

What Makes a Healthy Waterway?

HABITATS
NEED OUR
SUPPORT

THE ESSENTIALS OF STREAM HEALTH

Shade & shelter: Vegetation is the backbone of a healthy creek. Trees keep water cool, roots hold soil, and fallen branches create shelter for fish and other animals.

Plants in the water: Aquatic plants weave structure through the stream, giving frogs, waterbugs, and fish places to live and feed.

Stable soils: Strong banks keep the water clear. When they erode, mud clouds the stream, plants struggle to grow, and animals like platypus and waterbugs find it harder to survive.

Fresh flow: Moving water carries oxygen, refreshes habitats, and keeps the system alive from top to bottom.

WHY ARE HABITATS SO IMPORTANT?

Habitats are living spaces that provide food, shelter, and safety for living creatures.

Waterways have two connected habitat zones:

- **Riparian zone** - trees and plants along the banks.
- **Aquatic zone** - life within the water itself.

What happens in one affects the other.

Bare banks crumble into the creek, while planted banks hold strong.

Together, these zones filter water, provide oxygen, and support life at every level, from microbes to mammals.

BE A WATER DETECTIVE AND LOOK FOR CLUES!

Is there any litter present? Are livestock excluded? Is there diversity of habitat and lifeforms?

Does your
creek need
your help?

