

### How DPIWE can help

DPIWE can provide expert advice and financial assistance to help protect and manage wetlands and riparian zones.

It can pay landholders to enter into a voluntary vegetation management agreement and/or a conservation covenant to protect priority non-forest vegetation.

Financial assistance may also be available for fencing, gates, off-stream watering points, some weed management and for minor regeneration/rehabilitation works.



### How to find out more

Contact DPIWE  
6233 8538

Or look for 12 detailed fact sheets on the RIVERS website  
[www.rivers.gov.au](http://www.rivers.gov.au)

Or look on the DPIWE website  
[www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au](http://www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au)

## Wetlands and riparian land in Tasmania



Tasmania

DEPARTMENT of  
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES,  
WATER and ENVIRONMENT



Natural  
Heritage  
Trust

Helping Tasmanians  
Protect Australia

1300 659 262

Wetlands and riparian areas provide unique habitats for plants and animals, and are critical for maintaining a healthy environment.

The Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment is working with landholders to develop property plans for the sustainable management of native vegetation. The protection and management of wetlands and riparian land are an important element of any property plan.

Financial assistance is also available for landholders who enter into voluntary vegetation management agreements and covenants to protect wetlands and riparian lands.

DPIWE has expert staff to help prepare vegetation management plans and agreements, and conservation covenants. Currently, these services are funded under the Natural Heritage Trust and are provided at no cost to the landholder.





## Wetlands

Wetlands are amongst Tasmania's most productive natural environments.

They are usually flooded for some part of the year, although some small wetlands may simply be continually damp with reeds and rushes.

Animals and plants that live in them are adapted to wet conditions for at least part of their life cycle. Wetlands are vital habitat and breeding grounds for many species such as migratory birds, fish and frogs.

Some wetland dependant birds are thought to be declining in numbers, due to loss of habitat.

Other fish and frogs are in danger of extinction, such as the green and gold bell frog and dwarf galaxias fish.

Dainty midlands buttercups, purple loosestrife, water milfoil and many other plants only occur in wetlands.

## Riparian land

Rivers play vital roles in our landscape from economic, social and environmental perspectives.

Riparian land—land next to rivers—is critical to these roles.

Brooks, gullies, swales, dells, gorges and floodplains are all riparian land.

People love camping and fishing on riparian land: birds and animals love living, hunting and breeding there.

Riparian land occurs along rivers and creeks. Being moister than the surrounds, these areas support different vegetation—from dense teatree to dogwood scrubs and grassy silver tussock floodplains.

## Benefits

Both wetlands and riparian land provide protection from floods and provide flow buffering for downstream areas. They help to purify water by acting as filters that trap sediment and nutrients.

They support wildlife that help control insect pests on farms and provide havens in times of drought.

Diverse in their very nature, they provide far richer habitat than nearby dryland zones.

Treated well, they are quite resilient, but once degraded, they are very difficult and expensive to rehabilitate.

Where possible, exclude stock and vehicles, as they destroy vegetation:

- in wetlands, vegetation forms a mat that knits the soil together and is critical for wetland health.
- in riparian land, vegetation binds the soil and helps prevent erosion. This protects the land and reduces sediment transfer further down the catchment

Alternative watering points may be required, or if they are not possible, then limit access to only part of the area.

If degraded, recovery can be helped by reinstating the hydrology, revegetation and weed removal, as needed.

