

# Gold Coast Waterwatch Habitat Assessment Data Sheet



<b>Students Name:</b>		
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Location:</b>

	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Very Poor</b>
<b>Bank Vegetation</b>	<b>(10)</b> Mainly undisturbed native vegetation. No signs of alteration	<b>(8)</b> Mainly native vegetation. Little disturbance or no signs of recent site disturbance	<b>(6)</b> Medium cover, mixed native/ introduced. Or one side cleared, the other undisturbed	<b>(4)</b> Introduced ground cover, little native under or over-story, mainly introduced vegetation	<b>(2)</b> Introduced ground cover with lots of bare ground, occasional tree. Includes sites with concrete lined channels
<b>Verge Vegetation</b>	<b>(10)</b> Mainly undisturbed native vegetation on both sides of the stream. Verge more than 30m	<b>(8)</b> Well-vegetated wide verge corridor. Mainly undisturbed native vegetation on both sides of stream; some introduced or reduced cover of native veg	<b>(6)</b> Wide corridor of mixed native & exotics, or one side cleared & other wide corridor of native vegetation	<b>(4)</b> Very narrow corridor of native or introduced vegetation	<b>(2)</b> Bare cover or introduced cover such as pasture land
<b>In Stream Cover</b>	<b>(10)</b> Abundant cover. Frequent snags, logs or boulders with extensive areas of instream, Aquatic vegetation & overhanging bank	<b>(8)</b> A good cover of snags. Logs or boulders, with considerable areas of in-stream & overhanging vegetation	<b>(6)</b> Some snags or boulders present &/or occasional areas of in-stream or overhanging vegetation	<b>(4)</b> Only slight cover. The stream is largely cleared, with occasional snags & very little in-stream vegetation. Generally no overhanging vegetation	<b>(2)</b> No cover, no snags, boulders submerged or overhanging vegetation. No undercut banks. Site may have rock or concrete lining
<b>Bank Erosion &amp; Stability</b>	<b>(5)</b> Stable: no erosion/ sedimentation evident. No undercutting of banks, usually gentle bank slopes, lower banks covered with root mat grasses, reeds or shrubs	<b>(4)</b> Only spot erosion occurring, little undercutting of bank, good vegetation cover, usually gentle bank slopes, no significant change to bank structure	<b>(3)</b> Localised erosion evident. A relatively good vegetation cover. No continuous damage to bank structure or vegetation	<b>(2)</b> Significant active erosion evident especially during high flows. Unstable, excessive areas of bare banks, little vegetation cover.	<b>(1)</b> Extensive or almost continuous erosion. Over 50% of banks have some form of erosion: very unstable with little vegetation cover
<b>Riffles, Pools &amp; Bends (Flowing Water Only)</b>	<b>(5)</b> Wide variety of habitats. Riffles & pools present of varying depths, bends present	<b>(4)</b> Good variety of habitats – eg: riffles & pools or bends & pools. Variation in depth of riffle & pool	<b>(3)</b> Some variety of habitat – eg: occasional riffle or bend. Some variation in depth	<b>(2)</b> Only slight variety of habitat. All riffle or pool with only slight variation in depth	<b>(1)</b> Uniform habitat. Straight stream, all shallow riffle or pool of uniform depth eg: channelled stream or irrigation channel

**Stream Habitat Rating - Circle rating for each of the five factors.**

Rating	Bank vegetation	Verge Vegetation	In Stream Cover	Bank Erosion & Stability	Riffles, Pools & Bends
Excellent	10	10	10	5	5
Good	8	8	8	4	4
Fair	6	6	6	3	3
Poor	4	4	4	2	2
Very Poor	2	2	2	1	1

Rating	Scores
Excellent	36-40
Good	29-35
Fair	20-28
Poor	12-19
Very Poor	8-11

<b>TOTAL SCORE:</b>
<b>HABITAT RATING:</b>

**Observations:**

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