link with other projects on neighbouring land and create continuity of riparian management.

5. **Project causes no environmental harm**

Is assessed by:

- Projects that are technically sound.
- The project plan considers any specific issues relevant to the site.

5. LANDOWNER OBLIGATIONS

Landowners are required to accept the conditions of the grant which include:

- To undertake the project as described in the approved application,
- To maintain the project works at your own cost for a minimum of 10 years from the date of completion of the project,
- To provide a financial report to the SCA when the project is completed.

The landowner is responsible for meeting all legal requirements and obtaining permits. For example, permits required to work on state protected land.

Local Government applicants are expected to contribute a minimum of 50% in cash or in-kind to the project.

Projects should aim to start within 3 months of being notified of approved funding, and be complete within 18 months - unless there are exceptional circumstances.

6. HOW TO APPLY

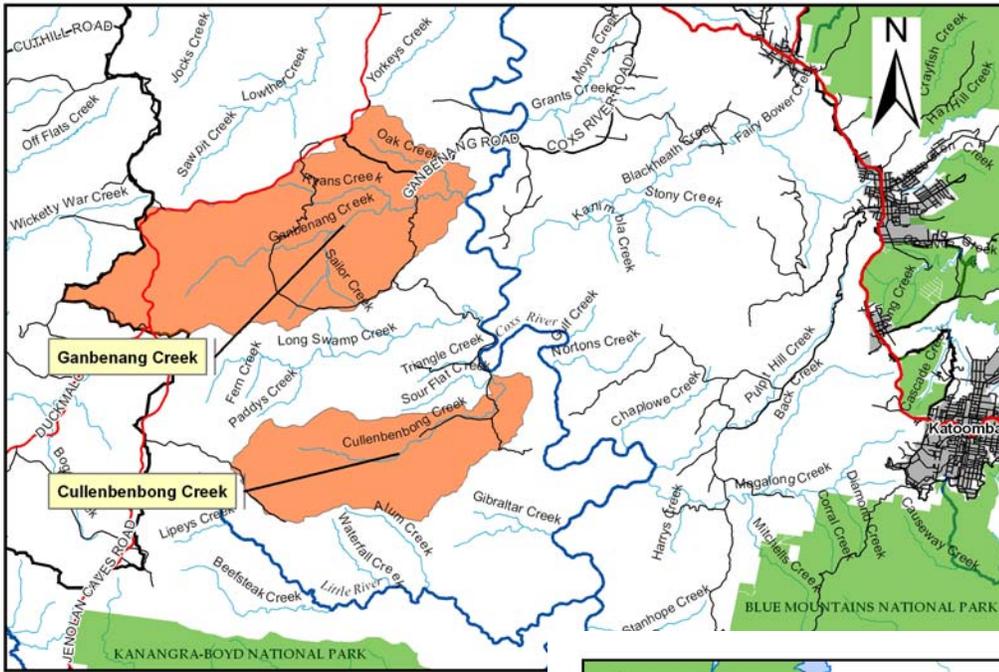
- Step 1 Request an Application Form from the program coordinator by email grants@sca.nsw.gov.au or telephone 4725 2591 or go to <http://www.sca.nsw.gov.au/catchments/ripariangrant.html>
- Step 2 An SCA Catchment Officer will contact you and offer to arrange a meeting on your land to discuss the project and any questions.
- Step 3 Complete and send in your application to the SCA
- Step 4 Applications will be assessed by the Grants Committee against the funding criteria
- Step 5 The SCA Grants Committee assess applications four times per year and a decision is advised in writing around 12 weeks after the advertised closing date.

