



GOULBURN BROKEN
CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

WATERWAY RECOVERY PROGRAM 2026-27

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is supporting landholders impacted by the 2026 January bushfires to rehabilitate waterways & wetlands on their property. Recovery works will be tailored to individual situations through assessment and discussion with a Goulburn Broken CMA Officer and may include the following activities:

Stock management

Repair, replace or erect new fencing to exclude stock from waterways.

Fencing subsidies applied through the waterway grant program are available to assist landholders with stock management along waterways.

Subsidies for new waterway fencing are calculated with consideration to stream priority, the width of riparian buffer being protected and the vegetation quality present.

At average 10m increments, the subsidy rate will increase with the greater width protected.

To assist landowners with re-establishing fences that formerly protected waterways, the subsidy rate under the fire recovery program will blanket apply the high stream priority criteria. An adjusted rate will also be available for fence repair.

This will result in funding support between \$10.68 per metre to \$15 per metre, varying only by habitat quality and width protected for replacement of waterway fencing.



(Cont. from previous page) As a guide, standard fences are the equivalent to a seven-wire boundary fence with end assemblies. An alternative electric style fence (two hot and two plain wires) is also eligible for funding support, however the subsidy rate provided for this option is half of that calculated for a standard fence.

The subsidy rate offered will be multiplied by the length of fence being erected, or the length of damaged section or assemblies being replaced in situations of repair, as assessed at onsite inspection by a Goulburn Broken CMA Officer.

A Goulburn Broken CMA Officer will meet with you to review and discuss the proposed alignment and type of fencing proposed, to then map and confirm the subsidy rate available. If you choose to proceed with the works and funding support, a project agreement (Riparian Management Agreement) will need to be signed for the funds to be committed and later paid to you on completion of works.

Establishment of off-stream stock watering points



Where waterway fencing excludes stock access to the previously utilised source of water, funding support is available to assist landholders to establish an alternative watering point.

A subsidy of 75 per cent of total (receipted) cost is available to capped amounts of (exc GST):

- Priority waterways: Maximum of \$5000 for a reticulated system for materials (tank, troughs, pipe and fittings) or \$3000 per dam;
- Non-priority waterways: Maximum of \$2000 for a reticulated system or \$1000 per dam.

Each pre-existing paddock adjoining the fenced waterway that no longer has access to water is eligible for support to establish a stock watering point.

Funding will also be available to landowners who have lost previously funded off-stream watering points due to the recent fires. A Goulburn Broken CMA Officer can discuss this further with you at a site visit.

Riparian and biodiversity enhancement

Revegetation

Native vegetation is amazingly resilient and adapted to fire. If there was remnant vegetation along the waterway, it may just need time and the right conditions to recover.

Revegetation works can be incorporated into projects for delivery in autumn 2027 or later. Seedling availability is limited for the approaching first season post-fire. Fire encourages many native plants to germinate, so there is a good chance of a lot of new growth from soil stored seed after some rain.

Wattle species are particularly strong pioneers in the recovery process. With consideration of species and fire intensity, Eucalypts often survive with production of epicormic growth from limbs and roots.

Importantly for sediment stabilisation, groundcover species will re-emerge to take advantage of the opportunity for greater resources before tree canopies regrow.

Wildlife may place greater pressure on the remaining vegetation in wet areas (waterways and spring soaks) and on new growth while food is limited in the burnt landscape.



A Goulburn Broken CMA Officer can review and discuss areas for possible revegetation or supplement planting as part of a riparian project, with species and numbers refined after monitoring the initial period of regeneration.

Seedlings and materials will be provided by GB CMA for landholder planting where numbers are manageable or coordinated planting by contractors where the scale of planting is large.



Weed control

Weeds are effective competitors for resources and may take over open ground. Where identified in a waterway project area, GB CMA can assist riparian recovery with coordination of contractors to control priority weeds such as blackberry, gorse and willow.

It is anticipated this activity will commence in earnest in spring 2026, when there is more vegetation cover after rain assisted growth and it is the optimal time to target active plants.

However, if you have concerns about weed infestation within riparian or wetland areas on your property or if there is a suitable window to access sites before spring growth, please contact a Goulburn Broken CMA Officer. We may be able to assist with targeted weed control where early intervention is warranted and where access is possible.

Fallen wood

There may be an abundance of fallen limbs and trees after fire. It is understandable that some will need to be moved for access and safety, however retention of fallen wood in areas that are not inhibiting farm management is beneficial.

Brush and logs on slopes, within channels and along banks creates a roughness that disturbs and slows surface runoff. This woody material will reduce sediment transport into streams and dams to impact water quality. If there is wood that needs to be moved, consider relocating it to strategic areas on your property to intercept runoff.

Fallen timber is also great habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, as well as fungi. Biodiversity will strengthen natural recovery.

Contact GB CMA on 5822 7700 to register your interest or fill in a quick EOI using the QR code and a Goulburn Broken CMA Officer will be in touch with you.

