

# Policy

## Riverbanks

Version 1.3

Adopted by Council at its meeting on 15 February 2018

Minute No: 44

Division:  
Section:  
File Reference:  
Historical Reference:

Community and Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Management  
Council Policies/Protocols/Procedures  
Version 1.0 adopted 15/12/2004  
Version 1.1 adopted 13 November 2007  
Version 1.2 adopted 21 July 2009  
Reviewed 20 June 2013  
Reviewed 18 July 2017

**THIS PAGE IS BLANK**

## **Riverbanks**

### **Policy Objective**

This Policy explains the responsibilities of Council and river foreshore land owners as related to river bank erosion, erosion stabilisation and river bank protection.

### **Definitions**

Not applicable

### **Policy Background**

Many land owners in the Tweed Shire have private property boundaries that are adjacent to waterways, including both the tidal sections of the Tweed and Rous River Estuary and tributaries, or the freshwater reaches of the upper catchment.

Erosion is a natural response of river and creek banks to changes in other environmental factors, and is an inherent risk that must be assessed and accepted by land owners or land managers when purchasing property or establishing assets within the vicinity of waterways.

River or creek bank erosion occurs in many locations, either through gradual undermining of banks, or following floods when serious bank scour or collapse can occur. Erosion can be exacerbated by human activity. This may relate to land based activity like construction or vegetation clearing, or on water activity, for example vessel use.

Council receives enquiries about the various agency and private sector responsibilities for erosion management, and requests for advice and assistance in the treatment of river bank erosion.

### **Policy**

Where the objective of erosion management works is the protection of private property, at a property with a High Water Mark (tidal waters) boundary, all works are the responsibility of the land owner. Council will provide advice and assistance.

Where erosion stabilisation works are proposed on private land that will result in a significant environmental benefit, through improvements to either water quality or waterway habitat, Council may provide financial and technical assistance to private landowners.

Council will undertake erosion management works where erosion threatens public land, infrastructure or environmental assets.

Council encourages retention and rehabilitation of existing native vegetation adjacent to waterways wherever possible.

Council provide advice for proposed works for stream bank stabilisation and erosion control.

Development Approval is required to be sought from Council by private land owners for any erosion management works proposed in tidal waters.

A Controlled Activity Approval (NSW Water Management Act 2000) is required from the NSW Department of Primary Industries - Office of Water, for any erosion management works in non-tidal waters (freshwater reaches of rivers and creeks).

A permit (NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994) from the NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries is generally required for any works that will involve modification to a waterways bed or banks.

Riverbank protection works are to be designed in accordance with the Tweed River Bank Erosion Management Plan 2014 and the Tweed River Estuary Bank Management Plan 1998.

## **Related Legislation**

As noted above.

## **Compliance**

Not applicable

## **Forms**

Not applicable

## **Review Period**

This policy will be reviewed within 12 months of the election of each new Council or more frequently in the event of any legislative changes or change in circumstances.

## **Useful Links**

[Tweed Shire Council website](#)

**Version Control:**

<b>Version History</b>		
<b>Version #</b>	<b>Summary of changes made</b>	<b>Date changes made</b>
1.2	Incorporated into new policy template	20/06/2013
1.3	Policy reviewed and updated	18/07/2017
1.3	Adopted by Council	15/02/2018