For more information contact Stuart Naylor, Program Coordinator, by telephone on 02 4725 2591 or email grants@sca.nsw.gov.au

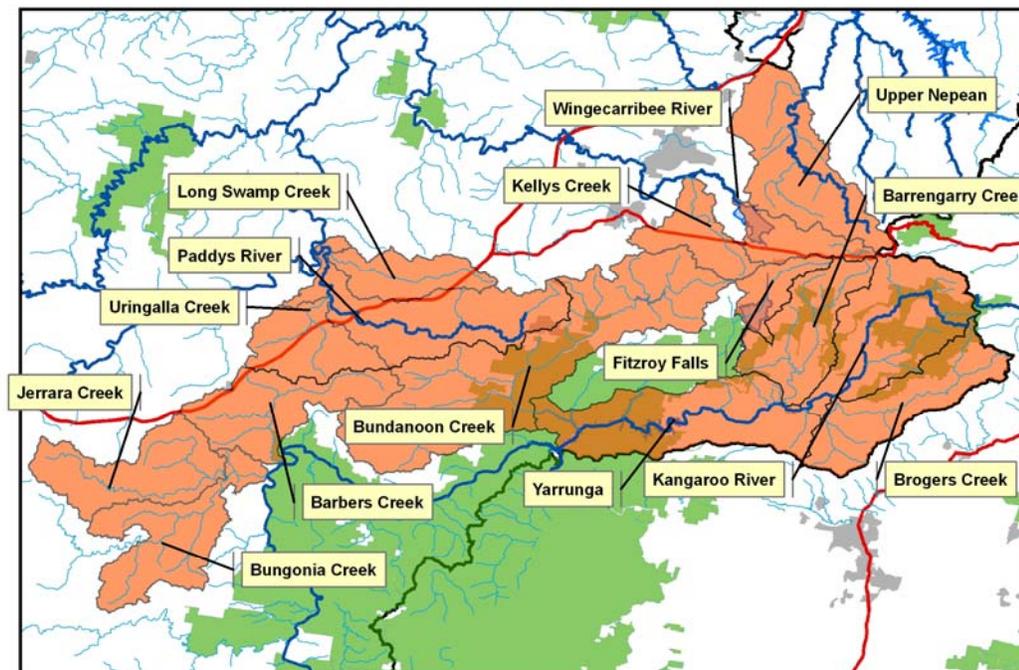
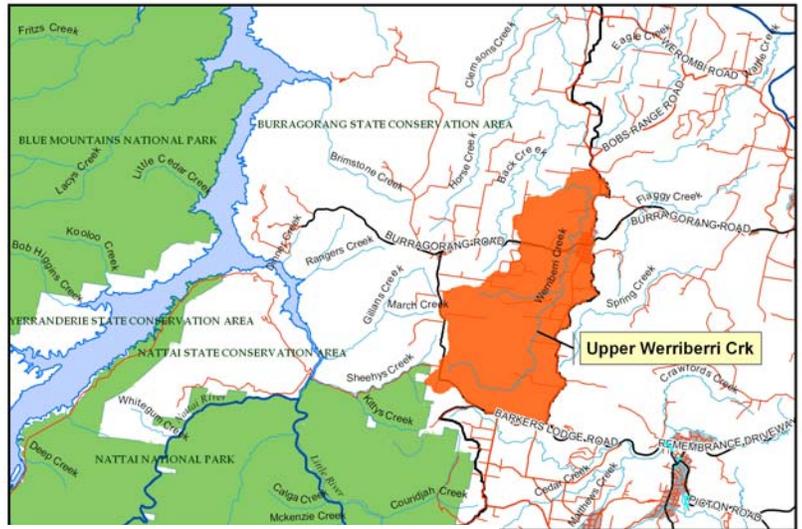
Closing Dates

1st October 2009

15th January, 1st April, 1st July, 1st October 2010



Landowners in the shaded areas are eligible and invited to apply for funding assistance



Riparian Management Assistance Program

Guide to preparing an application

RIPARIAN FENCING : WATER SUPPLIES
STOCK SHELTER : NATIVE PLANTS
MINOR EROSION CONTROL



CONTENTS

1. About the program
 2. Completing the application form
 3. Permits and approvals
 4. Lodging your application
 5. What happens next?
-

The information in this document is intended to assist you to complete an application for the Riparian Management Assistance Program. Each section reflects the sections you will find in the application.

