



RESTORATION OF RIVERBANK - CUDGEGONG RIVER, MUDGEE



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Above: Cudgegong River from Lawson Park in July 2020, showing native trees, grasses and shrubs thriving and landholder fencing to protect the site from stock and farming practices.

Mid-western Regional Council has recently completed the regeneration of a 1.4 km stretch of riverbank along the Cudgegong River in Mudgee, NSW. Approximately 700 m of the site required weed control, including many willow trees that were removed before planting of native riparian species.

After completing significant weed control, the project improved the natural environment through revegetation works with native plant species in order to increase both the habitat and amenity values of the area.

- Extensive landholder liaison and negotiation
- Integrated weed control methods to ensure maximum weed control
- Re-vegetated with over 840 native riparian trees, shrubs, grasses and ground covers
- Extensive removal of invasive exotic species, in particular willows
- Community education through signage
- Project received funding from the Central West Environment & Waterways Alliance

Cudgegong riverbank from Lawson Park during the project

Stumps of invasive woody weeds were left in situ to prevent riverbank erosion as well as to retain habitat structure during native plant establishment





Native trees shortly after being planted



The same trees in July 2020 showing strong growth

Integrated weed control

The riverbank area was dominated by invasive weeds including many willow trees. It was considered that an integrated weed management approach was the most appropriate action to ensure high success rates for planted and naturally recruited native vegetation. Where possible, the woody weeds were removed by cutting them down and removing the bulk of the tree. The stump and root system were left in situ in order to minimise any impacts on riverbank stability. In some cases, stem injecting the willows within the river from canoes was required, as was some spraying of invasive herbaceous weeds.

Revegetation

All native trees and plants at the site were retained. 800 native tubestock comprising 400 grasses and groundcovers, 200 shrubs and 200 trees, along with 40 semi-mature trees were planted. These were under-sown with 6kg of native grass seed to provide habitat for local native fauna and to reduce weed invasion.

Educating the community

A key feature of the project was education of the community on the purpose of the restoration, as well as the impact of willows, through the production and installation of 5 signs.



1 of 5 signs erected to educate the community on river restoration and the flora and fauna present

Stakeholder management

Extensive negotiations with local landholders was required and this resulted in some positive long-term outcomes. Before the project began, the landholders had already removed excess woody weed material from the river banks, and since project completion, a landholder has kept up maintenance weed control and has installed a fence along the river bank to exclude stock from the revegetation area.

Funding

The project is proudly supported by the Environment & Waterways Alliance to the value of \$19,632.

For more information

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