To complete an application you should have received three documents and an airphoto:

1. Guide to preparing an application (this document)
2. Riparian Management Assistance Program Guideline
3. Application form
4. Two copies of an airphoto of your property for preparing the project map

If any one of these documents are missing, please contact the program coordinator on 02 47 252 591.

The details of funding assistance, priorities and funding criteria are published in the program guideline. The guideline should be read through carefully before completing an application form so you are clear about what can and cannot be funded, and the criteria against which your application will be assessed.

1. About the program

This program offers funding and practical assistance for property owners to protect and improve the condition of waterways, and the way that stock can be managed. It is focussed on the management of riparian land, which is simply that land immediately adjacent to or connected to a waterway.

Looking after creeks, gullies or rivers is not free of cost or effort. However, evidence now shows that in the medium to long term, the benefits of riparian management easily outweigh the costs incurred.

Controlling stock movement around waterways and riparian lands is the quickest and easiest way of improving water quality and other conditions of waterway health. There are multiple benefits of controlling stock access to waterways and riparian land. Fencing can assist stock manageability and control, often making it a one-person job for mustering and can reduce stock losses during flooding. Water quality of runoff is improved, reducing faecal contamination, and loss of nutrients.

If you are considering changing the way you manage stock, or looking at ways of improving the condition of waterways on your property, this program offers *practical assistance* in putting together a project; and *funding assistance* for fencing, water supplies and stock shelter, native plants and minor erosion control.

Please refer to the Program guideline for specific information on what can and cannot be funded, and important eligibility criteria.

2. Completing the application form

Please read this guide and application form before starting an application and refer to these hints as you fill in each section of the form.

Each section of the application form is reflected in the following sections.

1. Name of applicant & 2. Grant amount details

Grants may only be awarded and paid to a person or a legal entity which is the owner who is responsible for the management of the land on which the works are to be constructed in accordance with the grant conditions.

Grants can only be paid to the entity that relates directly to the ownership and operation of the property to which grant works will be implemented. It is important to consider what entity to use. If a company name is chosen, it should be able to be identified in the Australian Business Register.

To claim a grant through the program, either tax invoices or standard invoices must be used. To use tax invoices you must use an Australian Business Number (ABN) and be registered for GST.

The personal name, company name or trust you use as the name of the applicant must also be used later on the invoices. The name on the application form must match the name used on invoices for claiming grants.

Please use section 6 in the application form to calculate the grant amount you intend to apply for. If you intend to use standard invoices, please write the amount in section 2 including the GST. If using tax invoices, the amount should exclude GST.

3. Landowner details

Please enter the contact details of the landowner (s). If you prefer to have a property manager liaise with the Sydney Catchment Authority on your behalf, please add those details.

4. Project plan & description

This section seeks the detail of what you propose to do in the riparian lands on your property. This information is essential to the assessment of your project and will be used to compare the merit of your project with other applications.

Please address all the listed questions in the application form that are relevant to the activities you propose to undertake. You can attach typed or handwritten pages.

Funding is available for five different activities. These are:

- Fencing
- Water supplies
- Stock shelter
- Native plants
- Minor erosion control

- **Fencing**

All proposed and existing fences must be marked down on the Project Map.

Fencing is preferably permanent (post and wire), but depending on the location and the threat of flood damage may be electric.

- **Water supplies and stock shelter**

All proposed works such as troughs must be marked on the project map. A minimum of two quotations are required for all proposed works. Quotations must list in detail the proposed materials and works.

When preparing the project budget, please choose and enter the quotation that you believe represents the best value for money.

▪ **Native Plants**

Before considering replanting native species in riparian areas, it is important to consider what your goals for the site are and what strategy is likely to be the most successful.

The 3R's are known as the key approaches for restoration of bushland:

<i>Retain</i>	Protect and conserve existing remnant vegetated areas.
<i>Regenerate</i>	Assisting to reduce the threats inhibiting natural regeneration. Generally undertaken in areas where vegetation remains but is being impacted or degraded by weed invasion, stock etc.
<i>Revegetate</i>	Where a site is failing to respond to natural and / or assisted regeneration, revegetating is then an option.

As a principle, only if a site fails to respond to natural and / or assisted regeneration techniques and there is no regeneration potential, revegetation by direct planting is a practical option. A reduction or exclusion of stock can often be all that is needed to trigger regeneration.

If replanting is required in particular areas the application form requires a description of the current remnant vegetation condition, your goals and plans for revegetation, and the species you intend to plant.

▪ **Minor erosion**

Funding assistance is available for minor erosion control. In general, funding is available for excluding stock with fencing, and / or revegetation, minor rock stabilisation work, and the cost of stock crossings where riparian areas have been fenced and protected.

In the case of severe or major erosion (or erosion that requires major technical planning and works) applications may be referred to the Catchment Protection Scheme.

Landowners must seek a minimum of two quotations from contractors; including one from Soil Services, Department of Lands. Funding assistance for fencing and native plants is available at the same rates applied above. A funding cap of up to \$20,000 applies.

5. Project map

You will receive two copies of an A3 size airphoto of your property with an application form. This photo is provided for the purpose of drawing the detail of your project plans.

Project plans drawn on the airphoto are crucial to the assessment of your project. Photo plans with enough detail of each activity helps the assessment panel to understand the proposed project. Without enough detail, your project may be delayed to the next assessment and funding round.

The application form describes each point of detail that should be drawn as part of your plans. Please remember to provide a legend for the plan eg. symbols to distinguish existing from proposed fences.

Please call the program coordinator if you need more copies of the airphoto.

6. Project budget

List the items of expenditure against the project activities of fencing, water supplies, stock shelter, native plants and minor erosion control.

For water supplies, enter the quotation cost that you believe gives the best value for money.

7. Project milestones

Provide a plan of when you propose to implement and complete the activities of your project, highlighting milestones. The application form provides a blank timetable for this purpose.

For large projects above \$20,000 (excl. GST), grant payments are made when you send an invoice for each milestone in your plan. The SCA may make inspections of work completed at each milestone.

A decision about funding is advised in writing around 12 weeks after the advertised closing date. This time period should be factored into your plan.

8. Signature page

3. Permits and Approvals

Landowners need to be aware of legislation that applies to riparian areas so they can properly plan and implement any management activities.

The table below gives an indication of the legal responsibilities of landowners in relation to activities funded by the Riparian Management Assistance Program. It is not an exhaustive list, and you should discuss the project detail with the Sydney Catchment Authority.

Issue / Action	Legislation Involved	Permit Required	Contact
Construction of Farm Dams	Farm Dams Policy 2000	Yes	http://www.dnr.nsw.gov.au/water/faq5.shtml
Earthworks or construction within a gully, stream or river bed or bank. Eg. crossing	Water Management Act 2000 (Controlled Activity Approval)	Yes	Dept. of Water and Energy Wollongong or Nowra http://www.dwe.nsw.gov.au

4. Lodging your Application

Applications can be sent in at any time, but assessment and funding cycles will not begin until each closing date.

Please forward the original completed application form and all attachments to:

**Grants and Incentives Manager
Catchment Operations and Major Projects
Sydney Catchment Authority
PO Box 323
Penrith NSW 2751**

Please make a copy of your completed application for your reference.

5. What happens next?

Your project will be considered competitively against other projects by an assessment panel that makes recommendations to the SCA Grants Committee.

The SCA Grants Committee assess applications four times per year and a decision is advised in writing around 12 weeks after the advertised closing date.

For more information contact Stuart Naylor, Program Coordinator, by telephone on 02 47 252 591 or email grants@sca.nsw.gov.au.



Riparian Management Assistance Program

Application form

1. Name of applicant

Name of person or persons, Company or Trust*

* The applicant must be the owner, with responsibility for the management of the land on which the works are proposed to be constructed. If a company name is used, it should be identified in the Australian Business Register.

2. Grant amount details

Do you have an Australian Business Number (ABN)?

a) Australian Business Number (ABN)

b) Are you (or company) GST registered?

Important: Calculating and Claiming Grants

Quoting an ABN and being registered for GST is required to use Tax Invoices. If you do not have an ABN or are not GST registered please quote grant amount including GST. Calculate the grant using the budget table in section 6.

Please enter the amount applied for:

3. Landowner details

Title

Phone

First Name (s)

Mobile

Last Name (s)

Lot / DP

Email

Property Address

Postal Address

Name of stream or sub-catchment

Project Manager (if different from landowner)

4. Project plan & description

Please attach pages that address each question relevant to your application.

- a. Purpose of the project.
- b. Activities you will undertake – These should match the eligible activities listed in the accompanying program policy.
- c. Proposed start and end date.
- d. How the project will be done.
- e. How the project will be maintained.
- f. Proposed water supplies. Attach a minimum of two quotations in accordance with the Guide for preparing an application. Please choose and give reasons for the quotation you believe provides best value for money. Put the costs of your chosen plan in the Project Budget.
- g. Describe permits or approvals required. See Guide for preparing an application.
- h. Describe if the work links with any neighbouring projects.
- i. How many stock will the riparian fencing manage outside of the stream or gully? And, what type of stock?
- j. What is the length of riparian area (stream or gully) that will be protected from stock from this project? (Please list length of riparian areas with existing fencing separately)
- k. Describe the type and condition of remnant vegetation.
- l. Describe your goals and plans for revegetation, and how plants will be maintained.
- m. List the species of native plants you intend to plant.

5. Project map

Using the A3 size air photo provided, prepare a detailed map with legend for your project application, and include;

- a. Property boundaries
- b. Creeks and gullies
- c. Location and length of **existing** and **proposed fencing** (indicate distance between proposed fencing and watercourses)
- d. Location and width of remnant vegetation and proposed regeneration or revegetation areas
- e. Location of proposed water supply works and stock shelter
- f. Proposed site (s) for minor erosion control

This map is essential for the assessment of your application.

6. Project budget

PROJECT BUDGET					
			Please enter amounts to calculate SCA grant for your project		
Project Activities a. Fencing b. Water supplies c. Stock shelter d. Native plants e. Minor erosion	Quantities eg. - Length fencing - No. of plants	Total Landowner Costs \$ (if known)	Grant Amount before GST \$	GST \$	Total Grant \$
eg. Fencing	1250m	\$14,560.00	\$7,500.00 (\$6.00 * 1250m)	\$750.00	\$8,250.00
Totals					

*Add amount to section 2.

Grants under \$20 000 are generally paid in advance. Larger grants are paid in instalments, with an initial advance payment of \$20 000.

Notes on budget (if required):

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7. Project milestones

Make an indicative plan of when each activity will be complete. Projects must start within 3 months of being notified of approved funding, and be complete within 18 months - unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Shade or rule through the boxes (representing each month) in which you expect to complete the project activities.

Project Activity	Year 1. 20__												Year 2. 20__												Year 3. 20__											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

8. Signature page

CERTIFICATION

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the statements in this application are true.

I acknowledge that if the Sydney Catchment Authority approves this application for a grant, I will be required to provide a full accounting for the monies spent within three months of the conclusion of the project.

I acknowledge that the Sydney Catchment Authority may request further information before making a decision on this application.

I acknowledge that the Sydney Catchment Authority cannot guarantee funding for any application.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Name: _____

9. Attachments

Please attach any information that may be relevant to support your project and application, and/or quotations and plans as required by the application.